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SIXTY-NINTH YEAR — NUMBER 40

# The Farmington Enterprise

LEADERSHIP—OUR PURPOSE SERVICE—OUR GOAL

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1957

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Wayne and Oakland Counties

SIXTEEN PAGES

## Wood Creek Farms Holds Initial Council Meeting

The adoption of an ordinance calling for the immediate creation of a planning commission was one of the major items of business taken up at the initial meeting of the Wood Creek Farms Village Council Tuesday evening.

In separate action the Council also approved a resolution calling for the appointment of members to the planning commission at a regular meeting of the Village President Alger Clark requested that each Council member prepare a list of nine candidates and submit them for consideration.

It was generally agreed by Council members that immediate steps should be taken to reach a settlement with the Township for the village's proportionate share of County and State allocations. A committee was appointed to meet with the Township officials to discuss settlement terms.

A COMMITTEE was also appointed to meet with the Township officials for the purpose of obtaining permission to issue building permits through the village while retaining township inspecting services until such time as the village can organize to take over this duty. It was indicated in discussion that the Village Charter spells out the building permit to issue building permits.

President Clark informed the Council that the County has already received the job of issuing applications for septic tank installation permits to village authorities.

A further study was determined regarding means of providing fire protection for the village. Committees were appointed to discuss terms and conditions for fire protection with both the Farmington Township and Franklin Village Fire Departments. Action to appoint a village fire department was not deemed necessary at this time. It was felt that the village would be amply protected by the fire protection of the State Police and Oakland County.

(See WOOD CREEK, Pg. 6A)

## Two Injured On Motorcycle

Two Detroit youths were injured early Saturday evening when the motorcycle on which they were riding was hit by a car on Grand River just west of Brookdale Avenue. The accident occurred around 7:20 p. m.

The youths were thrown from the bike when it was struck by a car driven by Marie B. Meyer of 2128 Colgate, Farmington. She was making a left turn from Grand River and apparently the motorcycle was proceeding west on the motorcycle, police indicated.

William Papenhagen, 15, operator of the cycle, suffered a fractured finger, T. Swendric, 16, a passenger, suffered facial lacerations and cuts about the face. Both boys were taken to Redford Hospital for treatment.



FIRST OFFICERS of the new Village of Wood Creek Farms took their oaths of office last Wednesday, June 26, in simple swearing-in ceremonies at the home of Vernon Fisher, charter commission secretary. All were sworn in by Attorney Wendell Brown. Officers are, left to right: Herman Dobson, Town Reader; councilmen;

Arthur Busch, clerk; Alger Clark, president; Harry Lang, Jr., and Norman Kreider, councilmen; and Robert Swift, assessor. W. Devereaux, treasurer, was not present for the swearing-in ceremony. He was sworn in office at the first regular meeting of the Council Monday night.

## New Home Building in Farmington Remains Below 1956 Record Pace

New home construction in both Farmington City and Township is continuing to lag behind last year's totals according to the latest tabulation on building permits during the second quarter of 1957.

The Township building department approved a total of 120 permits for new home building construction during April, May and June as compared to 173 permits issued during the same period a year ago.

The total estimated value of the new home construction for the quarter is \$2,515,600 as compared to \$3,636,013 for the corresponding period of 1956.

A total of 17 new permits were issued by the City building department during the first three months period as compared to 25 permits during the same period a year ago.

Estimated value of the home construction has been set at \$30,059 for the quarter. In spite of the fact that more permits were issued during second period last year, the estimated value of the home construction for the quarter is less than the same period this year.

May was the leading month in both the Township and City as far as new home building permits were concerned. Issuance of permits for commercial construction in the Township also showed a slight decline during the quarter as compared to a year ago.

Commercial activity in the city, on the other hand, enjoyed a slight increase over the same period last year.

THE LARGEST total number of permits issued in both the City and Township were for garage construction and additions and alterations to existing homes. For the three months period 93 permits were issued for this type of construction in the Township while the City construction is estimated at 153,871.

It is anticipated that new building activity in the area will continue to run below last year's level in the case of the City. This is partly due to the limited amount of undeveloped land still available for homesites. The proposed development subdivisions of Inker in the case of McCee Hill and in the newly annexed area just north of 8 Mile and east of Farmington Road may reverse the trend.

INGLE ELECTED HEAD OF STATE JUSTICE'S GROUP

Farmington Justice Allen C. Ingle was elected president of the Michigan Justice of the Peace Association at the organization's annual convention held last week in Ludington, Michigan.

The organization is composed of Justices of the Peace from cities and townships throughout the state of Michigan. George E. Wicklund of Inker was elected executive chairman. Ingle will serve as president of the group for the year 1957-58.

James Lawson, Farmington Township Justice, also attended the annual convention.

## Hearings On City Zoning Proposal Set For July 11

A large turnout of city residents is expected at the scheduled public hearing to be held Thursday, July 11 on the proposed rezoning from residential to commercial of property on both sides of Mooney Street between Grand River and Shiawassee.

The hearing which is being called by the City Council, will be held in the Municipal Building beginning at 8:00 p. m.

The proposal involves three parcels of land located adjacent to the new Farmington Plaza Shopping Center. The one parcel includes the property lying between Mooney Street and Greghard Lake Road and Shiawassee to a line just north of Grand River. The second parcel covers the "crossed property" located on the west side of Mooney Street between Shiawassee and the new shopping center. The third parcel involves the rezoning of a portion of the parking area immediately north of the shopping plaza to allow for the construction of an additional store.

ACTION setting up the public hearing, was taken by the City Council at its regular meeting June 17 following receipt of recommendations from the Planning Commission. The members of the Commission recommended that the Council approve the proposed rezoning. It was the majority opinion of the Commission that the area was more suitable for commercial rather than residential development.

Only recently the Council rejected a proposal for the rezoning of the Crosscut property to multiple dwellings after strong protests from adjacent property owners.

COUNCIL EXPECTED TO PICK APPRAISAL FIRM MONDAY

Earl Scherffus, City Manager, announced this week that he will submit recommendations to the Council at its regular meeting Monday evening on the appointment of a firm to conduct a re-appraisal of property in the City.

The City Manager stated that the total of four companies have submitted proposals on the re-appraisal work. Representatives of two firms have appeared before the Council in recent weeks to explain the methods of operation in conducting such re-appraisals.

Scherffus stated that he will request the Council to take immediate action in selecting one of the companies in order that the re-appraisal can be completed prior to the end of the year. It is estimated that the work will require approximately six months to complete.

INSIDE FEATURES

Local Teachers Go To NEA Convention . . . Pg. 3B  
Church Activities . . . Pg. 2A  
New Exchange Club . . . Pg. 2B  
Officers Installed . . . Pg. 2B  
Cubs Move Into Tie For First Place . . . Pg. 7A  
Job's Daughters Install Officers . . . Pg. 1B

Classified Adv. Pg. 4A, 5A, 6A  
Church Activities . . . Pg. 2A  
Editorial Features . . . Pg. 2B  
Michigan Mirror . . . Pg. 2B  
Neighborhood News . . . Pg. 2A, 3A, 6A, 7A  
Sport News . . . Pg. 2A

## Supervisor Sees Early Realization Of Water System For "Dry Area"

### Preliminary Plans For New Grade School Approved

Preliminary plans for a new elementary school on an eight-acre site in Section 10 between Kendallwood and Westbrook Manor subdivisions were approved by the School Board, meeting in special session Monday night.

The plans, as drawn up by Architect Earl Meyers, call for 12 regular classrooms as well as a kindergarten and multi-purpose room. Modifications made in the request of the School Board, should result in a substantial saving in construction cost, Meyers indicated.

Following final selection on previously approved plans for additions at the Bond, Middlebelt and Gill Road elementary schools, authorization was given to advertise jointly for construction bids on all three projects. Bids will be received until July 22 at 7 p. m.

AUTHORIZATION was also given to advertise for construction of a water main from the Section 36 Water System to the new William Grace school and for the sale of the remaining \$2,000,000 in bonds from the \$4,000,000 bond issue. Bids in both cases will be opened at the July 22 meeting of the Board.

A definite policy on the acceptance or rejection of students from areas turned over to other School Districts when boundary line changes are made should be established. It was determined, following discussion, further action in establishing a policy was promised at the next regular Board meeting.

Further action, the Board agreed to make an offer to purchase approximately two and three-fourths acres of land adjacent to the new Farmington Plaza Shopping Center. The Detroit Edison Company, the administration was also instructed to proceed in having plans drawn up for a public address system.

The next regular meeting of the Board scheduled for July 8 was canceled. The Board will meet again until Monday, July 22.

### Board To Invest Building Funds

The Clarenville School Board, at regular meeting Thursday evening, authorized the investment of \$75,000 from the 1956 Building, Site and Equipment Fund in the Michigan National Bank of Flint.

The \$75,000 total represents surplus funds in the Debt Fund which have been collected but cannot be expended until specific bond certificates become available. Officials expressed interest in the investment.

Action was also taken approving the appointment of Harry Lundstrom as elementary principal for the school year of 1957-58. Smith, who has had previous experience in this position, will be assigned to the Central School. He is one of two new elementary principals to be hired by the Clarenville Board.

Albert Hartom, president of the Board, reported on the progress being made in connection with a study on the proposed establishment of a Northwest Wayne County Community College. Hartom stated that a survey of parents of ninth graders, living in the proposed area to be served by the college, has also been held.

CITY AND TOWNSHIP ANNOUNCE HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULES

Officials of both the Township and City announced this week that special office schedules will be followed during the Fourth of July holiday week-end.

Both offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4. The Township office in the Town Hall will also be closed all day Friday, July 5. City officials stated that the City offices in the Municipal Building will close at 5:00 p. m. on Friday instead of the regular 8 p. m. closing date.

The regular meeting of the City Council, previously scheduled for Monday, July 1, will be held on the following Monday, July 8. The public hearing on the proposed vacation of Farmington Road at McCee Hill, which was held last week following the installation of Elliott Rogers, right, as president of the new permanent organization, the ceremony took place last week following the installation of Elliott Rogers, right, as president of the new permanent



THE POSITION of Superintendent of Schools for the Farmington Public School District was officially turned over to Gerald V. Harrison, seated at desk, by retiring superintendent O. E. Duncel, on Monday. Harrison, who has served as both high school principal and assistant superintendent in the Farmington school system, was appointed to the post shortly after Duncel's announcement of resignation in January.

### Three Members Of Library Board Resign, Charge City With Delays

Three of the four members of the joint District Library Board submitted their resignation to the City Council and Township Board last week-end as a result of delays by the City of Farmington in turning over monies from the Clinton Wilber Estate to the Library Board.

C. Goddard Smith and Howard Thayer, City Representatives on the Board, filed their resignations with the Council on Friday. Edward Moseman, one of two Township Representatives, also submitted his resignation to Board officials on Friday. Mrs. Ethel Gibson, the secretary of the Board, is out of the state and did not participate in the resignation signing.

The three members expressed acceptance of their resignations and early appointment of their successors.

In their letter of resignation, which appears on Page 4B of this week's issue, the signers outlined the history of the joint Library Board formed in the fall of 1955 by action of the City Council and Township Board. The new Library Board did not take over control and management of the present library facilities until November 1, 1955 because of the necessity of reconstructing the Clinton W. Wilber estate to provide for the lawful release of the estate's funds to the joint Board. The will was reconstructed under a decree of the Court, stipulating that the City is authorized and directed to turn over the property, money and effects from the Wilber estate to the Library Board.

ACCORDING to the members of the Library Board, the City of Farmington has failed to turn over the assets of the estate as required in the Court Decree. In the meantime a joint committee of the City Council and Township have been preparing an agreement designed to insure the continuing financial support of the library program.

Copies of the agreement have been submitted to the Library Board with the request that they approve the proposal. However, the three members have refused to sign the agreement and have submitted their resignations as a result.

In their letter to the Council and Board, the members stated that (See LIBRARY BOARD, Pg. 8A)

LITTLE LEAGUE TO DEDICATE PLAY FIELDS AT N. FARM

Officials of the North Farmington Little League announced this week that two new playing fields will be dedicated during special ceremonies to be held on Saturday, July 13.

League President Bill Tilder stated that plans are now in process to combine the field dedication with a sponsor's day. The two new fields are located at the Bond and Eagle Schools. Other details of the program, which is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p. m. on July 13, are now being worked out.

A sound truck will broadcast the event in the Township on Saturday morning, Tilder stated.

PASSING THE GAVEL symbolizes the transformation of the League of Subdivisions Associations from a temporary group to a permanent organization. The ceremony took place last week following the installation of Elliott Rogers, right, as president of the new permanent



League. The gavel is being presented to Rogers on the right by Robert Burton, chairman of the temporary League. The new organization is presently composed of 16 charter-member subdivision associations located throughout Farmington Township.

## AROUND THE BLOCK

RIGHT OFF THE BAT . . . We want to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent cooperation we received in obtaining early copy for this week's holiday issue. Your help, in submitting news and advertising copy on Saturday and Monday, has enabled us to get your "Home Community News" papers to you prior to the holiday. These so-called short weeks are extremely hectic in the newspaper and understanding have made the job much easier. We want to thank you and wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday!

SEVERAL PLACES . . . In this week's issue, we have made reference to the dangers which are bound to exist on our highways and by-ways during the coming days of July holiday. Maybe to some of you it seems like unnecessary duplication, but if it succeeds in saving one life, the expenditure of paper and ink will make it well worth while. It seems rather difficult at times to "sell" people on the not use of our highways as an impersonal and rather intangible value of safety. Everyone is for it but the warnings always apply to the other guy. Safety is never really means very much until all of a sudden it's too late. Then and only then does it become a tragically personal matter. We must all remember that just one auto accident, yes, just one moment of carelessness, can completely change the course of our life. And we must remember it before it's too late!

SINCE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT . . . of the Fourth of July, don't forget to post the colors this Thursday. It isn't too often we have an opportunity to display the Stars and Stripes to you prior to the holiday. These so-called short weeks are extremely hectic in the newspaper and understanding have made the job much easier. We want to thank you and wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday!