

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township  
 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, March 7, 1953

## Raise Enough to Start 13 Mile Sewer Project

A special session of the Farmington Township Board was held on Saturday morning of last week in order to pass necessary resolutions to hasten a start on construction of the \$550,000 Thirteen Mile Sewer Arm project.

On Monday night of last week at the regular Township Board meeting, Township Attorney Terry Brennan had reported that some \$80,000 more was needed in local commitments to permit to go ahead on the project but expressed confidence that it could be raised. Before week's end, the big money raising task was completed.

## Review Boards Set for Second Week Hearings

Initial sessions of the City and Township boards for the second week were held on Tuesday of this week.

Three more sessions of the board are scheduled for next week. Sessions of the City Board of Review will meet twice more next week.

Property owners are reminded that the only time they will be asked to raise questions or voice objections about the assessments that have been set on their property for the next six years will be on these board of review dates. Once the board of reviews have concluded their hearings the assessments will be set and become the official tax rolls for the year.

**THE DAYS** and hours for the Township Board of Review sessions next week will be as follows: Monday, March 11, 9 a.m. until 12 noon and 2 to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, March 12, 9 a.m. until 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.; Friday, March 15, 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. in the evening.

Hours for the City Board of Review will be the same on both Monday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 12. The board will be in session on both these dates from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The City Board is not scheduled to meet on Friday, March 15, like the Township.

## Gifted Children Topic Mar. 14

Dr. William Forbes, science coordinator for the Birmingham public schools will speak on the subject of "the gifted child" at the next regular meeting of the Farmington School Citizens Advisory Council on Thursday, March 14.

The meeting will be held in the cafeteria at Farmington High School and will start at 7:45 p.m. Because of the interest in this subject, Wade Brown who is chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council has extended an invitation to the general public to attend this meeting and to share the ideas that will be presented by Dr. Forbes.

Walter Essex, member of the Council executive board, pointed out that Dr. Forbes will be presenting up to date thoughts regarding the subject of the gifted child. The program should be of interest to anyone with youngsters, he commented.

## Debate City Endorsing New State Constitution

A request from the Michigan Municipal League that the City Council adopt a resolution recommending a "yes" vote by citizens on the new constitution April 1 resulted in some rather heated discussion at the Council meeting Monday night.

The Municipal League, of which the City of Farmington is a member, is already on record favoring adoption of the new constitution.

The most vigorous objection to recommending a "yes" vote by citizens on the new constitution April 1 resulted in some rather heated discussion at the Council meeting Monday night.

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A MODERN, NEW FIRE TRUCK, complete with all the latest equipment for effectively fighting just about any kind of a blaze was delivered to the City of Farmington the latter part of last week. Councilman Howard Thayer and Public Safety Director Joseph DeVriendt are shown here holding a special plaque giving details on the date of purchase and listing the names of city officials which will be mounted on the side of the truck. Looking on at left is City Manager John Dinan and at the right Councilman Hugo Peterson.

## Council Tables Discussion on Access Route

The decision of the City Council Monday night was to table until a later date further discussion on the matter of closing off or buying needed right-of-way to keep the access route east of Van's Furniture Store in Downtown Farmington open to traffic.

The City has until September to exercise an option to purchase a parcel of land in the path of this right-of-way or it will be closed off by the owner under terms of an agreement made about 4 1/2 years ago.

The matter first came up for discussion before the City Planning Commission and on an initial analysis it was the planners' opinion that the access route was not needed. Businessmen in all sections of the downtown area voiced strong objection to the proposed closing off of this route and trading of this route into heavily developed territory.

IT WAS THE Council's feeling as a result of this that perhaps the route should be kept open but that owners of property on either side of the needed right-of-way should share in the cost.

**SEE ACCESS ROUTE**  
 Column 6, Page 8A

## City Can't Find Buyer For Antique Fire Engine

The City of Farmington now has three fire trucks and is trying to find a buyer to take one of the vehicles off its hands since the Fire Department has never had more than two at any time in the past and in recent years has actually gotten by with just one fire engine getting an amount of service.

The one fire truck which the City would like to part with is not a particularly easy item to find a buyer for, since it was built for another era of fire-fighting that went out with prohibition.

The American LaFrance model, the fire engine stands out in sharp contrast to the latest acquisition of the City's Fire Department, a new \$23,000 Mack fire engine.

THE NEWLY purchased fire engine which arrived last week after being on order for more than a year, leaves the City with not only its best firefighting capability in history but also with a complement of three trucks which—markedly show the advancements made in the automotive industry over the last 35 years as effectively as any three models of comparable vintage in the Henry Ford Museum.

All three are unmistakably fire engines. But that is where the similarity ends. The familiar red paint job does not even predominate on all of the models.

The 1927 vehicle is in a class by itself and has long since become somewhat of a white elephant.

The last time an attempt was made to place it in service during a fire in the City was nearly a decade ago when the National Food Store at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road burned down, and at that time, it never even got to deliver one drop of water on the conflagration. Engine trouble halted its progress towards the fire short of its ever being able to be used.

ONE HAPPY EXCEPTION to the rather scant serviceability of the old fire engine came several years ago when it was used in a "Fire Prevention Week" parade in Pontiac. It was the last occasion of record where successful use of the American LaFrance was credited.

The 35-mile-an-hour top speed of the old fire engine suits it well for parades where a slower pace is appropriate. Since it qualified as an antique 11 years ago, its future apparently lies somewhere in this area.

Rated in excellent condition as far as appearances are concerned, the first asking price of \$750 didn't seem out of line to City officials. But since the old engine was put on the block several weeks ago, no one has even seen it.

**SEE FIRE ENGINE**  
 Column 4, Page 8A

## Plan to Re-Open Bar-Restaurant

Transfer of a Class C liquor license from Gus Stoyanoff to Stanley R. Nielson of Whitaker St. in the City of Farmington was approved by action of the City Council Monday night.

Both Nielson and his attorney, Neal Oglesby, appeared before the Council to make the formal request.

It was revealed that Nielson plans to re-open the restaurant and bar adjacent to the Farmington Lanes bowling alley which was operated by Stoyanoff until being closed down recently.

Nielson has been in the plumbing and heating business in the Redford-Farmington area for a number of years and is well known in this area. During discussion prior to approving the request some question was raised regarding Nielson's qualifications to operate a business of this kind.

It was agreed by members of the Council that while Nielson had no previous experience in the restaurant and bar business this should have no bearing on granting or disapproving transfer of the liquor license. Councilmen did emphasize, however, that they wanted to be sure that whoever did take over the former Stoyanoff restaurant would operate a clean and high class type of business there. Nielson assured them that he expected to run a very desirable type of business at this location.

Transfer of the liquor license must still receive the approval of the state liquor control commission before it is official.

## Light Signup Of New Voters

Monday at 8 p.m. was the deadline for registering to qualify as a voter locally in the April 1 elections.

Clerk Floyd Cairns reported Tuesday that approximately 80 new names had been added to the voter registration list in the Township since the deadline date for registering as a voter in the Feb. 18 Primary Election. The big rush to get signed up came on Friday of last week and Monday of this week, he said. About 40 new names were added on each of these two days.

The total number of registered voters in the Township now stands at just over the 13,500 mark.

City Clerk Trena Quinn reported that only about 40 new registered voters were signed up in the City since the first of the year with about 15 or 20 being handled on the last day for registering on Monday of this week.

Total voter registration in the City now stands at 3,801, she reported.

## Council Praises Economic Com.

Members of the City's Economic Development Committee received high praise Monday night from councilmen for the work they have been and are continuing to do to improve business and industrial conditions in the community.

In a report made to the Council it was revealed that the committee has now started its survey of all concerns in the City in an effort to determine what the City can do to help business firms in their operations. It was also disclosed that the committee had four prospects for small industrial plants on Eight Mile Road and another prospect for an industrial plant on Nine Mile Road.

## Council Approves Steps To Restore, Keep-Up Old Quaker Cemetery

The City Council went on record at its regular meeting Monday night in favor of making necessary expenditures to purchase and keep the old Quaker Cemetery on the east side of Gill Road just south of Oakland Avenue presentable as a historical site in the community.

The Council's decision was prompted by a letter from the Farmington Historical Society calling attention to the fact that the cemetery was becoming quite run-down in appearance and that damage to the ground and grave markers was prevalent.

It was pointed out in the letter that prior to development of a subdivision around the cemetery there was fencing on all four sides but that when Cartput in fencing that was taken down was not replaced. Children are now using the cemetery as a shortcut and also playing in it, officials of the historical society pointed out.

EMPHASIS was placed on the fact that damage is being done to some of the graves of early settlers in this community that should be preserved.

City Manager John Dinan was instructed to obtain prices on the fencing that he feels would be necessary to properly enclose the cemetery area again and report back to the Council at its next regular meeting.

He was also asked to contact officials of the historical society to see what assistance their club or other interested organizations might be able to render in getting historic stones and markers back in place and the area generally spruced up. It was indicated that help would be given on this improvement project.

COUNCILMEN were in agreement that the city should plan to spend more time in keeping the cemetery up in the future.

It was pointed out by Councilman Hugo Peterson during discussion that the cemetery had been neglected over to the City some years ago. Also pointed out was the fact that many buried in the cemetery now no longer have surviving relatives living in this area to keep up the grounds around family graves.

## 9th Graders at Novi Will Not Be Coming Here

Ninth grade students from the Novi School District will not be attending the Farmington public schools for the 1953-'54 school year as originally planned, it was learned this week.

Some months back the Novi Board of Education had requested that the Farmington system accept their ninth graders until they could get a high school of their own built. Northville had informed them they would no longer be able to accommodate all Novi high school pupils as they had in the past.

The Farmington Board deliberated on the matter for some time before determining that there would be enough room locally to accept the some 70 to 80 Novi area ninth graders on a one year basis only. Action was taken at Farmington Board meeting about a month ago approving acceptance of the Novi students on a tuition basis for the 1953-'54 school year.

IN ACTION at a meeting last week, the Northville Board, Column 4, Page 8A  
 See NOVI STUDENTS

## Lakeway Sewer Line Going In

Work is now under way on the Lakeway Storm Sewer project, City Manager John Dinan reported Monday.

The project was deemed necessary earlier to relieve flooding conditions being experienced for some time now by residents living in the area between and including Shiawassee Road and Valleyview Street and those living on the west side of Lakeway Avenue.

A 30 inch enclosed sewer is being laid from a point a short distance west of Lakeway across from the high school parking lot in a southerly direction. It will cross under Valleyview and continue on to the rear property line of homes on the south side of Valleyview. An open ditch will then continue to carry the storm water the rest of the way to the Rouge River branch running through the city in this area.

The project which will cost over \$10,000 is being financed with surplus funds from the City's 1952 road improvement project.

Dinan indicated that the project would move rapidly and that work should be completed before the exceptionally heavy spring rainy season comes.

## Re-Zoning for Frank's Nursery At Plaza OK'd

Official action was taken by the City Council Monday night approving re-zoning of the property owned by the late H. Frank's Nursery at the Farmington Plaza shopping center from parking to commercial to permit the construction of a Frank's Nursery store.

This action did not come, however, until after a lengthy round of discussion on complications that have been caused by the city manager to show that sufficient parking area would be provided at the Plaza after the large Frank's store is opened. Councilmen Henry Forrest and Howard Thayer both expressed some concern. They were of the opinion that a shortage of parking area might result.

The approval was given with the understanding that the owners of the center be notified that this would be the maximum development that could be permitted at this center.

At an earlier hearing on this same re-zoning request before the Planning Commission there were no objections from owners of nearby property and none came forward to object to the Council either.

The only citizen who raised any question on the proposed See PLAZA ZONING  
 Column 3, Page 8A

## Twp Sewer Line About to Go In

Construction work on a sewer line to serve Franklin Hills Golf Club and three subdivisions to the north in the northeast section of the Township is now slated to get underway within the next week or so, Township Clerk Floyd Cairns reported the first part of this week.

Contracts for the project had been let earlier but an actual start on the work had to be delayed until some financial details could be worked out.

The subdivisions to be served will be Golf Lake Hills, Fairgreen Hills and Conventry.

## Special Airport Discussion Set

A special session prior to the regular City Council meeting on March 18 was called for by councilmen Monday night for the purpose of discussing details on current plans for the County Board of Supervisors for development of a county airport.

City Manager John Dinan was instructed to make arrangements with Delos Hamlin, chairman of the board and the city's representative on it, to aid the matter.

It is a topic which has come in for some heated discussion by the Council during the past few months.

## Falcons Win In a Breeze

The Farmington High School basketball team led by Dale Pilecock's 28-point effort, beat Edsel Ford on Tuesday night in the first round of the District Class A Tournament, 70-68.

The Falcons will meet the other opponent night, Inkster, on Friday night at the Tournament site on the FHS hardwoods. Game time is 8 p.m.



WORK GOT UNDERWAY the latter part of last week on demolition of the City's public safety department building preparatory to the start of construction of the new combined municipal building to be erected at this location. Looking on here as a workman rips out some more area in the safety department office area, left to right, L. E. Van Dell, Chief Joseph DeVriendt and Officer Bob Deadman.



AROUND ELECTION TIMES trees and utility poles take a beating as candidates go about tacking up their posters. Last Friday the tree shown here on 11 Mile Road just off Orchard Lake Road was supporting four political signs. The two top ones should have been down long before Feb. 18 primary elections since both candidates were unsuccessful in their bids for nomination. Our recommendation would be that candidates be required to take down all their political signs within seven days or less after an election is over. The real estate sign to the right is also an eyesore and should either be repaired or taken down.