

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## City's Tax Rate Is Cut; Discount For Early Paying

Rate Reduced \$2 Per Thousand Below 1931 Figure; New Payment Feature

City of Farmington's tax rate for 1932 will be \$2 per thousand less than in 1931, being set at \$15 by the Commission Monday night. This is \$1 lower than the 1930 rate, which was \$16.

The budget as proposed by the board of estimate and as outlined in the Enterprise two weeks ago, was adopted by the Commission with one minor change. The total, however, was not altered, the change being a shift of \$1,000 from one fund to another.

In order to encourage payment of taxes, and also in fairness to those who pay their taxes early and then feel that they are at a disadvantage compared to others not paying until later, the Commission adopted a new discount plan. Instead of having a non-payable period until August 1, which has always been extended a month, there will be a premium for payment during July. A discount of 2 per cent will be allowed for payment in that month. During August the net amount will be collected, and during September 2 per cent will be added. After Sept. 30, the usual 4 per cent will be put on the bills.

The City will finish the year short of funds with which to meet bills, for the first time in years. This is not however, because of bad financial condition. The municipality has to its credit enough to pay five times its outstanding bills, but the money is in closed banks. The deficit thus far is not serious, and it is expected July tax collections will care for all accounts due.

## "LEGITIMATE" PLAY PLUS "MOVIE" IS BIG ATTRACTION

Redford Theater To Offer Another Comedy; Price Cut To 25 Cents

An experiment at the Public Redford Theater Sunday afternoon and night, that may point the way to a new departure in theaters in the future, proved highly successful and pleased the large audiences. It was the presentation of a full-length three-act comedy played by a noted cast, in conjunction with a complete movie program, all for the price of one movie admission.

The theater was filled at both afternoon and evening performances of "This Thing Called Love," with talented actors and actresses from the Detroit Civic and other playhouses. It was a sparkling comedy that provided the audience with a long succession of laughs and smiles.

The policy will be extended this week to other theaters in the Detroit area. Meanwhile, Manager Joel Smouse of the Redford house, delighted with the success of the new legitimate-play venture Sunday, will try still another experiment next Sunday, this time in the way of a price appeal. As last Sunday, a three-act comedy, "What Anna Brought Home," with the same company, will be presented. In addition, there will be shown "Tarazan of the Apes," one of the most remarkable pictures ever filmed. The entire program will be offered for 25 cents. Further, this low price will prevail, as an experiment, all next week. This has been the price only until 6:45 each day, but Mr. Smouse plans the trial week to see if the 25-cent price all of the time, any day, will prove successful enough to be adopted as a permanent policy.

## Direct's Rally Plans



Joseph Himmelspach, District Scout Commissioner, has been in charge of plans for the big Scout rally, parade and jamboree here Friday evening and Saturday.

## Rites Held For Victim Of Crash

West Point Park Young Man-Laid To Rest; Others Little Hurt

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon for Robert Holycross, 19 of West Point Park, who was killed Sunday afternoon when his car overturned on South Lyon Road, west of Novi-Northville Road. Interment was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery.

Although at first it was believed that neither of Holycross's companions, Homer Middlewood or Gerald Ziegler, were injured an X-ray was taken Tuesday of one of Middlewood's arms, which began to cause him pain. Otherwise he was unharmed and Ziegler appeared to have suffered no ill-effects whatever.

The car, owned and driven by Holycross, turned over when it left the pavement and struck a soft shoulder, while Holycross was trying to pass another machine. It hit a pole, and the boys were thrown out, the car continuing across the road.

Holycross was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marilyn Holycross. The car had been purchased for him by an aunt, to provide him transportation to work. The young men were on their way to Island Lake, and took South Lyon Road rather than Grand River in order to make better time.

## EXPANSION WILL BE CELEBRATED AT VIVIER'S STATION

Free Souvenirs, Special Values To Be Given, Introducing New Products

Farmington's most complete service station, operated by Earl Vivier at 33025 Grand River, will celebrate appointment as distributor for two products new to Farmington on Saturday and Sunday, giving free souvenirs to patrons and offering exceptional values to make the event a notable one. The products now handled by the station are new in this community, but are among the leaders in this section of the country in their respective fields. "Dixie" gasoline and oils is a well-known brand and "Cooper" tires are manufactured by a maker who is among those making the most rapid strides throughout the United States. The "armored cockpit" feature of these tires is one that creates much favorable comment. Written guarantees are given with these tires.

Cream and sugar sets will be given to all customers making purchases of 50 cents or over Saturday and Sunday, and there will be free balloons for boys and girls. For both of these days, and also for all of next week, there are special values in various lines, lubrication, tires, accessories, oil in cans, and others that offer the motorist an unusual opportunity to save.

Full details appear on page 3. Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Robbins are the parents of a son, Dr. Z. R. Aschenbrenner who is in attendance.

## Foul Play Clues Found In Death Of Man In Fire

County And Township Officials Investigating Blast And Blaze Near Junction

Holding strong beliefs that John Peterson, 58 was the victim of foul play before his body was burned in a raging fire that destroyed his home near Farmington Junction early Thursday morning, County and Township officers are investigating numerous clues that support this theory. Evidence leaves no question that an explosion preceded the fire, and the finding of oil-soaked rags, large quantities of slow burning fuse, and other circumstances point strongly to the theory that the victim's death was not due to an accident.

Fay Steadford, owner of the house occupied by Peterson, and who lives nearby, told authorities Thursday afternoon that he had seen Peterson when the latter came to his mail-box Wednesday evening, and that the man "seemed to be twice the age he had been before." Peterson had frequently told neighbors and friends that he feared "something would happen to him."

So great had been this fear, authorities learned, that Peterson had borrowed a padlock to add security to his door. The padlock has not been found, but officers located the two locks that had been on the front door. Both were open.

Pieces of glass which showed no signs of smoke or fire were found as much as 50 feet from the house. A suit-case full of clothing, soaked with oil, was in the ruins. Peterson's kerosene can was found in what had been the living room.

First suspicion was caused by the position which Peterson's body was found. Farmington firemen who answered the alarm saw the body through a window, but the flames were too hot for them to approach. The heat was so intense a headlight lens on the firetruck, standing fully 40 feet away, was broken by the heat.

It was morning before the body could be removed. Peterson had been lying prone on his back in bed, officers reasoned that if in full possession of his faculties, he could beyond doubt have made some effort to get out of bed, especially in view of the fact that two windows nearby were open and it was unlikely that he would have been suffocated by smoke before he could arise.

The body was removed to Heenev undertaking parlors, on orders of G. Dewey Kimball, county coroner. State Fire Marshal Philip O'Connell came to make an investigation, as did Sheriff Frank Schram, following preliminary reports by Deputies William Tamm and Joseph Dewick.

Peterson, who was employed by Julius Porath, contractor, occupied a small house at 22114 Hawthorne, just north of Grand River. He had lived there about two years. Until last fall his wife lived there with him, but at that time she left. Authorities do not know her address, but are trying to locate her.

The fire was discovered by the family of Fred McDonald, who live in the next house, only a few feet away. A garage was partly burned, Peterson's home having been burned to the ground. At the height of the blaze, the chimney fell in on top of the burned body. Peterson's body was badly charred, his head being burned beyond recognition, and the hands and legs being burned off.

## WILL RECEIVE LAW DEGREE

Archie C. Leonard, former superintendent of Farmington Schools, will receive the degree of Bachelor of Law next Thursday afternoon at the Commencement exercises of the College of the City of Detroit, at Masonic Temple Auditorium.

Mr. Leonard has been attending law classes at night, in the daytime caring for his duties as deputy county school superintendent.

## Local Citizens Prepare To Urge New Bus Service

Delegation Arranged To Attend Hearing Friday Morning At Lansing

Citizens of the Grand River area actively interested in better transportation service on Grand River completed plans Thursday for lending their support to a petition for a permit, at a hearing before the Michigan Public Utilities Commission Friday morning in Lansing. The hearing was set for 9:30 a. m.

Farmington and Clareville residents were among those planning to attend the session. They will urge that a change be made in the present status, and back Frank Reuland of Detroit in his request for a permit.

An important development of the past few days has been that a standard type bus might be used on the line, in conjunction with a seven-passenger sedan, or "jitney." The latter type of vehicle cannot operate inside the city limits of Detroit. It is generally agreed that it is almost essential that a transportation line in order to be successful, must go all the way into Redford, rather than stopping at the city limits, Five Points. Mr. Reuland has been investigating a 21-passenger bus, with the plan of using the bus throughout the day, and the bus and sedan in combination for the rush hour periods.

Approve Proposals The proposed schedule announced in last week's Enterprise has met with approval throughout the area, and many expressions in this vein have been voiced the past week.

An error was made in last week's issue, in which it was stated that there would be "three five-cent fare zones, at Middle Belt, Fourth Gate, and Hemlock." This was erroneous as it would constitute four fare-zones, rather than three. Fourth Gate should not have been mentioned, the zones being from Farmington to Middle Belt, Middle Belt to Hemlock, and Hemlock to Redford. Within each zone the fare would be five cents. In the territory from Middle Belt to Hemlock, the fare to any Farmington or Redford would be 10 cents.

## TAXPAYERS LEARN 1932 VALUATIONS PUT ON PROPERTY

Farmington And Livonia To Have Sessions Again Next Week

Taxpayers sufficiently interested to call at board of review sessions learned their assessments this week.

In Farmington Township, where local officials have fought hard the past two years to hold down valuations in the face of a strong upward tendency by State officials, quite a number of property-owners attended. In the City of Farmington, where the same situation has prevailed, there were a few coming in through the two days. In Livonia Township, just one taxpayer appeared, and he left a moment later, without complaint.

City Gets Cut Farmington City obtained a substantial cut in valuation this year, the total being \$2,398,444, as compared with \$2,577,294 set last year by the State Tax Commission. The board of review had the power to make changes in individual assessments this year but not in the total, and any reductions allowed in one place had to be added somewhere else.

Farmington City board has completed its hearings but the Farmington and Livonia Township boards will be in session again next Monday and Tuesday. Livonia Township will enjoy a valuation reduction of over \$2,000,000 this year, it is expected. Last year's total was \$7,154,000, which was a million and a half less than the 1930 figure. This year's total will be well under \$5,000,000.

## Plans Complete For Big Scout Rally Here Friday

Cabin And Surroundings Made Ready For Gathering Of Boys And Public; Flood-lights Installed at Field; Parade at 7:00 p. m.

Friday morning and afternoon will see the finishing touches on preparations for this community's biggest event in years, the annual rally of the Oakland Area Council of Boy Scouts. Already the Scouts from other towns have moved to "take possession" of Farmington. Troop 10, of Pontiac having pitched their tents Thursday on the athletic field. Another troop came to Farmington to practice under the direction of Scout Executive Herbert Watson their Indian maneuvers.

Under the direction of District Commissioner Joseph Himmelspach, improvements have been made around the Log Cabin. The flood-lights have been installed for the Court of Honor below the hill south of the athletic field.

At the cabin, a new walk has been laid and two new flagpoles set, one for the troop flag and one for the national emblem. Mayor Lamb has relinquished to City Clerk Nathan H. Pover the possession of the keys of the cabin to the Scouts, in view of the fact that Mr. Pover took a most active part in the centennial celebration for which the cabin was built.

## Urges Effort For Drain Tax Refund

Farmington Township Official Would Aid Clareville, Hazel Drain Taxpayers

A demand for action on the part of officials to obtain, if possible, for taxpayers on the Clareville and Hazel drains, relief from future assessments and possibly secure refunds of previous payments, was made by Justice Willis T. Roberts at the Township Board meeting Tuesday night.

Mr. Roberts' proposal is that advantage be taken of the recent Supreme Court decision which ruled that the county drain commission had no right to build closed sewers, and that drainage projects undertaken by the drain commissioners were illegal. Clareville and Hazel drains would fall in this category, as do many others throughout the county, totalling millions of dollars in cost.

Mr. Roberts said that many taxpayers would, in his opinion, be glad to apply any refund due them upon their present unpaid taxes, which would be a great help to them.

The board authorized Supervisor Coe to seek advice of A. L. Moore, Pontiac attorney and tax expert, on the matter.

Two Salaries Set Salaries of two officials, and pay for day labor, problems which baffled the board last month, were decided on Tuesday night. Clerk Willard Campbell is to receive \$1,300, a cut of about 10 per cent. Last year he received \$1,350 and \$90 for expense.

Treasurer Loretta Cox will receive \$1,377, a reduction of 10 per cent. Both salaries were approved without dissenting vote, after some discussion.

Day labor was set at 30 cents an hour. Last year the pay was 45 cents. Justice Roberts moved to cut his own pay, along with that of the other justice, from \$4.50 to \$4.00 a meeting, and it was carried.

The Board will be strict with soft-drink dispensing this year. Those not paying within 10 days after notice will be cited into court.

## BITES HELD FOR WILLIAM MUNGER, FORMER RESIDENT

Burial Takes Place At Oakwood Cemetery; Was 85 Years Of Age

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon for William Munger, 85, formerly of Farmington, who died at his home in Detroit Sunday. Burial was at Oakwood.

Mr. Munger had lived in Farmington for 47 years, prior to moving to Detroit two years ago. He came from New York State about 1883. In 1889 he married Adelia Lyon, a well-known Farmington girl, who survives him. A daughter, Mary, also survives.

Mr. Munger was a painter and decorator.

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DON B. SMITH Executive Sec.