

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township
FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1964

Property Assessment Review Dates Now Set

City or township taxpayers having questions about or wishing to object to the assessments placed on their properties will have an opportunity to be heard by the boards of review of both governing bodies on specific dates which have now been established during the first two weeks in March.

Taxpayers are reminded that these board of review dates will be the only times they will be able to register formal and official objections to the assessments that have been established on their property. No adjustments can be made after the board of review sessions have been concluded and their recommended changes have been approved and turned over to the taxing departments.

THE TOWNSHIP and city board of reviews have both set specific hours on three separate dates when they will convene to answer questions and hear objections on any assessments.

The township review board will meet at the township hall on 11 Mile Road just west of Orchard Lake Road on the following schedule:

- THURSDAY, March 3 — 9 a.m. until 12 noon and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- FRIDAY, March 6 — 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- MONDAY, March 9 — 9 a.m. until 12 noon and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

See REVIEW DATES Column 5, Page 8A

Ornate Fencing Of Cemetery Will Be Costly

If any type of ornamental fencing is to be provided around the old Quaker Cemetery on Gill Road to give added beauty to this historical spot in the city, the bulk of the money is going to have to come from someplace other than the city cash box.

This was, in effect, what members of the city council decided to be pretty much in agreement on after they heard the cost quotations on various types of fencing quoted to them by City Manager John Dinan.

The city manager reported that it would cost over \$1,800 to put an ornamental wrought iron fence across the front of the cemetery alone and about \$750 for a steel fence.

A chain-link cyclone fence four foot high could be erected for less than \$300, the city manager reported, and it was his recommendation that the council approve of this type of installation.

Ed Balden, representative of the Farmington Center Corporation, stated that he would like to see some citizen effort stimulated to put in a more ornamental type of fencing at the front and also do other fencing needed. He expressed the feeling that citizens might be willing to contribute some money to help fix up this historical spot in the community.

The council agreed to delay action on going ahead with the approving of the installation of the chain-link fence for a number of more weeks. They felt this would give Balden time to make some contacts to see if there was a real interest among citizens and business people to contribute toward an improvement project of this kind.

To Start DSR Bus Runs to City March 2

Monday, March 2, has been set as the official start-up date for an extension of DSR bus service into the City of Farmington on a trial basis. City Manager John Dinan announced this week.

Limited service, primarily for commuters, will be offered on a 60-day trial basis beginning on this date. Three runs will be made from downtown Farmington to downtown Detroit in the early morning hours and an equal number back from Detroit on Grand River Avenue in the late afternoon hours.

The schedule calls for buses to leave from downtown Farmington at 6:30, 7 and 7:30 in the morning and arrive at the City-County Building in downtown Detroit approximately one hour and 15 minutes later. Return runs from Detroit along the same identical route are slated in the late afternoon with the buses leaving Detroit for here at 4:40, 5:10 and 5:40 p.m.

MANAGER DINAN reported to the council at its regular meeting Monday night that a 15-minute trial run will be made the mail sometime next week to all homeowners in the city. Questionnaires seeking to determine how many will be using this new bus service, what different hours they would prefer and other related matters will be included with these schedules to be mailed, he said.

All homeowners are being urged to return their questionnaires to the city as soon as possible after they receive them so that a determination can be made during the trial period what services might be wanted, most and related data compiled.

Vigilance Tax Comm. Determined—Lindbert

Mayor Robert Lindbert, an active member of the Vigilance Tax Committee which is continuing its fight against the Detroit income tax being levied against non-residents, gave a report to fellow councilmen Monday night on the latest meeting of that group which he attended.

Despite setbacks, Lindbert stated, the committee is still determined to get the right of Detroit to tax non-residents placed to a vote of the people. He implied that officials of the committee were even considering another petition drive if necessary to force the question to a vote.



IN A BRIEF CEREMONY at the beginning of the regular city council meeting Monday night, the council meeting room of the new city municipal building was officially dedicated to the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy. Mayor Robert Lindbert (left), inscribed

on a bronze plaque on the front wall of the chamber are these words: "This Council Chamber is dedicated to the memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th president of the United States, who died in the service of his country. May his sacrifice inspire all Americans to higher dedication in performing their duties and responsibilities to their country."

Twp. Fire Dept. Report For 1963 Shows Record 461 Runs Handled

The Farmington Township Fire Department's annual report was made this week and revealed that in 1963 the township's volunteer firemen responded to a record 461 calls.

Fire calls have nearly doubled in the last five years. There were a total of 233 calls made by the township firemen in 1958.

There are four fire stations which handled the 461 calls last year, one located to serve each quarter of the township with Station No. 3 at Wheeler Street near Grand River, handling more fires than any of the other three fire stations.

THE YEARLY REPORT showed a total of 173 grass fires topped all other types of calls for firemen with house and car fires along with rescues running making up the balance of the 461 calls.

House fires were down slightly from the number handled in 1961 and 1962. But car fires and rescues runs have been steadily increasing over the past five years.

False alarms accounted for 15 of the total runs.

Property damage and loss due to fires in 1963 was estimated at \$20,000 which is down from what it was in recent years owing to the fewer number of house fires handled last year.

FIRE CHIEF George Hume stated he felt the majority of the grass fires, which caused the township considerable expense to extinguish, could easily have been prevented.

An 11-year veteran of the township fire dept., Chief Hume expressed concern over the rapid increase in the past few years of calls being handled by the various stations.

Over the last ten years, Chief Hume pointed out, there has been more than 300 per cent increase in the number of fires annually handled by the township fire dept.

The township has five fire engines, two at the Wheeler Street station. The other fire stations are: No. 1 at Star Cutter Company, Grand River and Gill Road; No. 2 at Ray Bell's service station on Northwestern Highway between Middlebelt and 14 Mile roads; and No. 4 at Paul Button's on 12 Mile between Farmington and Drake roads.

EACH OF THE fire stations have approximately 20 men on stand-by call status to handle any emergency on a 24-hour basis. Normally only eight or ten will respond on any single call.

See FIRE REPORT Column 5, Page 8A

Stanley Nielsen Dies Suddenly At the Age of 49

The community was shocked this week by the sudden and unexpected death of well-known plumbing and heating contractor Stanley R. Nielsen of Farmington who for the past year has operated the popular Danish Inn restaurant at Grand River Avenue and Brookdale Avenue in the City.

Mr. Nielsen died Saturday in Detroit's Harper Hospital where he underwent surgery for a heart ailment. He was 49 years old.

FUNERAL SERVICES were held Monday afternoon from the Ross B. Northrop and Son Funeral Home, 2240 W. Grand River Ave., in Detroit. The Rev. Carl H. Schultz, pastor of the Salem United Church of Christ, officiated at the funeral service Monday at 1 p.m.

A memorial service was held on Sunday evening at 8 p.m. in the funeral home under the auspices of Masonic Lodge No. 152, F. and A. M.

Burial took place at Grand River Cemetery in Detroit. Serving as pall bearers were long time friends and associates, Roger Peterson, Gorkin Miller, Leo McCrackin, Leo Robinson, Russell Brooks and Rudy Jostick.

Surviving him are his wife, Betty Jase; two sons living at the Nielsen family home; a daughter attending college, Vicki. Also surviving are his

See NIELSEN DIES Column 3, Page 8A

Deny Request For Building Conversion

A request by Virgil Cornwall for two variances in existing City of Farmington building ordinance regulations permitting him to convert his building of offices on Grand River Avenue into efficiency apartment units was rejected by the zoning board at its meeting last week.

The request was rejected by a split vote of 3 to 2 among the seven members of the board present at the meeting.

Side lot and parking requirements in the ordinance would have to be waived.

City Passes Resolution to Proceed with Condemnation

An official resolution was unanimously adopted by the Farmington City Council Monday night authorizing the city with the city with condemnation proceedings to obtain the parcel of land owned by the Warner Estate at the southeast corner of Grand River Avenue at Liberty Street.

The city has indicated an interest in obtaining this property for some time now with a long range objective of using it and the residential land to the east for the development of a civic center site. The residential portion of the parcel, which the city purchased earlier by the city. The parcels which front on Grand River are immediately adjacent to the new municipal building on Liberty Street.

AN OFFER of \$2,600 has been made by the city for the Warner estate on the basis of an appraisal made by a local realtor. The trust department of the National Bank of Detroit which is handling details regarding the property for the Warner estate is not yielding on its asking price of \$1,500, however.

An appraisal of the property's value from an outside professional appraiser was called for by the council two weeks earlier. Such an appraisal has not yet been completed, but the council is confident that the city manager's suggestion that it proceed in approving a condemnation resolution immediately will be successful.

THE CITY MANAGER indicated that the professional appraiser would have his appraisal completed before the next regular meeting of the council two weeks hence. Should the professional appraiser place a value on the property substantially higher than what the city has offered for it then the condemnation resolution can be amended or rescinded, the city manager pointed out.

Governing Bodies Now Taking Applications for Vote Canvassing Boards

All local governing bodies are now required to establish separate boards of canvassers to canvass the voting in their various elections as prescribed by Public Act 65 for the State of Michigan which was enacted in 1953.

The local governing bodies involved which are required to establish such four member canvassing boards are the City of Farmington, Farmington Township, the Farmington and Clarenceville school districts and the villages of Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown.

Each of these locally governing bodies are now taking applications for their boards and are urging civic minded citizens who would be willing to serve on such boards to contact the responsible officials in the governmental area they are most interested in as soon as possible for all the details.

Trena Quinn, in contact with the responsible officials in the provisions of the law that two of the members must be Democrats and the other two Republicans.

As until the time this new legislation went into effect the first of this year, the canvassing of the voting in all local elections had been done by members of the governing boards calling for the election.

AT ITS REGULAR meeting Monday night, the City Council took action authorizing Clerk Trena Quinn to publish a public notice announcing that she would be taking applications and to notify both Democratic and Republican headquarters officials in the area of this fact.

Anyone wishing to file application in the city may do so by contacting Mrs. Quinn during regular office hours between now and March 31, the deadline date set for taking applications.

No action was taken by the council regarding the application which might be granted to members chosen for the city canvassing board nor was an executive order issued to approve **SEE CANVASSING BBS.** Column 7, Page 8A

City Land Sale Go-Ahead Given

Official action was taken by the city council Monday night authorizing a go-ahead on the sale of a parcel of land which the city owns on the west side of Liberty Street across the site from the new municipal building.

The property is now zoned to permit certain types of professional office buildings and City Manager John Dinan stated that he had received two or three different parties express interest in purchasing the land.

The city manager was authorized to take bids on the parcel. The council also agreed that the remainder over the next two years with an interest rate of six per cent.

Farmington Twp 5th in County In Home Starts

Figures released last week by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission revealed that Farmington Township ranked fifth in Oakland County in new residential building starts.

Southfield led the county with 1,029 new housing starts followed by Bloomfield Township with 629; Waterford Township, 588; West Bloomfield Township, 328; and Farmington Township with 321.

The figures disclosed that Oakland County registered the biggest increase in new residential unit starts in the entire five-county Detroit Metropolitan Area for 1963. A total of 7,188 permits for new dwellings units were issued by Oakland County communities last year compared to 5,334 issued in the county in 1962.

THIS IS THE highest total for new residential building starts in the county since 1957. It is interesting to note that a substantial portion of this residential building activity was in multi-family housing units.

Nearly one out of every three units for which permits were issued in 1963 were in multi-family structures. Only one out of every five permits issued in 1962 were for multiple units.

Also of interest is the fact that 84 per cent of the multiple family building activity was concentrated in four communities—Royal Oak (714), Royal Oak Township (523), Bloomfield Township (276) and Birmingham (253).

None of Farmington Township's permits in 1963 were for multiple family units, but some have been issued for two or three apartments in the township during the year. It is likely that a number of permits will be issued for multiple units this year.

The City of Farmington issued 74 permits for multiple housing units in 1963 and only 60 permits for single family homes.

Local Payment Deadline Nears

Property owners of Farmington city and township are being reminded that February 29 will be the final date on which they will be able to pay their winter tax bills.

Beginning March 1 it will be necessary for all who have not yet paid their taxes to get a corrected bill from the offices of the local treasurers and then go to the Oakland County treasurer's office to make payment.

In addition to the 4 per cent penalty already being assessed on tax bills an additional one-half of one per cent will be added for each month the tax bills continue to be delinquent.

Township Treasurer E. L. Avery announced this week that she will maintain special Saturday office hours on Feb. 29 as a service to last minute local taxpayers. She will keep the township treasurers office open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on that date.

"EVERYTHING"

sold by Saturday and I got over 40 calls," was the comment made by Charles Stuart of Farmington who has been entered by Classified For Sale ad.



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES were held Monday for a new luxury apartment development in Farmington on a site which overlooks the branch of the Rouge River just south of Grand River Avenue and east of Brookdale Avenue. Participating in the ceremonies were (L to R) builder and developer, Thomas A. Duke, Jr., manager of the bank financing, Joseph Floore, manager of the Farmington office of First Federal Savings; John Dinan, Farmington City Manager (turning over the first spadeful of earth); Allen Buchinger, vice-president of Manufacturers National Bank which is handling the construction financing; and George A. Duke, Jr. The Dukes expect their first tenants to be able to move in by July 1.

Called 'Brookdale Club' Break Ground for New Apts. in City

With the announcement and ground-breaking this week of a new 10-unit apartment, "Brookdale Club" of Farmington, Thomas A. Duke, Jr. and George A. Duke, Jr., Developers, Builders and Owners, took a group of about 20 people in bringing luxury to the apartment dweller.

The site for Brookdale Club apartments is approximately four acres, directly off a major artery, Grand River. The wooded valley and stream provide a pleasant view from the bank across the rear of the property.

Tom Duke stated, "this is one of the very few locations in Michigan where a top quality apartment has a view usually reserved for a private expensive residence, overlooking the city." The only apartment project comparable to Brookdale, is River Glen, located just down the road from Farmington.

Locations such as this may be found in the suburban area, but hardly in the center of a city surrounded by schools, shopping, shopping and, as the aforementioned advantages within walking distance," said Floore.

The proposed construction of the project calls for all apartments to include wall to wall carpeting, draperies and automatic washer and dryer for a projected rental of \$140 per month.

Facilities nearby include major shopping centers. A shopping center lies across from the site in addition to professional offices. Another shopping center, containing a few shops, containing 26 stores, theater, public library and other

See MORE APTS. Column 6, Page 8A