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League Of Subs To Report, Poll Twp. Problems

Studies of important township problems such as industrial zoning, school buildings and sites and others are under way now by various committees of the Farmington Township League of Subdivision Associations.

A summary and evaluation of each of the many issues will be made to the entire membership of the association within a few weeks says President Elliott S. Rogers.

A QUESTIONNAIRE will accompany the mailing, to give members an opportunity to express their opinions. Returns will be tabulated.

The committees are studying problems vital to all taxpayers, said Rogers.

He says the material to be members will be necessarily brief, but

Report School Enrollment Drop

A slight decrease in enrollment in the Farmington public school system has been reported since the beginning of the school year.

Official enrollment at the end of September stood at 6,076. Enrollment at the end of January was 6,048 representing a decrease of 21 pupils.

Enrollment in the secondary grades decreased from 1823 to 1844 last year.

Enrollment in the primary grades decreased from 4253 to 4204 last year.

Enrollment in the kindergarten dropped only eight students to an even 4,200.

Although nearly 40 students were added in the Board and Woodlake school areas, substantial decreases were registered at the Gill Road and Shawassse elementary schools.

THESE FIGURES do not include students enrolled in special education classes in the township.

Assistant Superintendent M. Van Amsede pointed out that there has been an exceptionally large turnover of students since the beginning of the school year.

Over 200 new students have been enrolled since Sept. 1, he said, but this has been offset by the slightly larger number who have left the system during the same period.

Requests Waiving Of Gym Charges

A request was made to the School Board Monday night by James Randolph of 21065 Middlebelt that his earlier request for the waiving of charges for the use of school gymnasium by Our Lady of Sorrows athletic teams be reconsidered.

Although no official action was taken, the general feeling expressed by Board members was that such action would not be justified.

They pointed out that other church groups pay for the use of these facilities and that to waive charges for one and not for all would be unfair.

Randolph contended that since these facilities would be used for physical fitness training only and not religious instruction, special consideration would be warranted.

It was noted that since parents of Our Lady of Sorrows children pay taxes for these facilities their children should have the use of them free as long as the facilities in no way connected with religious training.

In separate action the Board granted the use of the Dunce Junior High gymnasium free of charge to the Boy Scout Troop 46, but only on a temporary basis.

factual and supported by what information is available. Committees will continue their studies thereafter.

POLICY OF the League, he explains, is to obtain available facts, pro and con, and to present them objectively.

The published report will include the findings of the Planning and Zoning Committee in regard to the current issue involving land use for industrial development.

To the committee, he says, this issue appears highly controversial, and one which will have a direct effect on taxes as well as population increase, and the physical development and appearance of the township.

Members of this committee are Benjamin H. Rollason, William E. Dumas, Charles L. Hanchett, Paul H. Haro Jr., Edward L. Klein and Clarence McCoy Jr.

SCHOOL SITES and buildings is another committee project. Mr. Rogers says the School Plant committee reports it has already obtained some revealing facts.

Membership of this committee includes Ray B. Wilcox, chairman, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. Ann Burton, Charles E. Merryman, John Najjar and Oris H. Opt. Holt.

Information on the sewer project, building codes, the building department, tax assessments, and forms of township government are being gathered by other standing committees.

Short on School Operating Funds

Since State Aid school money due in mid-January has still not been received, both the Farmington and Clarenceville school systems are now operating on limited funds.

Superintendent G. V. Harrison indicated to the Farmington School Board Monday night that the most current operating expense bills are now being paid.

He pointed out, however, that enough money was coming in from local sources to meet the certain it would be possible to meet the school employee payroll through February.

LOUIS SCHMIDT, Clarenceville superintendent, revealed that the situation was very similar in that school system and that they were also relying almost entirely on local taxes to meet February employee payrolls.

Both school systems have agreed that they will be in extreme difficulty unless State Aid money due is received before the first pay period of March.

Hurt in 2-Car Crash At 12 Mile - Middlebelt

Walter Steicher of Garden City was injured Wednesday morning shortly before 9 o'clock when his car collided with another driven by Paul G. Bobenag of 28329 Havberry, Farmington, at 12 Mile and Middlebelt. Bobenag was not hurt.

Steicher was taken to Belmont Hospital suffering from shock, cuts, a concussion and loss of blood.

Proceeding north on Middlebelt, Steicher failed to stop at the stop sign at the 12 Mile intersection.

Home on Lilac Street Broken Into Last Week

The Philip Leathley home at 2259 Lilac Street was broken into late last Wednesday night or early Thursday morning and robbed of a small amount of change in a kitchen cupboard.

Entry was made by reaching through a milk chute to unlock the back door.

Patrolman Gerald Stephan of the city's public safety department investigated the break-in.



HAVING SUCCESSFULLY set off a small test rocket recently as their special project in their physics class at Clarenceville High, these five boys are now working on a much larger rocket which they hope to send up in the near future. Looking at the small test rocket, left to right, are: John Hanley, Tom Wilson, Gordon Whitlock and Darwin Larson, physics instructor. Holding the casing for the new big rocket are James Parliament, left, and Fred Schultz. The boys expressed hope that the big rocket, five foot high and five inches in diameter, might go as high as

Western Twp. Needs Better Fire Help

The west portion of Farmington Township needs better fire protection, reported William Fisher to the township board Tuesday night.

He has no immediate suggestions, but is studying the problem and asked board members to do the same.

On a fire drill recently he said it took 11 1/2 minutes for the truck from the Wheeler street station to get to a certain point in the west central part of the township.

Ladies Night Well Attended

The Greater Farmington Shrine Club held its first Ladies Night on Tuesday, February 11th at Guffin's Frontier Town.

Some 60 Nobles and their wives enjoyed refreshments and buffet dinner. Prizes were awarded and exhibitions of Indian, square and folk dances given.

The March 11th meeting, Nobles only, will again be at Frontier Town and Nobles in this area are invited to join for dinner and entertainment, local officials said. For reservations contact Don Pullen, secretary, at GR 4-3720.

Com. House Assn. To Seek Members

Plans for a membership drive to be conducted this spring were made at the annual meeting of the Farmington Area Community House Association held February 3 at the home of President Joseph McHugh.

It was indicated that the community house association is badly in need of more active members. Each new member can bring a community house for Farmington that will be much closer to reality, F.A.C.H.A. officials said.

New board members were also nominated. Named were Mrs. Edward Moseman, Mrs. William Fisher, Fred Harrison, John Courville, Mrs. Clarence Johnson, and Mrs. John Dunsnoor.

A vote of thanks was given at the meeting to Wendell Brown, attorney, who has been donating his efforts free of charge to obtain information on legislation pertaining to "community house law."

C of C Smorgasbord Tickets Are Scarce

Only a few tickets remain for the first Chamber of Commerce Smorgasbord dinner, Saturday night, February 15, Manager Donald D. Pullen is asking any members not intending to attend to get their tickets back to the office fast.

Following the dinner for members and wives, there will be entertainment and square dancing.

Two Civil Defense Classes Are Started Here, Need Volunteers

Two township civil defense classes, one for auxiliary police and one for first aid, are starting here and each needs volunteers badly.

Donald D. Pullen is Township Civil Defense director, and an organization is under way which will bring complete civil defense facilities to the township.

A NINEWEEK first aid class will start Thursday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., at the Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church at 33424 Oakland. Miss Jean Ross is in charge, and inquiries may be made of the GR 4-3100.

Members of Farmington Business and Professional Women's Club will phone prospects, including nurses, nurses aides, business women and housewives. Instruction will be by Fred Cross personnel, and the class will meet weekly on Thursdays.

Members of the auxiliary police will also take the course, but many more volunteers are asked.

VOLUNTEERS are also asked for the civil defense auxiliary police class which meets each Tuesday evening, 8 p.m., at the Wheeler Street fire station. Hugh Owens heads this division, but Twp. Police Chief Irving Yakes is in charge of the classes.

Only 14 have signed, and more men are needed. Last Tuesday night a film on state police work was shown, and the state police are assisting in the training.

Second Suit Against Twp.

A second suit against Farmington Township, involving a zoning matter, has been filed in court at Pontiac by the proposed developers of Ridgeview subdivision.

The first suit filed two weeks ago was the result of refusal of the Town Board to allow land fill on a parcel within the township.

THE TOWNSHIP attorney will answer the order to show cause February 24 at Pontiac before Judge George B. Hartrick; as to why a writ of mandamus should not be issued requiring approval of the plat.

Plaintiffs are Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Bratton, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. J. George Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bergeron, Mr. and Mrs. Marie Traflet Jr., and Harold Fromhart.

A preliminary plat filed quite a while ago had never been approved, and when a request for approval of a final plat was made recently it was turned down by the township board.

Few at C'ville School Meeting

A small but interested crowd attended the second public board of education meeting at Clarenceville schools last Thursday evening. School officials had hoped for larger crowds because of the importance of the talks.

Present were representatives of the civic association and some of the PTA organizations. Discussion was about taxes and building needs in the near future.

Report Progress On New School Additions Good

Favorable reports were given on several of the school construction projects now in progress in the Farmington School District at the School Board meeting Monday night.

According to Architect John Allen, work on the Ten Mile elementary school addition is going very well. Although difficulties have been encountered in obtaining some needed materials for the Gill Road and Bond school jobs, he added, it is expected that work can be completed by the first part of March.

Work has been at a standstill at the Bond school, but this has been too cold to put in terrazzo.

REPORTS filed by Architect J. McDonald Jacobs indicated that the Middlebelt school addition was now 33 per cent complete and should be finished by the end of the month. Children have already been moved into the kindergarten rooms there.

Superintendent G. V. Harrison said. Work on the Shawassse addition is 68 per cent complete and ahead of schedule and work on the Eagle addition 57 per cent complete and also ahead of schedule, it was stated.

Superintendent Harrison reported that results from the digging of a test water well at the Gill Road school site were highly favorable. He stated that the well man had indicated as much as 25 or 30 gallons of water per minute might be supplied from an eight inch well at this location. Authorization was given by the Board for the digging of a well this size following the report.

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Sell 3rd Million In School Bonds

The third \$1,000,000 of the \$4,000,000 school bond issue of 1957 were authorized for sale by the School Board at a special meeting Tuesday night.

The bonds will be sold to Elyth and Company of Chicago who offered the lowest interest rate for the bonds of four concrete bidding. The interest rate will be 4.0068 per cent which is slightly lower than the rate of 4.4262 per cent at which the first \$2 million worth of bonds were sold.

Superintendent G. V. Harrison attributed the lower rate to the favorable bond market at this time and the enlightening and favorable financial report compiled by Dean Stanley, financial authority, on the economic condition of the district.

Officers Assn. Forms Comm.

Several committees were formed by the newly organized Farmington Public Safety Officers Assn. at a meeting Monday night.

The committees and the officers named to head them are: educational, Sgt. Bill Garden and Lt. A. VanDall; entertainment, Patrolman John Butters; youth, Sgt. Jay Harrison and Patrolman Bill Vignoe; finance, Don Youles; girls, Robert Deans; publicity, Bill Walker and Sgt. Garden.

A meeting of the board of directors of the association will be held this Monday night.

Twp. Collects 72% Of Taxes

Tax collections by Township Treasurer Elise Avery were approximately \$1,173,180 this week, out of a levy of \$1,618,794. This is 72 per cent.

This includes both personal property and real estate taxes. Two weeks ago \$850,000 had been collected, so payments in the last two weeks totaled \$323,180.

Personal property taxes are pretty well paid up, reports Mrs. Avery. They were due January 20. A few places are going to have to be picketed, she told the township board Tuesday night. However, she hopes that procedure won't be necessary, as it is costly to the taxpayer.

February 28 is the last day to pay real estate taxes at the township hall. On March 1 and after they will have to be paid at the county office.

Businesses to Return Property Statement Now

All Farmington city and township businesses must return their annual Tangible Personal Property Statements by February 15. This is the basis for next year's tax payment.

This year a slightly different form is being used by both the city and township assessors. In addition to the stock inventory, there must be stated the value of machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, etc. with totals by year of purchase. Getting the year of purchase is important, as the figures are depreciated annually.

A LITTLE KNOWN fact is that state law exempts up to \$500 on the assessed valuation of personal property, for one business only, provided that business is within the city or township, and that the owner also lives within the city or township.

The full valuation must be reported, then if the owner's address shows he lives within the taxing district, the municipality is supposed to automatically give the \$500 exemption.

This would mean that a small business, like a beauty shop, with less than \$500 in equipment and inventory, would have no personal property tax.

If the city notice points out the Board of Review will meet March 4 and March 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

City Engineer at Meeting Feb. 19

City Engineer Dean Elwart will be among the Farmington engineers who will attend the February 19 meeting at Detroit which will be the highlight of National Engineers Week, February 16-22.

Speaker will be Dr. Gilford G. Quarles, scientific and technical consultant to the Commanding General, Army Ballistic Missile Agency. He is associated with the project which recently placed the satellite Explorer into orbit around the earth.

The week calls attention to work of engineers, especially their vital role in the success of the International Geophysical Year. Through this effort young people are inspired to choose the discipline of the engineering profession.

Twp. Planning Consultants Are Hired 2 Years

The planning consultant firm of Vilcan-Leman and Associates was hired for its second two-year contract Tuesday night by the Township Board, after praise for their services by board members and the township planning board. It is the latter board under which much of their work done.

There was some discussion about necessity for consultants, and whether the fee was earned. Discussion and testimony quickly convinced the inquirers.

SUPERVISOR Frank Stephenson urged the re-hiring, saying the firm had done an excellent job. He complimented the board for two years ago on its wisdom in hiring such a firm.

Howard Weist, secretary of the Planning Board, described how the board worked with much of the legwork and fact finding done by Vilcan-Leman. He said the next large project, a traffic study in downtown Farmington, will be done without such help. There is still much to do on the commercial and industrial studies.

The supervisor pointed out that continuation of the Farmington interceptor sewer, he believes the township will explode in every direction, and even more planning will be needed.

TWO NEW codes needed because of township growth were adopted by the board, and will be published next week.

One is the electrical code, which is the 1956 national code and subsequent amendments. The other is a refrigeration machinery code, and both Detroit code was adopted by referendum.

UNION WRECKING, after being turned down recently on locating an auto wrecking business at one location, asked here in the township it could locate such a business.

Member Fred Westlake said the township needed a smoke abatement ordinance by the township. This and whether the township could now legally turn down such a request as that by Union Wrecking was turned over to the Township Attorney, Arthur L. Robbins.

THE ATTORNEY reported on several pending matters, one what could be done about three cases of over assessment by the township. He asked more time for a formal report, but his tentative opinion was that nothing could now be done about a refund.

An application for a 25-foot covered drain for Glen Oak subdivision was granted over township property, with the drain installed by the developer and becoming township property.

AMENDMENT of board of health rules provide that the food handlers license be renewed annually instead of semi-regularly, and that a usual examination and chest x-ray.

The proposed subdivision ordinance was discussed and put over to a later meeting. This developers would be required to pay in advance a percentage of the improvement costs for approval of plans and regular inspection to see they were followed. Board members report their belief the developers would be willing to follow the ordinance.

FLOYD A. CARRNS, Twp. Clerk, reported a request by Franklin Knolls residents that the mile of road on 14 Mile between Middlebelt and Northwestern Highway be designated a primary road.

With the approval of the board he has asked Oakland county to make the change, which will mean better maintenance. The school and gravel pit there are the main reasons.

2 Winners in Polio Bowling

Two Farmington bowlers were among the winners last Sunday in the Oakland County March of Dimes bowling tournament.

Dorothy Stoecker, 2208 Floral, won second place in the women's tournament held in the Birmingham Bowl. Prize was a console television set.

Morton Kanier, 28672 Lochmore, took third prize among the men and won a portable television set. The tournament was at Auburn Lanes, Auburn Heights.

In the Sunday rolloff 57 men and 54 women took part. The real winners of course, were the county polio patients.

Runs Into Side of Car

Seven year old Robert E. Scheer of 28835 Eldred Street was injured slightly Tuesday morning when he ran into the side of a moving car on Truck Road near Eight Mile. He suffered only minor bruises. Driver of the auto was Mrs. Theresa Edwards of 68300 Raphael Street.



A GREAT DEAL of work is involved in seeing to it that the many new schools and school additions now under construction in the Farmington public school system are carried through to completion satisfactorily. Close coordination is needed between the architects, school administrators, School Board members and builders. Hired recently by the Farmington school system to help

City, Wood Creek Get Motor Vehicle Funds

Motor Vehicle Fund collections for the Fourth Quarter of 1957 have now been received by the City of Farmington and the Village of Wood Creek Farms.

The City of Farmington received \$4,948.17 and Wood Creek Farms a sum of \$1,325.48.

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