



THE SCIENCE FAIR held at the O. E. Dunckel Junior High School last week featured many interesting projects like the one above being inspected by some of the teachers and students. Pictured (l. to r.) are Mrs. Marsha Waters, Ken Coome, Miss Sylvia Marginea, Kirk

Stevens, Jim Stewart, Miss Ann Cooper and Mrs. Mary Louise Hancock. The project being inspected is a plastics exhibit which was made by Craig Emmett. Absent from the picture are two other Dunckel science teachers, Nicholas Rudelic and Mrs. Carol Jaffray.

More Sessions Of Review Bds. Set in City, Twp.

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The township board of review has three more sessions scheduled within the coming week and the city board will meet twice more.

Property owners are reminded that the only times they will have to raise questions or voice objections to the assessments that have been placed on their property upon which tax levies will be made will be at these board of review sessions. Once the boards of review have concluded their sessions and made assessment adjustments which they feel are just they will then confirm the assessment rolls and these will become the official tax rolls for the year.

THE TOWNSHIP review board will meet this Friday night between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m. to hear those property owners who find it impossible to get into the Township Hall during the daytime hours when review board sessions have been staged.

Both the city and township review boards will be meeting again on Monday and Tuesday of this coming week, March 9 and 10. The hours for the township review board on these two days will be from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The city review board will stay a continuous session on these two days from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Indications were given by both city and township officials that they are not expecting heavy numbers of taxpayers who have questions to raise or objections to voice.

City Will Send Paving Letters

In an effort to get paved more streets in the city some more streets in the city paved this summer, special notices will be going out to homeowners on six still unpaved sections of road in the city very soon now.

It will be explained in these notices the advantages of being on paved streets, the procedure to follow in getting this work done by the city and how special assessment arrangements can be handled with regard to financing this work.

The homeowners will be requested to petition to have this work done and to get their petitions in before April 1 so that the work can be included in the city's summer road improvement program for 1964.

At its regular meeting Monday night, the council wholeheartedly endorsed City Manager John Dinnan's plan for sending out such letters. They will go to property owners on Hawthorne St. from 9 Mile to Shiawassee, Oakland, 9 to 10 Grand River to Gill Road, Maplegrove from Grand River to Nine Mile and on Brookdale from Grand River to Nine Mile as well as to residents on Lakes way between Grand River and Shiawassee and on Warner between Shiawassee and Thomas Streets.

Highway Safety Gov. Asks City To Join Effort

A letter from Governor Romney urging local officials to take all steps possible to stem the tide of mounting traffic accidents in the state was read at the regular Farmington City Council meeting Monday night.

The governor called on local officials to order stepped up patrolling and traffic law enforcement by the public safety department in an all out effort to reverse the rising traffic accident trend.

During discussion, it was pointed out by councilmen by Public Safety Director Maurice Foltz that while the number of traffic accidents in the city was up in 1963 over 1962 there were fewer injury accidents for the 12-month period. Councilmen indicated that they felt the city department was doing a good job already but that they did feel that the public safety department should make efforts to do even better in preventing accidents in the future as the governor has requested.

Tax Payments Come In Very Good This Year

Reports made by City Treasurer Kathryn Cetter and Township Treasurer Elise Avery this week disclosed that payments on winter tax bills prior to their being turned over to the county treasurer's office as delinquent came in a very well this year.

Both treasurers reported substantial improvements in the amounts collected before it was necessary to turn the unpaid billings over to the county on March 1.

Mrs. Cetter reported that all but slightly over \$18,000 in billings had been collected by the end of February. Last year over \$70,000 worth of school and county tax billings had to be turned over to the county as being delinquent.

The total collected by the city treasurer's office against a total billing of \$88,839 was a \$87,810. This figures out to a delinquent 6% percentage of under 2.3 per cent.

Mrs. Avery revealed that she had collected \$284,130 by Feb. 29 deadline against a total billing of \$3,109,513. This means that the amount which had to be turned over to the county as delinquent were billings running up to \$265,383. While this sounds like a substantial amount it is a considerable improvement over last year when over \$700,000 in billings had to be turned over to the county treasurer's office as being delinquent.

The percentage of collection for the township for the current year figures out to be approximately 91.2 per cent.

A rule of thumb often given is that any community that has less than a ten per cent delinquent.

See TAX PAYMENT Column 7, Page 8A

Set Joint Meeting on Library Expansion

A joint meeting of the City of Farmington, Farmington Township and Farmington District Library Board officials has now been scheduled for the purpose of discussing the possibility of expanding public library service in the community.

The meeting has been set for Thursday, March 19, at 8 p.m. in the city council chambers.

Council Split on Request of Cancer Society to Solicit

A representative from the American Cancer Society appeared before the Farmington City Council at its regular meeting Monday night and made an all out effort to get councilmen to reconsider their action of two weeks earlier denying the society the right to conduct a door-to-door crusade in their two children.

Despite his lengthy presentation, Jack Beck of the cancer society was able to convince only one more councilman that the council should reconsider two weeks ago only Councilman Wilbur Brotherton voted against denying the request.

Councilman Hugo Petersen shifted his decision two weeks earlier on Monday night of this week and voted with Brotherton in favor of allowing the request.

However, Mayor Robert Lindbert was absent from the meeting thus making it a 2-2 tie vote and an automatic denial of the request.

THREE MAIN objections have been given by councilmen as to why they are opposed to allowing the American Cancer Society to conduct an educational fund raising drive here.

See DENY REQUEST Column 7, Page 8A

New 1964 Official Road Maps Available

The State Highway Dept. announced that the new official Michigan Highway maps for 1964 are now ready for distribution free to the general public on request while they last.

Anyone wishing a copy of this map is asked to write to: Public Information Office, Michigan State Highway Department, Lansing, Michigan 48926.

Murder, Suicide Orphan Two

A murder and suicide Monday morning, March 2, left two Farmington township girls without parents. Found their home at 3117 Gleasoner by township police shortly before 11 a.m. on Monday were Thomas A. Harris, 56, and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Harris, 44.

Police found a 12 gauge shotgun beside the body of Harris who apparently took his own life after killing his wife. Both were found in the breezeway of their home over Farmington Road and 14 Mile.

Their two children, Pamela, 11, and Rhonda, 13, attend school in Farmington. Harris was employed as a plant protection guard for Burroughs Corporation and his wife operated a restaurant on Northwest Highway near 14 Mile Road.



THE FARMINGTON OPTIMIST CLUB was the first local group to witness a demonstration of the danger of fire hazards in the home as illustrated by special equipment designed for use in public safety programs. Sgt. Jay Harrison (second from left) of the Farmington Public Safety Department hopes to repeat this

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County and State Traffic Officials Report on Steps to Improve Safety

At a public meeting held Tuesday night, March 3, Farmington Township residents aired their complaints concerning traffic safety conditions on area primary roads before a representative group of officials from local governing bodies, the Oakland County Road Commission and the Michigan State Police.

The principal speakers at the meeting, arranged by Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall, were Robert Osgood of the Oakland County Road Commission and Corp. F. E. Simon-

eu of the Michigan State Police.

Osgood, the county's only traffic engineer, told the residents that his department plans to conduct a survey in cooperation with the state police as soon as weather permits.

CORP. SIMONEU, in the course of his remarks during the 2 1/2-hour meeting, told the residents it was likely speed limits would be reduced, where the conditions and character of primary roads has changed since the last such survey, conducted in 1959.

The survey planned this spring was called for by the township board after residents appeared at their January 27 meeting and sought steps to curb highway fatalities which jumped to an all-time record high in 1963.

Osgood explained the survey, which is necessary before any change in existing speed limits can be authorized, could not be conducted while a danger of further snow storms remained possible since traffic counting

devices could be damaged by snow plows and roads must be kept open to the flow of traffic.

The approximately 150 persons who were on hand at Tuesday night's meeting in the O. E. Dunckel Junior High School registered concern over what would be done to assure school children safer walking conditions to and from the several schools now located along heavily traveled primary roads in the township.

RESIDENTS of Kimberley subdivision were interested primarily in seeing the speed limit lowered from the present 50 mile per hour zone along Middlebelt Road where it intersects the new East Junior High School, and Middlebelt Elementary School. They suggested having yellow flashing lights installed during the time children were going to and from the schools.

A 35 mile per hour speed was suggested since the existing speed that should be established in conjunction with the yellow flasher signals.

Osgood explained such devices could not be provided by the county unless the cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per device could be assumed locally. He stated some 250 schools in the county if supplied with such traffic control devices would leave the road commission with no funds to pursue their main responsibility of keeping roads in repair and moving traffic.

Gasoline and weight taxes, Osgood explained, were the county's only source of revenue for carrying out these responsibilities. Those schools that have employed the use of yellow blinker signals have done so at their own expense with approval of the commission and state police and finally standing the cost of purchasing the devices and seeing them properly maintained.

ON ANOTHER issue which came up concerning safety measures which were desired by parents of school children, the cost factor again was emphasized as something that would have to be assumed locally.

G. V. Hartzman, superintendent of the Farmington school district, made a statement as to the position taken by the board.

The superintendent pointed out that the cost factor would have to be assumed locally.

See TRAFFIC SAFETY Column 4, Page 8A



THE QUAKER CEMETERY on Gill Road in the city of Farmington is currently being touted as the oldest Quaker landmark in Michigan by the Farmington Historical Society which is also actively campaigning to have the ornate fence restored along one side of the cemetery.

Robert G. Power, pictured above by the grave of his great-great-grandfather, Arthur Power, one of the community's first settlers, is a member of the local Historical Society and has prepared an interesting account on the Quaker Cemetery which appears on page two of section "H" of this week's paper.

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Release Traffic and Safety Report For 1963 in City of Farmington

The 1963 traffic safety report for the city of Farmington was released this week by Public Safety Department Chief Maurice Foltz and generally shows an improvement over 1962.

For the second year in a row the city of Farmington has not recorded in traffic fatality in spite of a steadily increasing flow of traffic coming into the community.

Comparing the 1963 accident figures with those reported for 1962, it shows a decrease in four of the six major categories while only two had increases.

INJURY ACCIDENTS dropped 17 per cent from a total of 77 in 1962 to 64 this past year. The number of persons injured in accidents also decreased over the two-year period by 19 per cent.

Pedestrian accidents decreased 66 per cent last year over 1962 and parking lot accidents dropped 15 per cent in the other two categories where an improvement showed up in the 1963 report.

In the total number of property damage accidents reported by city police, the 1963 report showed an increase from 154 in 1962 to a total of 175 this past year, a 13 per cent increase.

THE TOTAL number of accidents correspondingly saw a slight increase of four per cent compared to the 231 total in 1962.

There were a total of 56 violations issued by city police in 1963 in connection with acci-

dents investigated. Only two tickets were issued for driving under the influence of alcohol. Failure to yield right-of-way was the violation issued most to drivers involved in accidents.

The traffic safety bureau in the Public Safety Department which is headed by officer John Butters reported that a total of 438 drivers were involved in the city's 240 accidents last year. A total of 58 local residents

were involved in injury accidents and 153 residents were involved in property damage accidents.

In 1963's annual report, the highest number of traffic accidents were shown to have occurred between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The day of the week in which accidents most frequently occurred last year was Sunday.

See CITY ACCIDENTS Column 4, Page 6A

City Gets Somewhat Higher Appraisal on Land It Seeks

A go ahead by the city with condemnation proceedings, to obtain the parcel of property located at the southeast corner of Grand River and Liberty Street authorized by the city council two weeks earlier, will now be delayed until a new purchase offer can be made.

This decision to delay on legal action was taken by councilmen Monday night after they had learned of the value the professional appraiser, who was hired by the city, had put on this property owned by the Warner Estate and is being handled by the trust department of the National Bank of Detroit.

Appraiser William Grabendike of Birmingham valued the property at \$15,000 which is \$2,000 higher than the appraisal figure which the city received from a local realtor and the amount the city offered the NBD trust department for the property.

It was pointed out during discussion that part of the reason for the \$15,000 appraisal stemmed from the fact that this was the amount the city had paid a short while back for an adjoining piece of property on Grand River only slightly larger in size.

It was the recommendation of City Manager John Dinnan that the city make another purchase offer for the property of \$15,000 based on the professional appraisal determination of its value. Councilmen voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation and authorized the hiring of an appraiser to determine the value of the property.

The National Bank of Detroit trust department set a price of \$17,500 on the property. It was because of the wide difference in this asking price and the \$12,600 initial appraisal which the city received that the council was prompted to authorize condemnation action if necessary to get the property at a reasonable price.

While no official action was taken, individual councilmen gave strong indications that they would probably authorize a go ahead with condemnation action if the trust department does not accept the city's new \$15,000 offer.

The initial estimate of the Oakland County Road Commission was that the job could be done for approximately \$56,000 with the city of Farmington foot the cost and the city and township each one-quarter of the cost.

The City Council set up a special assessment district for assessing its one-quarter of the expected \$14,000 cost to the benefiting property owners which they agreed to pay, a large sum, but an extensive amount of added excavation and refilling work had to be done and the total cost for the project ended up at \$78,774.38.

The result is that the city's share of the cost now stands at \$19,693.59 or \$5,693.59 higher than was expected.

City Manager John Dinnan explained the matter to the Council in a report given councilmen at their regular meeting Monday night. He stated that the fact that the added cost could not now be assessed against the property owners who have already paid or started to pay, the city would have to add amount should therefore be taken from the city's contingency fund.

Councilmen agreed with the city manager that the city was about the only course that could be followed now but expressed deep regrets about having to do so and were highly critical of county road commission officials for their poor estimating job.

OK City Funds For Library

Official action was taken by the city council Monday night approving a payment of \$12,400 to the Farmington City and Township Library District for its proposed share of the cost for operation of the public library system.

City Manager John Dinnan pointed out this amount as the city's share was determined by taking the city's assessed valuation as equalized for the past year and multiplying it by the 1963 mill or 50 cents per \$1,000 equalized valuation.

The township contributes its proportionate share by a special library tax levy.

Agree Night Hours For Review Bd. Good

A proposal was made by Councilman Henry Forrest at the regular city council meeting Monday night that consideration be given to having the board of review meet at least once each year during the early evening hours to accommodate taxpayers who work outside the area.

The city manager and other councilmen agreed that this might be a good idea but it was emphasized that it would not be possible to do this for this year.

The decision was to determine how many ordinance amendments would be necessary so that all necessary steps can be completed in advance so as to be able to have evening hours next year.

Accepting estimates for road work or any other kind of construction before detailed engineering plans have been developed can prove costly a development which Farmington found this out the hard way in connection with the paving of Nine Mile between Farmington and Gill Road.

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