

# Farmington Enterprise

Leadership - Our Purpose Service - Our Goal

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1959

## School Officials Cite Reasons for Needing More Operating \$\$\$

The Farmington public school system is Farmington's biggest business but no money is realized from its product—educated children.

Total yearly operating costs alone are now running over \$2.5 million. As with all other businesses, operating costs are continuing to rise.

Revenue was unable to operate this ever expanding local business comes from four sources: industry, commercial establishments, residential property owners and state aid.

IN A WELL balanced community industrial and commercial establishments provide a substantial portion of the local taxes with which to operate schools. But, Farmington is a very unbalanced community with considerable residential development but comparatively little industry or commerce.

Because of this, the brunt of the local tax burden must be borne by residential taxpayers.

New residents in the community or any others not yet registered to vote in Farmington are reminded that this Friday, Nov. 13, at 5 p. m. is the deadline for registering to vote in the coming school election.

The tax yield from residential property is very low compared to industrial and commercial establishments occupying the same amount of space.

This is one of the chief reasons why the schools must continually be asking for more and more money from its taxpayers with which to build and operate educational facilities.

ANTICIPATED enrollment increases will not be offset by enough industrial and commercial development to permit school operations under the same program as in the future without more operating tax moneys, school officials assert.

This is why elections in the district are being asked to approve an additional two mill operation tax levy (\$2 per \$1,000 state equalized valuation) for a five year period, 1960 through 1964, on the Nov. 23 school election ballot.

ALTHOUGH THIS is the only proposition of the three appearing on the Nov. 23 ballot that will result in a tax increase, it is, strangely enough, the only one on which all registered voters will be permitted to cast their votes, school officials stated. The other two propositions are restricted to taxpayers. This is stipulated by state statute over which local boards of education have no control, it was emphasized.

Even new homes in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 price range do not provide for a financially healthy school community that takes a substantial amount of industry and commerce.

TO EMPHASIZE the fact that the Farmington School District compares favorably to other communities, Supt. G. V. Harrison presented some statistics.

Last year the district's total state equalized valuation was \$70,877,802 which figures out to a valuation of \$10,577 per pupil. This year, 1959, the total state equalized valuation is \$73,112,680. Enrollments have kept climbing, however, and when this is computed out it is found that this year it was \$922 valuation behind each child, or \$869 less than a year ago.

It is per pupil valuation is lower than the averages for both Oakland County and school systems in the State of Michigan as a whole. The average in Oakland County in 1958, the year last official figures are available, was \$11,768. The State of Michigan average was \$14,456. As indicated earlier, Farmington's per pupil average in 1958 was \$10,571.

FIGURES FOR 12 other neighboring districts cited by Supt. Harrison showed Farmington as having the second lowest equalized valuation per pupil in 1958. The school systems and their per pupil valuations are as follows:

Birmingham	\$16,539	Livonia	\$18,282
Dearborn	\$29,177	Highland Park	\$31,225
Ferrisdale	\$13,072	Oak Park	\$18,489
Plymouth	\$17,870	Royal Oak	\$12,175
Pontiac	\$20,767	Southfield	\$16,208
Rochester	\$11,644	Walled Lake	\$ 8,341

How much is Farmington spending to provide the type of educational program presently being offered? Less than average, statistics show.

FARMINGTON'S average operational cost per pupil for the 1957-58 school year was \$310.27. For the 1958-59 school year it was \$328.72. In comparison, the average for Oakland County school systems in 1957-58 was \$328.70 and in 1958-59 it was \$338.87. The average for school systems throughout the State of Michigan for the 1957-58 school year was \$320.93. For the 1958-59 school year the State average was estimated to be \$338.76.

Superintendent Harrison indicated that one school system in the Metropolitan Detroit area spends over \$650 per pupil for operation. He added that he could think of only one other school system comparable with Farmington in this area that spends less per child for operation.

TEACHERS' salaries account for a major portion of the school system's operating expenses. In order to attract the caliber of teachers needed to provide the type of program now being offered, and the kind which parents have indicated they want, we must remain competitive with neighboring school systems, Supt. Harrison said.

	Minimum	Maximum
Berkeley	\$450.00	\$695.00
Birmingham	450.00	690.00
Claiborneville	440.00	610.00
Defond	470.00	740.00
FARMINGTON	430.00	610.00
Ferrisdale	450.00	680.00
Hamtramck	450.00	630.00
Highland Park	470.00	770.00
Hazel Park	470.00	710.00
Livonia	470.00	753.00
Oak Park	450.00	740.00
Plymouth	460.00	710.00

See SCHOOL OFFICIALS, Page 8-A, Col. 1.

Being Read Weekly by 4,691 Families

SEVENTH SECOND YEAR — NO. 7

## Street-Paving in Greencastle Nears Reality

The paving of streets in Greencastle subdivision was brought closer to reality Tuesday evening when the township board awarded a contract for the job and then sold special assessment bonds to finance the project.

Greencastle is located south of 12 Mile and west of Inkster and Middlebelt. Board members awarded a contract at the bid price of \$24,895 for the re-surfacing job to the C. W. Cousins company, a construction firm from the metropolitan area. Cost of the job amounts to about \$600 per acre. The \$24,000 special assessment will be paid by Greencastle property-owners in cash or over a 10-year period.

ON THE HEELS of awarding the contract, board members agreed to sell the special assessment bonds required to finance the project to a combination bidder. The \$2,000 worth of bonds will be sold to Kenower-MacArthur and company and Macin and company. Interest rate will be 4.52 percent. The \$24,000 amount will cover the actual re-surfacing costs and other improvements to be undertaken at a later date.

Cousins company's bid of \$24,895 for the re-surfacing work was the lowest of the six bids received by Township Clerk Floyd Cairns. The other bids ranged upward to \$46,000. Pate and Hirn, consulting engineer firm for the township, recommended the acceptance of the low bid from the Cousins company.

DITCHING and gravelling of the Greencastle streets will begin this week, related Township Supervisor Curt Hall Wednesday. The actual re-surfacing project should take about 10 days he said. The actual paving (black-topping) of the subdivision will begin next week, he said. When weather permits, that part of the over-all job will take about one week, Hall added.

## Set Special Registering Hours Tonight

City Clerk Trena Quinn announced Monday that registration for the special school election will be at the Municipal Building tonight, Thursday, Nov. 12, until 8 p. m. to take registrations for the special school election from 5 p. m. to 8 p. m.

She emphasized that the office was being kept open this evening solely for the purpose of registering those who find it inconvenient to register during normal business hours. No other business will be transacted, Mrs. Quinn added.

Only those persons that already are registered to vote in school elections need make application.

Tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 13, at 5 p. m. is the deadline for registration for the special school election in this special school election.

## Driver Escapes Serious Injury

A motorist was shaken up and away only with minor cuts last week when the pickup truck he was driving was struck and tipped on its side by another pickup truck.

The accident occurred Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, at the intersection of Eight-Mile and Inkster roads. Injured slightly, the driver was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he remained until he was discharged Saturday morning.

Liske was driving his pickup truck north on Inkster road, when the driver of the other truck, which was struck by a car, drove west on Eight-Mile by 25-year-old Robert G. Mahnd, a salesman from the Smyrna, Mich. area. Mahnd's car careened off Liske's truck and collided with an automobile driven by Edward Erwin, 32, of 2187 Roosevelt, who was driving north on Eight-Mile.

Mahnd told police he was unable to stop at the intersection's traffic light. Erwin, in the meantime, had been making an illegal left turn. An extensive damage was done, to both Liske's truck and the Mahnd auto. Only Liske was injured.



AUTO TABS for 1959 will fit on your old 1959 plates like this, Gerald Grace, local Secretary of State-branch office manager, demonstrated. Of course, much of the luster may not be there since this 1959 plate is fresh out of a box while yours will show the scars of the past year of motoring.

## You'll Get Auto License Tabs for '60; Now on Sale

Motorists who voiced complaints last year about the unattractiveness of the green and yellow used on 1959 license plates will have even more to complain about this year.

Those same plates, with green background and yellow letters, will remain on the car for another year despite the wear and tear they have suffered in the past year of motoring.

ONLY ADDITION will be a tiny piece of metal which will cover the "59" on the present plates with a "60." Don't be deceived, however, the saving in cost of production is not being passed on to the purchaser.

THESE TABS have a yellow background with the "60" on them in green. The fate of owners of trucks, trailers, motorcycles and other vehicles than autos is much better. They will get new plates.

The same as last year, motorists will be required to fill out their own registration blanks. These are now available at the license bureau.

This registration and a certificate of title to the vehicle are needed to secure license tabs or plates.

## Jr. High Plans Go Ahead Given

Final plans for the proposed junior high school addition at Dunkle, Junior High were approved by the Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday night.

Architect Peter Tarapat was instructed Monday night to prepare a detailed report of plan changes recommended by the building sub-committee of the School Citizens Advisory Committee. Several of the changes recommended were agreed to by the Board after discussing them with the architect.

Although there is money on hand with which to start construction immediately, approval of the plan is still to be obtained at the Nov. 23 special election because of a technicality. This money, unexpended funds from the 1958 bond issue, was not specified for a junior high addition but for elementary construction and site purchases.

## 48 Register Sat. For School Election

Forty-eight registrations for the Nov. 23 special school election were received by Township Clerk Floyd A. Cairns last Saturday morning when he opened his office for eligible voters who could register during regular business hours.

It brought the total to more than 100 new registrations that he has received in the past two weeks.

Registration closes tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 5 p. m. The election will be held on Monday, Nov. 23, at the usual polling spots.

## Black-Topping Done at Staman Acres

The black-topping of streets in Staman Acres subdivision was completed Monday after nearly four months of work, reported Township Clerk Floyd Cairns.

Staman Acres is located northwest of the 10-Mile and Orchard Lake road intersection.

Although the black-topping is complete, the work still must be built up and other minor finishing touches added. Cairns said. Estimated cost of the project is about \$80,000. Nearly 50,000 linear feet of black-topping was done.

## Okay Purchase Of Apparatus For Fire Truck

Purchase of \$11,700 worth of firefighting apparatus for use on Farmington Township's fourth fire truck was approved by the Board of Trustees Tuesday evening.

The apparatus includes several section ladders, 100 feet of high-pressure hose, numerous section hoses, a 750-gallon per minute water pumper, a 500-gallon water tank with many other needed truck accessories.

John Bean company of Lansing was awarded the contract.

EVEN NOW, the township is asking for bids on the fire truck chassis, so that the new fire station, located in Kendallwood subdivision I, may be in operation at the earliest possible date.

Total cost of the apparatus, truck chassis and other pieces of equipment will be approximately \$20,000, Township Clerk Floyd Cairns said Wednesday. The price of the truck alone will be over \$6,000.

After a contract for the fire truck chassis has been awarded and the chassis has been manufactured, John Bean company will install the newly-purchased apparatus on a Lansing fire truck unit to the township should be done days after the truck chassis is delivered to the Bean company.

The truck will be manufactured by another company.

In the meantime, a loaner fire truck, from the John Bean company, will be used in the township's fire station number IV, located on 12 Mile between Farmington and Drake roads.

The John Bean bid for the apparatus was not the lowest. It was accepted by the board since the Bean apparatus complied with the township's required specifications.

Another bid was made by the American Fire Apparatus company of Battle Creek. Its price was \$11,444.

THE KENDALLWOOD fire station will be located off Northwest Highway near Middlebelt.

Another location on Wheeler street near Grand River and a third township fire truck is housed in the Farmington City fire hall in downtown Farmington.

## Say Proposed Site No Good

The School Board is still negotiating with Charles Brown, owner of the site, over the proposed site in Section 15 in the township.

Final plans for a future subdivision development in that section, south of 12 Mile and west of Orchard Lake road, have already been drawn up by the Thompson-Brown Co.

An eight to ten acre school site proposed by the developers was discussed by the Board at its regular meeting Monday night and determined to be undesirable for a school.

Trustees' Director Hamman and Administrative Director Earl Scherffs, along with a representative of the Citizens Advisory site sub-committee, will meet with Charles Brown Saturday morning to continue negotiations.

## Farmington More Than \$1,000 Over The Top in UF Fund Drive

### Suggests Twp. Form Chamber Of Commerce

A letter suggesting that action be taken to form a Township Chamber of Commerce was read aloud by Supervisor Curt Hall at the township board meeting Tuesday night.

The letter, signed by Daniel H. Hickey, 35158 Gary Drive, Hickey is township resident and then attempt to solicit commercial or industrial concerns into Farmington Township to balance the local economy.

Hickey is a township resident and in no way is connected with the township government. He suggested that possibly the township and city could join in forming such an organization.

His letter added that if an actual chamber of commerce was not feasible, at least a township business men's association could be formed to do the same job.

The aim of such an agency would be to lure industry into the township in an effort to reduce residential property taxes.

Board members, and others, are considering the proposal.

## Parking Lot To Replace Owen House

The raising of the old Owen house on Grand River road near Farmington road should be completed by the end of this week, related City Manager Earl Scherffs Tuesday.

When the old building is gone and the land there has been surfaced, a free city parking lot for approximately 50 cars will result.

Scherffs hoped that the city's DPW will be able to rough-grade the land before this week-end. The asphalt grade and the black-topping, which will be handled by an outside contractor, should begin by the middle of the next week, weather permitting, he explained.

The angular-shaped piece of property fronts on both Grand River avenue and Farmington road and curls around behind the stores located on the south-east corner of the intersection. This parking area will not connect with the proposed larger parking lot which the city for so long has been attempting to develop nearby.

## To Seed Land Around Water Tank

The final grading of the land surrounding the city's new water tank will be finished by the end of this week, said Earl Scherffs recently.

The land will be seeded so as to make it as attractive as possible. The new tank is located on Locust Drive at the north end of the cemetery.

## Cornwell Plans New Buildings

A Detroit architect started yesterday on details of plans for a new set of business buildings in downtown Farmington, which will include Grand River and Farmington roads.

There will be a store for A & P, plus other stores, exact number not yet determined.

MR. CORNWELL said that so far as he is concerned, the proposed downtown parking project is dead, and he intends to go ahead with an alternate plan which will include Grand River Grove and Orchard properties earlier involved.

He will ask final city council action next Monday on his agreement to buy the area formerly owned by John Lutz. In addition he has acquired the Eugene Ruch property at the corner of Farmington Road and Orchard.

THE STORES will be built east of and facing Farmington Road, somewhere southeast of the Bradley Drug and Hinkle stores. Parking will be in front of the stores, off Farmington Road.

To comply with mortgage requirements, he says a masonry wall will be built along the rear east side, running from Orchard north, thence along the north property line between Conroy's, Martini and Bradley Drug. This will hide from view the rear of other business places. There will probably be a greenbelt also.

City Manager Earl Scherffs says he is continuing work on the parking lot proposal, although it may be to no avail. He now has signed options on a large portion of the property on Grove and Orchard streets.

## Installing New Sidewalks Here

Farmington City DPW crews were at work this week installing new sidewalks at various points throughout the city.

Work got underway recently despite the fact that the 30-day waiting period had not yet elapsed following the city's notification to property-owners. The reason was that several property-owners had called in asking the city to install the sidewalks and then bill them for the cost.

The property-owners had an option of contracting the sidewalk installation themselves or permitting the city to do it and reimbursing the city for the work.

## Collect 203 Pints of Blood

The two blood banks held in Farmington last week were termed very successful. A total of 203 pints of blood were taken from donors. The North Farmington bank collected another 104 pints of this life giving fluid.

Residents are reminded that blood is available to all in the community when needed in the county hospital, or at the Farmington City Blood Banks. Farmington City release chairman are Mrs. Fred Lenx, GR-43356 and Mrs. Donald Wingerd, GR-43059. Blood release chairman in the North Farmington area are Mrs. C. J. Bejes, MA-62689; Mrs. C. F. Jakee, MA-61147; Mrs. W. D. Davison, GR-67304; Mrs. M. A. Harris, GR-43821; Mrs. V. V. Westdale, MA-62273.

## A Major Portion of the Total was Contributed by Residents in UF Fund Drive

A MAJOR portion of the total was contributed by residents in the UF Fund Drive. A total of \$14,839.55 was collected by volunteers calling door-to-door throughout the community or over \$200 more than the goal of \$14,639.55.

Select prospects gave the quota a big shot in the arm by contributing \$1,328. The goal for this group was only \$710.

Community business establishments also edged over the top. A total of \$1,059 was collected from businessmen. The goal was \$979.

THE ONLY group of contributors to fall below their quota in the drive was governmental employees in the city and township. The goal set for this group was \$1,059. They donated only \$113.

Special thanks was extended by Mrs. Cotton to all residents who were contacted by the drive. It was a generously in the "give one for all" campaign.

Working with Mrs. Cotton in heading-up this year's campaign were Mrs. Adam Korman, community chairman; Howard Richards, community business chairman; William Conroy, secretary; Charles B. Conroy, treasurer; and Mrs. M. A. Harris, school chairman.

## Picking Grid Winners Grid

It was a week of football appetites, and entries in the weekly football pick contest sponsored by Farmington merchants had a high mortality rate. Probably 85 per cent figured Illinois would beat the U. of Michigan.

There were only two winners who won, and only six with one prize each.

FIRST PRIZE was the closest to the tie-breaker total, went to Jabe R. Bacon of 22918 Maple Street. He has been entering both last year and this, and last year's son, Robert, won first one week.

Mr. Bacon has lived in Farmington all his life, attended high school here, and now works at Paragon Steel in Novi. A longtime football fan, he attends most Lions contests at home.

SECOND was won by one of the most persistent entrants, Tom Thomas of 33680 Hillcrest. He probably also has about as high a batting average as any, and had won first prize the first week of the contest. He is 14, a sophomore at Farmington High School.

This week's contest will be the last. Interest has been very good this year, with entries running consistently above a year-ago level.

THIS WEEK'S contest is on page 8-B, with the list of names next Friday and Saturday's contest. Entries must be received by 10 p. m. Monday. Entries must list the firm name, not the name of the person pictured in the ads, in order to be counted.

Members participating are: Farmington Lions, Farmington Market, Farmington Savings & Loan, Farmers Rangler Sales, Clappison & Conroy Insurance, Henry Otis Mobilgas, Dickerson Hardware, Kreese Store.