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# The Farmington Enterprise

Farmington's  
Own  
Community Newspaper  
SERVING SINCE  
1888

LEADERSHIP--OUR PURPOSE SERVICE--OUR GOAL

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1956

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## City Completes Details With Detroit On Proposed Interceptor Project

### Secure Legal Opinion Permitting Township Developers To Participate In Sewer Plan

Final engineering and legal details on the proposed construction of the interceptor sewer from Farmington to the City of Detroit system were completed Tuesday morning during a conference between Earl Scherffius, City Manager, and Detroit officials.

Final specifications for the proposed interceptor were reviewed by Detroit engineers and Scherffius was assured that the sewage would be accepted through the Hassell Drain, near Eight Mile Road and Telegraph Road. The plans for the project were previously approved by the State Health Department. A minor item was raised regarding overflow into the Rouge River to take care of emergency cases when the drain is handling a maximum load. Scherffius stated that this proposal will be presented to the State Health Department for approval within the next few days.

The City Manager also announced his intention to request for individual developers and other governmental units to participate in the project. The opinion was given by bond attorneys in connection with a request for five developers in the Township for permission to tie into the sewer. It is estimated that a 42 to 48 inch main would have to be installed from Middlebelt Road southeast to the Hassell Drain to accommodate the increased flow. At the present time a 15 inch main is proposed to handle the city sewage. The cost of the larger sized main, as well as the feeder lines, would be borne by the developers.

## Board Offers Use Of Schools For Jitterbug Dancing

### Regular Events Subject To Student Council Rules

The Clarenceville School Board, Thursday evening, unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the use of school buildings for jitterbug dancing by the general public, subject to the approval of the Student Council. The resolution provides that this dance need not be under the existing Student Council dance restrictions, but shall be controlled by the organization sponsoring the activity and their assigned chaperones. Further, that in accordance with the Policies and Procedures, these groups will be permitted to use the facilities at actual cost. The only restrictions shall be those covered by the general Building Rules and Regulations which are a part of the Policies and Procedures. The Board emphasized that this does not mean that the Board of Education has made any change in the Student Council regulations. The groups covered in the resolution are: Mothers Clubs and P.T.A., Recreation Commission and Scout groups.

Action by the Board followed a public discussion of the school dance policy between representatives of various Mothers Clubs and the Board. About 51 persons attended the session, which was held in the high school. The majority of those present voiced approval of a suggestion to lift the ban on jitterbug dancing at school-sponsored dances. The ban was imposed several years ago by action of the Student Council. It is estimated that the number of requests for jitterbug dancing has increased since the ban was lifted.

(Continued on Page 8A)

## Record Building Boom Continues

New home construction in Farmington Township is continuing at an ever-accelerated rate, according to the latest figures released by the Building Department for the first quarter of 1956.

According to Albert Gain, Building Inspector, February was the leading month of the quarter with 98 permits being issued for new home construction. The estimated cost of the new homes was listed at \$1,885,500. During January a total of 61 permits were issued representing an estimated cost of \$1,100,000. New home construction in March was down slightly with 23 permits being issued for an estimated \$598,250 worth of new construction. However, permits for other buildings, including the new Boys Republic center, totaled 27 and represented an estimated cost of \$657,700.

In comparison, Gain stated (Continued on Page 8A)

# GRANT SALARY INCREASES TO CITY POLICEMEN

## Expect Council Action On Zoning Revision Monday

### Proposed Ordinance Set For Final Decision

A large delegation of property owners is expected to attend the next meeting of the City Council, Monday evening, to witness the final consideration and action on the proposed City Zoning Ordinance.

City officials stated this week that the revised ordinance and map will be ready for final action at the meeting. Several hearings have been held on the proposed revision, both by the Planning Commission and the City Council. Officials stated that no further public discussion will be held on the question. Property owners are welcome to attend the Monday evening meeting, although discussion will be limited to the Council members.

Considerable objection has been voiced by property owners regarding the proposed establishment of a commercial zone along the west side of Farmington Road between the Cut-Off and Alta Loma Drive. This proposal is spelled out on the zoning map, which is a part of the ordinance. The Council has the authority to amend any part of the ordinance or the map prior to final adoption.

The Council will also receive the proposed special assessment rolls for the paving of Alta Loma Drive at the Monday meeting. The rolls will be formally presented to the Council by the City Manager. Following acceptance by the Council, a special hearing date will be set to afford interested property owners an opportunity to examine the rolls and to register any objections they may have.

Recommendations on the awarding of a new contract for rubbish and garbage collection in the City will also be presented by the City Manager.



**THE TANGLED** mass of metal above tells a grim story of death and injury. The car was totally demolished early last Saturday morning when it rammed into the rear of a parked car on Grand River Avenue just west of Orchard Lake Road. Fatally injured in the crash was Palmer A. Marsh, a passenger in the car. Ernest Campbell, driver, suffered serious injuries. Shown in front of the car at the scene of the crash is officer Bill Gordon of the Farmington City police department, jotting down information for the accident report.

## Township Zoning Board Recommends Rejection Of Race Track Proposal

### Request For Approval To Construct Baptist Home In Residential Area Also Turned Down

The Township Zoning Board, last Wednesday evening, unanimously recommended that the rezoning of 244 acres of land for a proposed race track be rejected.

The decision followed a detailed discussion of the proposal by the approximately 150 persons who jammed the Town Hall for the hearing. The Township Planning Consultant and members of the Zoning Board also took an active part in the discussion. Officials emphasized that the decision is strictly a recommendation and is subject to review by the County Zoning Board and final action by the Township Board.

All of the comments voiced at the hearing by citizens were in opposition to the proposal. Ed Schmid, chairman of the Zoning Board, stated that it is difficult to consider the rezoning without some kind of a plan. This opinion was supported in detail by Mr. Leman, Planning Consultant, who pointed out that much more is involved in this question than just rezoning. He emphasized the need for a plan which would show the location of the track in relation to the land area, the existing facilities proposed, the traffic routes, as well as the sewer and water facilities. George Kovacs, representing the developers, stated that there were many reasons why they did not want to expose their plans and what a race track is. However, he added that a plan could be secured in 45 minutes if the Board wished to wait. The suggestion was turned down.

IN SEPARATE action, the Board (Continued on Page 8A)

## Authorize Wage Boost For D.P.W. Employees In Revised Budget

Salary increases amounting to \$3,760 were tentatively granted to City employees by the Council Thursday evening during a continuation of the discussion of the proposed 1956-57 city budget.

If formally approved, the salary increases will go into effect with the start of the fiscal year, July 1, 1956. The bulk of the salary increases would go to the Police Department, which has the largest number of personnel. Other increases would be distributed among the Public Works Department and the various administrative departments.

In order to meet the salary increases as well as some other minor expenditures, the revenues were boosted in the amount of \$44,750. Thus the newly revised budget would be balanced at \$250,325. This figure is based on a continuation of the present 17 mill tax levy. The principal increases in income items would come from the estimated receipts of the violation bureau and court fines. The Council members expressed the opinion that increased patrolling should be carried out in order to reduce the accident rate. They emphasized that the idea is not to set up a speed trap, but rather to stimulate safety on city streets.

IN THE 1956-57 budget proposal, city patrolmen would receive a \$300 increase over last year, bringing the base pay to \$3,600. Patrols equipped with \$16,000 worth of equipment will be provided for the Chief of Police and officers. An approximate \$300 increase would be granted to members of the Public Works Department. An \$800 raise to the Superintendent. The City Manager would receive a \$300 increase, while the clerk would receive a \$100 increase.

The City Manager was also authorized to investigate the possibility of setting up a group insurance plan to include the Police Department and Public Works Department employees. If such a plan can be worked out, it was suggested that \$60 be granted to the policemen for extra time required in carrying out the plan.

The estimated receipts for the 1956-57 budget total \$225,825. However, it is estimated that \$250,325 will be carried over from the 1955-56 year. Items carried over \$16,500 from the sale of city-owned land to the State Highway Department, brings the grand total to \$239,325. The largest single item in the budget is \$49,000 for street construction and other capital outlay. A total of \$5,000 has been earmarked for the purchase of equipment, including the purchase of a new truck, while \$4,110 has been set aside for the sidewalk construction contingency fund.

## Heavy Downpour Causes Floods Throughout Area

### Water Fills Basements And Streets Sunday

Heavy rains Friday and Saturday turned most of the low areas of Farmington into a city stream. IN THE P.M. of Friday, rain poured into gushing rivers and lakes, causing some damage to buildings and property.

The areas bordering along the Rouge River were the hardest hit by the rushing waters. City and Township officials reported a record number of calls for emergency assistance on Sunday as the high water reached its crest. Officer Sallow, Superintendent of the City Public Works Department, stated that crews were busy throughout the day pumping out flooded basements, building dikes around a home at 3195 Nine Mile to protect it against the swirling waters of the Rouge River. At the same time, Township Police, along with volunteers, were shutting cars through a flooded section of Grand River in the vicinity of Rockwell Street. Traffic was piled up for several blocks in both the east-bound and west-bound lanes as a result of the flood. Sections of Haggerty Road, Middlebelt, and other Township roads were partially under water during the peak of the flood.

The major damage resulted from flooded basements throughout the area. Bulk of the calls in the City came from State Street, Bel-Air Hills, and the Floral Park section.

## Two Injured, One Fatally, In Crash On Grand River

### Four Hurt In Collision On Fourteen Mile Road

Injured fatally early Saturday morning when the auto in which he was traveling hit a parked semi-truck on Grand River a short distance west of Orchard Lake Road was Palmer A. Marsh, 61, of 6780 Buckland, Pontiac.

Marsh's Jaguar vein was severed and his throat ripped open in the crash. He died shortly after admittance at Pontiac General Hospital. Ernest Campbell, 44, of 2025 Union Lake Road, driver of 1955 auto, suffered a broken arm, lacerated hip, and lacerations about the nose.

According to police, Campbell apparently failed to notice the parked semi-truck along the north side of the road and struck it in the left rear, then skidded across the highway.

The accident occurred shortly after 1:30 a.m.

FOUR OTHERS were injured in an accident around 2:45 p.m. Saturday at the intersection of Farmington and Fourteen Mile Roads. The crash resulted, police stated, when one of the autos involved, driven by Jean F. Fuize of Walled Lake and proceeding south on Farmington Road, failed to observe the other coming east on Fourteen Mile, operated by Entia J. Gentia of Walled Lake. Gentia crashed head-on into the Police (Continued on Page 8A)

## BROWN ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RETIRE FROM SCHOOL POST

Wendell Brown, president of the Farmington School Board, announced Tuesday that he will not seek re-election to the Board this June.

Brown was first elected to the Board of Education in June of 1950. He was re-elected in 1953 and has served as Board President since July of 1952. Brown's regular term will expire in July.

## Episcopal Church To Open Sunday

The new building of the Trinity Episcopal Church is now ready for use with the first service scheduled for this Sunday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Located on a beautiful, wooded, eight-acre site at the end of a drive on the east side of the corner of Eleven Mile Road between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt Road, the church is the first unit of a long-range building plan. The complete project will eventually include a parish hall and school room facilities, as well as an enlargement of the present worship unit.

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## AROUND THE BLOCK

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING...** ...for the unusual thing that just-keep your eyes on the weatherman and you'll find it. Last week was an excellent example of what we mean. For the first time in nine years, the usually mild Rouge River spilled over its banks, flooding low areas and causing minor damage. Fortunately, the Farmington area was not as hard hit as other sections in the metropolitan area. However, many residents spent the better part of Sunday in hip boots bailing out their basements and trenching the ponds of water from their property. We hesitate to venture what the weatherman will come up with next, but if it's unusual he will find it that's for sure!

**SOME CONCERN** ...is being registered by city officials and police officers over the increase in the number of serious auto accidents which have taken place throughout the entire Farmington area. This growth, coupled with a general increase in the number of motor vehicles on our streets and highways, has made the accident potential much greater than ever before. It is the opinion of most experts that increased law enforcement, coupled with a realistic public education program, is the most effective method of saving lives. Such a program requires the cooperation of all elements of the community, including the individual citizens. We believe that Farmington has reached a point where a major traffic safety program can and should be initiated.

**A DIFFERENT KIND** ...of program was launched by the Farmington Garden Club ... of program designed to make Farmington a more attractive place to live. The Garden Club is urging all residents to plant the gorgeous Crimson Almey Crab Tree in their yards. The Almey Crab was chosen two years ago as the first flowering tree for the Farmington area because of its hardiness. So if you are in the mood for decorating your yard this Spring, how about planting an Almey Crab Tree? It's a question well worth checking into. You will not only add a touch of beauty to your yard, but you will be helping to make Farmington a more attractive community.

## Schedule Exams For Teen Road-e-o

Written examinations for the Second Annual Teen-Age Road-e-o, sponsored by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, will be held Thursday, May 3, and Monday, May 7, at the Farmington Senior High School.

The written examinations, part of the over-all program, will be held at 3:15 p.m. in room 104-D of the high school. Applications for the Road-e-o may be secured from the offices of the principals at both the Junior and Senior High Schools, or from any member of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce.

On Sunday, May 13, the practical driving tests will be conducted at the Lucky Super Market parking lot on South Farmington Road. The tests consist of a series of exercises designed to measure the driving ability of each teenage contestant.

## Rain Cancels City Parking Survey

Heavy rains over the week ended caused a cancellation of the city parking survey originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday, officials reported this week.

It is proposed that the survey be made this Friday and Saturday, weather permitting. The program is under the supervision of the Oakland County Planning Commission. The purpose of the project is to obtain information on the volume of traffic, the utilization of existing parking facilities, and the amount of additional off-street parking required.

The survey is being conducted upon the recommendation of the Off-Street Parking Committee and with the approval of the Council. Actual traffic and vehicle counts will be made during the survey period in the business area. Students from the Farmington High School and Our Lady of Sorrows School will assist with the survey.

## Farmington High School Honors Top Seniors

Under a new policy put into practice in the Farmington Public Schools for the first time this year, graduating seniors with the highest academic averages have been designated as "top honor" and "honor" students.

The previous traditional policy of selecting a valedictorian and a salutatorian, distinguishing the seniors with the highest and second highest averages, has been eliminated. Action placing the new program into effect was initiated last year by the School Board upon recommendation of school administrators.

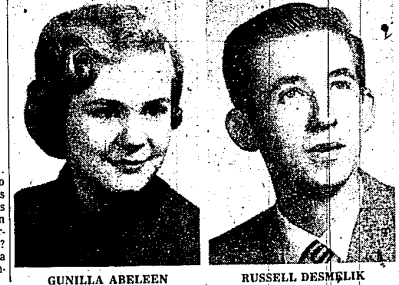
Seniors with an A- (3.5) or better average in their high school academic courses have been named "top honor" students and those with a B (3.0) to A- average as "honor" students. Averages for each student's high school ranking was computed on their first seven semesters of study only, with grades obtained during the eighth and final semester not being considered.

This year seven seniors were named as "top honor" student and 16 others as "honor" students. The high school administrative staff disclosed recently.

Designated as "top honor" students were: Gunilla Abteleen, David Cargill, Russell Desmeluk, Diane Franjac, Clara Hanson, Alice Langford, and Louis Urquhart.

Those designated as honor students based on their averages for seven semesters were: Alice Annette, Daniel Burnett, Marilyn Carmack, James Chellman, Frank Mullin, Donald Nichols, Peter Quisenberry, Sharon Reganik, Robert Spiller, Nicholas Spitz, Joyce Urbain, and Mary Vetter.

According to school officials, details have not yet been worked out regarding recognition to be paid the students with high academic records. It was indicated, however, that some type of honor would be paid either at graduation exercises or in the form of certificates of accomplishment for the students.



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