

The Farmington Enterprise

LEADERSHIP--OUR PURPOSE SERVICE--OUR GOAL

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OPEN HOUSES: were held at the Eagle School on Thursday, January 12, and at the Hill Road School on Monday, January 16, with large turnouts reported at both schools. Speakers on the program at the Eagle School are shown above. They are, left to right, back row: Mrs. Robert Irvin, a teacher; Miss M. C. Cottrell, school principal; James Reid, assistant superintendent of schools; Miss Minnie Zielke, coordinator; Vera P. Fisher, School Board trustee; R. W. Frankel, P. T. A. president; and O. E. Bunckel, superintendent of schools. Standing in front of the adult speakers are students Danny Eliolola and Jerry Patterson. Programs at both schools were similar, with talks explaining the overall operation and functions of the school, followed by the extending of greetings. An open house will be held this Thursday evening, January 25, at the new Shawasssee School.

Final Registration For Library Vote Due Saturday

Township Office To Be Open 8 a.m. To 8 p.m.

This Saturday, January 21, has been set as the final day of registration for the special library vote to be held throughout the Township on February 21. The election has been called by the Township Board for the purpose of determining whether or not the voters will approve a proposal to levy \$3.70 of a mill tax to finance the operation and maintenance of the proposed new City-Township Library. The proposed tax levy would be spread on the assessed valuation of the Township as established by the State. Officials estimate that the tax would raise approximately \$10,335, which is sufficient to qualify for State Aid under the law.

If the proposal is approved by the voters, plans will be developed for the construction of a new City-Township Library building. The building, which is to be constructed from funds available through the Clinton W. Wilber and Ruth Carlisle Estates. Officials have stated that this is sufficient money in the estates to build adequate library facilities for the community. It is proposed that the library be constructed on property owned on the north side of Grand River, several lots east of an extension of Wilmarth Street in the City.

REGISTRATIONS for the special election will be taken at the Township Office in the Town Hall on Thursday and Friday, January 19 and 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, January 21, persons may register from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Only those citizens who are not already registered in the Township need to make application.

The special election concerns only the Township since the City's allocation of \$2,908 is covered in the regular operating budget.

Township Board Plans Reorganization Of New Enlarged Building Department



IN RECOGNITION of his long and faithful service to the people of Farmington Township, Harry M. McCracken, left, retiring Township Clerk, receives a special plaque from Ward Eagle, Board Trustee, during a testimonial dinner given in McCracken's honor Saturday evening. The plaque was presented by Eagle in behalf of the Township Board. Over 150 guests jammed the main ballroom of Botsford Inn to pay tribute to McCracken, who has contributed more than 50 years of public service to the citizens of Farmington Township.

Friends And Neighbors Pay Tribute To Harry McCracken At Banquet

150 Guests Honor Retiring Township Clerk At Testimonial Dinner Held Saturday Evening

Approximately 150 friends and neighbors of Harry M. McCracken, retiring Farmington Township Clerk, gathered at Botsford Inn Saturday evening to pay tribute to this outstanding citizen who has given over 50 years of public service to the people of the Township. Highlight of the program was the presentation of a plaque to McCracken by Ward Eagle, Township Board Trustee, in behalf of the members of the Township Board. A registration book, signed by all Ernest Blanchard, Township Supervisor, following the banquet.

Children's Home Change Over Made

Work is now being completed on the conversion of a portion of the Children's Hospital and Convalescent Home at 3405 Grand River, Farmington, for use by the State in the care of mentally retarded children.

Between 20 and 25 mentally handicapped youngsters will be brought in for care in the new section of the hospital next Monday, January 23. It was disclosed this week by Gail Smith, business administrator of the section. When the change-over is completed, he added, facilities will be available for the care of approximately 100 mentally retarded youngsters.

TAX-COLLECTIONS HIT 63% IN CITY AS DEADLINE NEARS

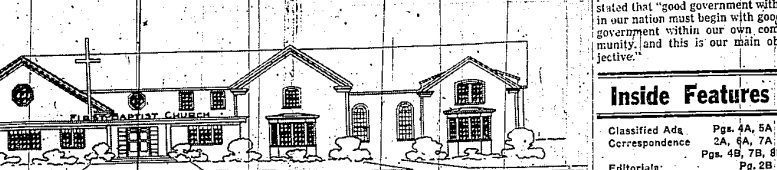
City officials reported on Monday that a total of \$184,765.77 has been collected thus far on the Annual Winter Tax Statement with the deadline set for Thursday, January 19.

This represents approximately 63% of the total \$291,877.37 statement. Kathryn Cotter, City Treasurer, stated that the bulk of the remaining collections are expected to be received within the final days. Thursday is the final date of payment without penalty.

Plan New Auditorium First Baptist Church Announces Building Expansion Program

Plans of the growing community, modern developments in heating, lighting and acoustics, there is added a note of reserve and tradition in the structure being planned. Growth in church attendance and interest has kept pace with the development of the community. Approximately two years ago the congregation established two morning worship services because of the increased attendance, and during the past three years under Dr. Gordon Nyberg's ministry the church has completed the payment on the parsonage, purchased a new organ and a new bus, in addition to the property west of the present church building.

The church is this year celebrating its 130th Anniversary, having been organized on February 14, 1826. Planning plans have varied from a log school house at Twelve Mile and Halsted Roads, to a log hut in 1837 on Shawasssee Street, and finally to the present church auditorium which was built in 1861. The Sunday School addition was completed in 1929 under the ministry of Dr. Elmer Palmer.



PLANS for the expansion and remodeling of the First Baptist Church have now been completed, and construction is expected to begin this Spring. Pictured above is an architect's drawing of the enlarged church building.

Schedule Meeting Thursday To Act On Program

A special meeting of the Township Board has been called for Thursday evening, January 19, for the purpose of completing the reorganization of the new Department of Buildings and Building Safety as prescribed in the recently adopted Township Building Code.

Ernest Blanchard, Township Supervisor, indicated that some action might also be taken by the Board on the appointment of an acting Township Clerk, to temporarily fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Harry M. McCracken. Several applications have been received by the Board, and a number of suggestions on the appointment of a successor to McCracken have been made. Under the provisions of the new Township Building Code, which will become effective on January 22, a new department is to be established for the administration and coordination of all building activities. The department will consist of the Building Inspector, the Electrical Inspector, the Gas and Oil Burner Inspector, one member of the Township Fire Department and the Township Supervisor. This group will serve as the administrative body of the department with the Building Inspector acting as chairman. Before such a body can be formed, a Gas and Oil Burner Inspector must be hired and a member of the Fire Department must be selected for service with the department.

THE CODE also provides that a Board of Appeals be established as part of the Department of Buildings and Building Safety. This Board will consist of the Electrical Inspector, a Registered Professional Electrician, and the Building Inspector. It will be the duty of the Board to be taken care of before the Board is organized. Albert Gain, Building Inspector, stated that he plans to recommend to the Board that immediate action be taken on the matter of a fire-proofer vault in the Town Hall.

Plan Organization Of Citizens League

Plans are now being developed for the permanent organization of the newly formed Farmington Citizens League. Avery Burns, acting chairman, announced this week.

Burns stated that a total of 150 members have already joined the new organization whose purpose is to study, promote and campaign for good government as well as interview and vote candidates for public office. Plans are now being made for the first meeting of the group, which will be held as soon as arrangements can be completed. Notice of the initial meeting will be published in the near future. All interested citizens will have an opportunity to attend. The Farmington Citizens League was the fourth League to be chartered within Oakland County. Other leagues are the Berkeley Citizens League, the Oak Park Citizens League, and the Clawson Citizens League. Applications for charter have also been filed by groups in Pontiac, Royal Oak and Southfield. The permanent officers of the Farmington group, who will be elected in the near future, will automatically become Executive Board members of the Oakland County Association of Citizens Leagues, who are the first to work for good government on the county level.

Under the provisions of the League, no active member or officer of the group may be a candidate for any political office. Persons interested in joining the organization are requested to contact Avery Burns at 2226 Shawasssee, or Greenleaf 4-6932. Burns stated that "good government within our nation must begin with good government within our own community, and this is our main objective."

STATE SEEKS BIDS ON NEW US-16 BRIDGE PROJECT

Friday, January 27, has been set as the date for the opening of bids on the construction of a bridge to carry Haggerty Road over the US-16 relocation on the west boundary line of Farmington Township. Charles M. Ziegler, State Highway Commissioner, announced this week.

The project will consist of the construction of a reinforced concrete and steel bridge, about 1200 feet of approach grading and aggregate surfacing on Haggerty Road, along with other related work. Completion date for the project has been set for December 15, 1956.

INSIDE FEATURES

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Plans For Several March Of Dimes Fund Raising Projects Completed

Two Bake Sales Planned For This Week End; Mothers Organized For Canvass January 25

Plans are now being completed for several special fund-raising projects in the 1956 March of Dimes Drive as the month-long money-raising campaign enters the final stages. A bake sale will be held this Friday at the Detroit Edison office in Farmington starting at 9:30 a.m. Another bake sale will be held on Saturday, January 21, at the Town Hall starting at 11 a.m. Proceeds from both bake sales will be turned over to the March of Dimes.

The biggest project of the drive will be staged on Thursday, January 26, when volunteer workers from all parts of the area will conduct the annual Mothers' March on Polio. According to a report this week, over 350 mothers under 35 captains, have been organized for the Mothers' March in Farmington Township. A large group of volunteer workers is also being organized in the City of Farmington, Clarenceville, and Xenia to make door-to-door solicitations. Details on the number of volunteers to march in these areas were not available.

PLAN MEETING TO DISCUSS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

All Township subdivision presidents as well as heads of civic groups are being invited to attend a public meeting Wednesday evening, January 25, at the Town Hall to hear a discussion on Charter Township government. Arthur E. Moore, Probate Judge of Oakland County, will be the principal speaker. He will discuss the various aspects of Charter Township government and will answer questions from the audience. Officials stated that some discussion may also be devoted to the advantages and disadvantages of City government. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Board Initiates Planning For New Clarenceville H.S.

Authorize Architect To Prepare Sketches

The Clarenceville School Board, Thursday evening approved the retention of Walter Antek as architect for the proposed new Clarenceville high school building and authorized the preparation of preliminary drawings for the structure.

Action was also taken by the Board setting September 1, 1957, as the "target date" for completion of the first unit of the building. It is proposed that the new high school be constructed on the west side of Middlebelt Road between the present high school building. The newly organized Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended to the Board that the architect be employed and that the September, 1957, target date be set.

THE BOARD also requested Dell and Heber, school attorneys to submit recommendations on a proposal to borrow \$750,000 through a bond issue for the purpose of financing the first unit of the new building. (Continued on Page 5A)

Study Applications For City Manager

A total of 16 applications have been received by the Council in response to their favorite Detroit newspaper. The applications are in response to advertisements placed in various newspapers by the Council following the resignation of James Penman as City Manager. The various members of the Council are now in the process of comparing the applications received thus far, preparatory to the selection of the final applicants. According to the advertisements, applications for the position will be accepted by the Council up to February 1.

As soon as the deadline has been reached, the individual Council members will submit their preferences to the Council. Those candidates on the preferred list will then be invited to appear before the Council for personal interviews.

ANNOUNCE RECORD SALE OF AUTO LICENSE PLATES

Kenneth R. Loomis, manager of the Farmington Branch of the Secretary of State's Office, reported this week that 1956 auto license plate sales are running about 900 and 1,000 greater than last year.

Loomis stated that the increase in population as well as an apparent desire on the part of the public to secure their license plates early, are the main reasons for the boost in sales. The deadline on purchase of 1956 plates is February 29.

The Branch Office is now open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The office is located at 23284 Farmington Road.



THESE ISN'T TOO MUCH TALK everybody is busy catching up on the around the block this week. Everybody is busy catching up on the news features, being published once again in their favorite Detroit newspapers. It is an unusual example of the tremendous influence newspapers play in the lives of all of us. Like so many other services, we take our newspapers as a matter of course, until suddenly they stop. Then and only then do we begin to realize the important place they share in our homes. This is true whether the newspaper is a rural county district. During the 47-day Detroit newspaper strike a lot of different media were used in an effort to keep the public informed. They did a remarkable job, but the very silence of the reading public this week is proof that there is no substitute for a newspaper in the American home.

IF YOU'RE A CITIZEN of Farmington Township and if your name is not already on the eligible voters' list, you have just three days left in which to change it. The final registration for the coming election is on February 21. Of course you can just let it go if you wish, but being a full-time citizen is both a privilege and a responsibility which we must all share. If everyone "just let it go" our democracy would melt as hollow as a pumpkin shell. This Saturday, January 21, at 8:00 a.m. is the deadline on registration for the coming election. So if you are a citizen of Farmington Township and if your name is not on the registration books, get it there before the deadline. Remember, it's up to you, nobody can do it for you!

LAST WEEK we did a little speculating on what may happen in Farmington Township from the proposed Farmington Sewer Interceptor becomes a reality. From indications a tremendous building boom can be expected as soon as this facility is made available. An equally important factor in the future development of the Township rests with the proposed establishment of a township-wide water system. Realization of these improvements can well mean a rise of growth unparalleled in the history of any Michigan community. It is something to think about!