

Farmington Enterprise

FORTIETH YEAR—No. 35.

TWO SECTIONS

FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1928

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Plan Suggested To Finance New Athletic Field

Transfer Of \$11,000 From Bond Issue Of \$30,000 Is Proposed

A plan for financing the immediate development of the proposed school athletic field near Waterworks Park, and which, it was declared, would make the entire improvement possible at once without financial hardship to the taxpayers, was proposed at the meeting of the Farmington Exchange Club Thursday noon.

The plan, as explained by School Trustee Arthur Lamb, would involve transfer of \$11,000 from the fund of \$30,000 which was raised two years ago for purchase of additional property by the Board of Education. The bonds were arranged but the proposed land purchase was not made.

According to Mr. Lamb, the State law requires School Districts of Farmington's size to maintain a sinking fund of \$6,000. The development of the City land into an athletic field, Mr. Lamb estimates, would cost about \$4,800. A total of \$11,000 would thus have to be raised by the District.

Mr. Lamb stated that while the Board of Education may borrow that amount, he considered the plan of using the \$11,000 from the present fund a good one in that it would avoid borrowing and the interest on the \$6,000, and also would permit finishing the athletic field at once, instead of spending only about \$1,000 per year until the expenses were to come from the general fund. Among the points brought out was one to the effect that "if the athletic field project is carried out, the District would not need additional land."

Various members of the Exchange Club were asked for their opinions, and all expressed themselves in favor of immediate development of the athletic field in its entirety.

Floyd Nichols pointed out that the proposed purchase of 150 feet on Grand River, avenue by the School District, as well as the purchase of the Grand River corner (Continued on Page Five)

FARMINGTON GETS REDUCTION IN TAX BY EQUALIZATION

Both City And Township Benefit Through Lower Valuations By County

Both the City and Township of Farmington shared in the general reduction of Oakland County valuations brought about by the report of the Equalization Committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Of the total reduction of County valuations amounting to \$5,000,000, Farmington Township receives a reduction of about \$400,000, and the City a reduction of about \$150,000 in comparison with the 1927 equalized valuations.

Last year's valuations in the City were set at \$2,900,000, but equalization brought them up to \$3,000,000. This year the City valuations by equalization were brought down to approximately \$2,850,000.

Township valuations, equalized last year at \$3,100,000, were brought down to \$7,695,000, a reduction of slightly over \$400,000.

Increases were made in valuations of the City of Pontiac, and in Troy, Highland and Milford Townships.

Members of the committee were Isaac Bond of Farmington; F. G. Ely, Pontiac; Dr. E. J. Chase, Ferndale; Duncan MacRae, Royal Oak; Peter E. Brewer, Addison; Washington E. Irish, Independence; and James Cuthbert, White Lake.

MANY ATTEND FIRST OF OPEN AIR SERVICES

The first open air church services of the year in the Town Park grounds attracted a large gathering on Sunday evening. Rev. Elmer Palmer was in charge of worship.

A number of out-of-town visitors were present, some coming from Detroit for the inauguration of the summer services which will be continued throughout July and August.

Half Of Town Board Changed Within Week

Half of the personnel of Farmington Township's governing body will have been changed within a week, by next Tuesday evening.

Last Tuesday evening the term of Justice of the Peace Charles Heise expired and he was succeeded by Warrt E. Blythe in a special election. Next Tuesday evening, Supervisor Isaac Bond will formally sever his connection with the Board, in consequence of his impending appointment as Oakland County Road Commissioner. Clerk William Campbell and Justice Harry McCracken remain.

Officials Sign Drain Releases

City And Township Agree To Crossing Of Highways For Sewer Project

The last step toward construction of the Farmington Drain being right-of-way condemnation suits are started, was accomplished early this week when releases were signed by officials of the City and Township of Farmington. The releases granted the County Drain Commission the privilege of crossing streets with the construction work of the Drain.

That a public meeting will be held in Farmington, to acquaint the property owners with the proposed method of assessment, and afford opportunity for discussion of the matter, was revealed by County Drain Commissioner Arthur Spenced. Commissioner Spenced made a statement to this effect at the meeting of the City Commission Monday evening, attended by himself and Engineer N. W. Straight, Mayor Wells D. Butterfield and City Clerk N. H. Campbell. Mr. Straight represented the Drain Commission. About twice as many Township streets will be crossed as City streets, but practically all will be short trunks.

In view of the approaching excavations on the streets, the Township Board decided to abandon plans for improvement of some thoroughfares scheduled for this summer.

Township releases for the Richard Gardens Drain, a smaller project, were also signed Tuesday night.

BAZAAR FOR OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH IN GROVE'S SUCCESSFUL

Success attended the bazaar given for the benefit of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington on Saturday and Sunday evenings and on Wednesday, in the grove on Power road. The chicken dinner served on Sunday afternoon was one of the best-attended affairs given recently in the community.

Features provided Saturday evening and Wednesday afternoon drew their interested crowds. Farmington merchants contributed cash and merchandise prizes toward the success of the event.

Farmington Firm's Advertising Praised

A compliment to the advertising being placed by the Farmington Greenhouses in the Farmington Enterprise was accorded the floral concern recently by the Tuscola County Advertiser, one of the leading newspapers in its section of the State.

The publisher of the Advertiser described the Farmington Greenhouses advertisements as among the most attractive and forceful he has seen.

Thomas T. O'Brien, manager of the Farmington Greenhouses, reports a notable and consistent increase in business during the period the advertising has been conducted.

City Has Noisy, Traffic-Jammed Fourth Of July

Motor Jam Described As 'Worst Ever Seen'; Celebrants Laugh At Regulation

The City of Farmington "enjoyed" a noisy, busy "Fourth" Wednesday, with an unexpected outburst of good-sized firecrackers and a volume of traffic that far exceeded all expectations.

Traffic on all roads in this section was reported the largest in history. Deputy Sheriff Clayton Stokes, in charge of police work in this section, described it as far the worst traffic jams he had seen in eight years of police work.

Asked about the holiday motor travel, Deputy Stokes said, "You could exaggerate and exaggerate and exaggerate everything about traffic ever reported, and still not overstate about Wednesday. I never saw anything like it. For seven hours from 10 o'clock in the morning until five, I stood at Grand River and Middle Belt roads, trying to keep the cars straightened away. Half an hour before started directing traffic there, I visited the corner and all was clear. Thirty minutes later a man came to the police booth and told of the 'jam.' I found traffic there at a standstill, three lines on Grand River and two on Middle Belt. Before long they were lined solid down Middle Belt as far as Warren avenue. Cars could barely move one way or another, and we had to stop diverting traffic from Grand River along the Base Line road. Everyone from Plymouth and Northville, accustomed to using the Seven-Mile road, came through Grand River, it seemed."

Officer Stokes said the traffic bound for Detroit in the evening was much easier to handle than that outbound during the day, because there were a number of regular highways which the motorists could be directed to.

(Continued on Page Five)

ENTIRE COUNTY PAYS RESPECTS TO THOS. LYTLE

Burial In North Farmington Follows Services In Pontiac; Was 70 Years Old

At one of the largest funerals in Oakland County in recent years, hundreds paid their respects on Monday to the late Thomas Lytle, Oakland County Road Commissioner, formerly of Farmington, who died last Friday at his home in Pontiac.

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Can't 'Swim' To The Church Any More!

Farmington's swimming pool, skating rink, wading pond, or what have you?, was doomed on Monday of this week, when City employees began installation of a catch-basin at the east corner of Grand River avenue and Water street.

For years the street and sidewalk beside the Methodist Church, the scene of most of the important events of the community, has been under water with every rain. The new catch-basin is expected to help both motorists and pedestrians and save many a party dress and shoe-shine.

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Bond To Be On County Road Commission; Seek Successor

Justice Harry McCracken And Former Treasurer Arthur Coe Suggested For Supervisor; Bond To Be Officially Named Wednesday

Supervisor Isaac Bond of Farmington Township is to be appointed to the Oakland County Road Commission, to succeed the late Thomas Lytle, and leaders of the Township are casting about for a successor to Mr. Bond. The vacancy is to be filled by the Township Board.

Supervisor Bond will be officially appointed next Wednesday morning, July 11, his resignation having been filed. The question of his successor will be formally considered by the Township Board at a meeting next Tuesday evening.

Harry McCracken, a member of the Township Board, and Arthur Coe, treasurer of the Township for two terms previous to the present term, are both being mentioned for the office of Supervisor.

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ISAAC BOND

City To Enforce Sign Ordinance

Signs Placed In Ground Outside Sidewalk Particularly Aimed At

A campaign against objectionable signs, in pursuance of the City of Farmington's ordinance regulating all signs placed outside the building lines, was decided upon at the meeting of the City Commission Monday evening.

Signs placed in the ground outside the sidewalks are particularly the object of the Commission's consideration. Superintendent of Public Works George Grant was directed by Mayor Wells D. Butterfield to notify all owners of objectionable signs to remove them.

Discussion of the sign question developed the opinion that while the ordinance was being generally disregarded, the signs placed in the ground along the highway were most objectionable because of the danger caused by preventing a clear view of traffic. No signs are to be maintained outside the building line, however, without a permit from the City.

Superintendent Grant was directed to give the owners of objectionable signs 30 days in which to comply with the ordinance.

The Commission voted Groves-Walker, Post of the American Legion permission to use the Town Park for the Gala Day celebration on Labor Day, and also the sum of \$100 for music on that day. Permission was also voted E. A. Wagner to erect additional oil storage tanks near Farmington Junction.

The Commission voted Groves-Walker, Post of the American Legion permission to use the Town Park for the Gala Day celebration on Labor Day, and also the sum of \$100 for music on that day. Permission was also voted E. A. Wagner to erect additional oil storage tanks near Farmington Junction.

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FULL COMMITTEE SIGNS BOND'S FINAL REPORT

Supervisor Isaac Bond's final act as a member of the Board of Supervisors was worked by an unusual hour on Tuesday, when it was revealed that all seven members of the Equalization committee, of which he was chairman, had signed the report, something that had not occurred in many years.

Tax equalization is among the very hardest questions on which to obtain agreement. In 1927 an entirely new report was called for by the Board, but on Tuesday only five Supervisors voted against accepting the report, while 35 voted approval.

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