

# The Farmington Enterprise

FORTY-SECOND YEAR—No. 39

THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1930

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## Will Sell Sewer Bonds, Open Bids For Work Aug. 11

Proceedings Of Commission Reviewed By Attorney; Approval Is Given

Farmington's sewer construction job is expected to be under way within two weeks, following receipt Thursday of approval by attorneys of action taken by the City Commission, preparatory to the sale of bonds and awarding of contract.

In order to save time and get the work under way at the earliest possible date, bids for both the bond issue and construction work will be opened the same night, Monday, August 11. Bids are being advertised for this week, allowing a week's notice to contractors to prepare their offers.

Meeting last Thursday evening, the Commission canvassed the result of the election by which the charter was amended to permit proceeding with the sewer project. On Monday evening, the Commission will formally authorize issuance of the bonds, and prepared for receipt of bids.

Indications are that at least as attractive bids will be made for the bonds as before, and possibly even higher offers, due to the keen competition to obtain issues from cities as well placed financially as is Farmington. The sewer bidding is certain, will be of the keenest, as conditions continue slack in the improvements industry.

## MANY GRASS FIRES KEEP VOLUNTEER FIREMEN OCCUPIED

Children's Hospital Sends In Two Alarms In One Afternoon; Fire Spreads Fast

Grass fires that swept quickly over dried-up fields kept the Farmington fire department busy the first three days of this week. Several times buildings were endangered, and a number of poles were burned.

The first alarm was caused by a fire just east of Farmington Junction, two unoccupied houses being threatened. The boards around the foundation of one of them started to burn, and firemen were forced to chop part of it away to prevent it from spreading. A telephone pole and several trees along Grand River were burned.

Twice on Tuesday the department was called to the vicinity of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, when hospital attendants became alarmed at the spread of fire in the fields to the west and south. Many acres were burned over, and a large number of fence-posts ruined. Twenty people fought the blaze for a long time.

On Seven Mile road near Hemlock, a dozen residents, fearing loss of their homes, battled against flames that spread when a man built a fire to burn some rubbish.

## Permission Is Given To Take Out Trees

Farmington's City Commission last Thursday evening formally granted the State Highway Department permission to remove the trees in Grand River avenue, east of Farmington road, in order to provide for the widening of the street. The permission is to remove trees which are within the confines of the highway, thus applying, it is understood, on the 50-foot pavement basis.

It was pointed out that the State Department has the power to remove the trees without permission of the City, but the State desired that formal approval be given. The Commission adopted a resolution to that effect, and embodied their permission in a letter to the State Highway Department.

## Farmington's Water Supply Not Affected By Prolonged Drought

While other communities are handicapped by a shortage of water, particularly for sprinkling purposes, Farmington's exceptional supply has continued so constant through the dry spell that no shortage has been apparent here. Residents are asked, however, to conserve water in order to relieve strain on the city's pumping apparatus, which has been operating for about double the average number of hours each day.

At Northville and in other towns, it is said, lawn and garden sprinkling is restricted to half an hour a day; 15 minutes in the morning and the same period at night. Authorities there

fear a serious lack of water unless these restrictions are followed. Farmington's wells, however, 160 feet deep and apparently unlimited in supply, provide all the water that is needed. City officials report that the water level in the wells is normally 20 feet below the surface of the ground, and that no matter how long the pumps operate, the level never seems to go below 22 feet, or a drop of two feet.

It is pointed out, however, that residents should not take undue advantage of the plentiful water supply, as overtaxing the pumping machinery might cause a serious condition to arise.

## Suicide Buried; Motive Unknown

Young Man Who Shot Self Near Farmington Buried At Wixom

Hundreds of miles from his Tennessee home, in a burial plot of a family who had known him but three years, Don Knight, 24 years old, who committed suicide on a farm on South Lyon road last Sunday morning, was buried Thursday. The real reason for his suicide will probably never be known.

The body of the young man, who worked at the W. C. Banfield farm near the intersection of South Lyon and Grand River roads, was laid to rest in the Banfield family plot, after his own family had been notified and a reply received indicating that they "did not want" the body.

An automobile which the young man had bought and on which he had just completed payments of his burial.

Knight, who was highly regarded by the Banfield family, and whose work as a farm-hand is described as "always of the best," was last seen Sunday morning, going down a lane. When he failed to return Monday morning, Deputy Sheriff William Tamm and Joseph De Vriendt were called. With Bernard Banfield of Farmington and four deputy sheriffs from Pontiac, they covered a square mile with utmost care. The body escaped their notice, but the next day it was discovered in a clump of brush.

Knight had killed himself with a shotgun which he had borrowed a short time before from a Farmington resident. He borrowed the weapon to shoot snarks at the henhouse. He had pointed the gun at his heart, with the stock on the ground, and pulled the trigger. The shot went through his heart and neck and out through the top of his head.

It is said that the young man had mentioned at times that he was of "little use in the world" and that sometime he would be found dead. He seemed to be depressed over a lack of education, and a feeling that at times his mentality was affected.

The young man's family in Tennessee consists, it is said, of his father and mother and nine brothers and sisters.

## LITTLE RED RUNABOUT—SMALL CAR FOR BIG MAN

Clarence Bickling of Farmington is driving a new car of the "bantam" type, all painted red, bearing the name of Mr. Bickling's oil company. Mr. Bickling's friends enjoyed the novelty and it attracted some attention.

It is not known whether he has the little machine as a toy or an advertising stunt but it's a pretty small car for Mr. Bickling to squeeze himself into. When four more get in it's mighty close quarters.

## Clarenceville Pioneer Passes

Simon Johnston, Who Remembered Covered Wagon Days, Dies At 90 Years

Clarenceville's oldest and most venerable pioneer, Simon Johnston, who came to Michigan with his parents in a covered wagon, at the age of four, passed away Tuesday morning and was buried Thursday afternoon in Clarenceville Cemetery. Mr. Johnston was 90 years old, having celebrated his birthday less than three weeks ago, July 12.

Mr. Johnston had lived in Clarenceville for more than three-quarters of a century. The trip taken by his father and mother and their family from Lockport, N. Y., in 1814 took 13 days, and the family arrived in Detroit with one shilling. There were six children.

Mr. Johnston was familiar with the old days when Botsford Inn, near which he lived, was operated as a most enterprising hostelry. He remembered the building of the old Detroit and Howell Plank road, which is now Grand River avenue.

Mr. Johnston was born in Elmira, N. Y., the son of Hiram and Margaret Johnston. He was married to Euphrosyne Stevens in 1861. To them one daughter was born, Mrs. Elmer Dohany. Surviving besides Mrs. Dohany are a sister, Mrs. Henrietta Rice of Tulsa, Okla., four granddaughters, Mrs. P. J. M. Hally, Mrs. Tracy Ely, Mrs. E. F. Thomas, and Miss Betty Dohany, and eight great-grandchildren.

## PREPARE TO PAVE NORTH SIDE OF GD. RIVER ROAD

Poles Being Set On Wider Right-Of-Way Between Eight-Mile And Cut-Off

For the first time in many weeks, Grand River avenue is open to traffic both ways from Farmington to downtown Detroit. Paving between the car tracks, from Oakman boulevard to Six-Mile road in Detroit has been completed.

Preparations are being made for the laying of new concrete on the north side of Grand River west of Eight Mile road. Light poles are being set in the vicinity of Botsford Inn, on the wider right-of-way. It is probable that the next concrete-laying on the widening project will be laying of the north side pavement from Eight Mile road west to the Cut-off.

The paving on the south side has been completed and will probably be open to traffic soon, making it possible to tear up the old pavement on the north side. Right-of-way difficulties are said to be holding up the paving west of the Cut-off.

The contractors, Julius Porath and Son, have paved the short stretch on Tuck road between Grand River and the Cut-off.

## New Grand River Lighting System Adopted By City

Main Thoroughfare Lighting To Be Improved After Widening; Keep Boulevard Lights

A new plan of lighting Grand River avenue in Farmington after the street is widened, providing a much better-lighted thoroughfare at only slight additional cost, was approved by the Farmington City Commission last Thursday evening.

The new plan will make the street much lighter at night in the residence area east of the business section as well as in the uptown portion. The present boulevard lights in the business section will be retained and their candle-power increased, but the overhead lights will be taken out.

The five overhead lights from School street to Farmington road will be removed, and the wattage of the boulevard lamps will be increased from 600 to 1,000 watts each. East of Grove street, where the boulevard lights end, there will be an overhead light for each 220 feet of road, instead of every 330 feet, as at present.

In addition to the five overhead lights to be taken out from Farmington road east to Grove street, those between Farmington road and Cass avenue will be removed also.

Through the saving in removal of the overhead lamps, the new plan will raise the City's lighting bill only \$17 a month, or a little over \$200 in a year.

The present bill runs about \$408 a month. The plan for new lighting was prepared by the Detroit Edison Company, and on approval by the Commission, was signed by Mayor Arthur Lamb and City Clerk N. H. Power. An alternate plan of removing the boulevard lights in the business section and using all overhead lights was submitted at a saving of \$12 a month, but the Commissioners expressed the opinion that the boulevard lamps are well worth the small added cost in appearance and as an asset to the town.

## 1930 POPULARITY CONTEST TO BE BEGUN BY LEGION

Farmington Post Seeking Most Popular Girl, As Part Of Gala Day Celebration

The question of who is Farmington's most popular girl in 1930 has been raised, and Groves-Walker Post, American Legion, will start out within the next few days to find the answer. In this issue appears an entry coupon which entitles every reader to nominate a candidate for the honor and the award.

The coupon, which appears on page 5, will give 100 votes to the girl or young woman named, but only one newspaper coupon will count for each candidate, giving all an equal start, with 100 votes. After that, it will be up to them and their friends. The remaining votes appear on Gala Day tickets which will be in the hands of Legion post members within a few days.

Ballot boxes will be placed in the Smith Drug store, Olin Russell garage, and Lee Hardware Co. A diamond ring will be awarded the winner by the Legion post and the second in standing will receive a wrist watch, the gift of Clyde Chamberlin, Farmington jeweler.

Last year was the first in which a popularity contest was held, and spirited campaigns developed for several candidates. The result was in doubt until late in the evening of Labor Day, when the voting ended.

The popularity contest is but one of the many features which the Legionnaires are planning for their big celebration on Labor Day.

## Time For Payment Of Taxes Extended

City taxpayers may rest easier for several weeks now, with passage by the City Commission of a resolution extending the time for payment of taxes without extra charge.

Taxes will be accepted by City Treasurer George C. Gildemeister throughout August without penalty. Except for the Commission's action, collection of the penalty would have begun Friday morning, August 1st.

## Roos Statement Is Circulated

School Controversy Re-Opened By Circulation Of Former President's Paper

After two or three weeks of comparative quiet, Farmington's school affairs were stirred up again this week, when copies of a statement by Mrs. Blanche Roos, former president of the Board of Education, were put in circulation around town.

The statement, except for a few minor changes, is the same as that prepared by Mrs. Roos for the annual meeting on July 14. Mrs. Roos did not read it at the meeting but submitted it to the Enterprise for publication, only to withdraw it the following day.

Mimeographed copies of the statement were passed around "among a few friends" during the past few days.

The circulation of the statement this week created considerable surprise, as most people had considered the controversy closed. Mrs. Roos, in withdrawing her statement, said that she believed "it is best for the District not to carry on the controversy further," and that "they have won now—let them have their way. We will be good losers."

The copies of the statement circulated this week are headed "A True Statement of the School Situation, Farmington, 1930." Criticism is made of other members of the Board of Education and of members of the high school faculty.

## SECOND ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW TO BE HELD SEPT. 9th

Community Invited To Participate In Exhibition; Hope For Large Display

The time is drawing near for Farmington's Flower Festival, which was inaugurated last year with gratifying results. In spite of a drought last summer and the fear that flowers would be few and inferior, everyone was happily surprised at the remarkable showing which was made.

This year plans are being enlarged in their scope and enthusiasm is already developing. The date has been set for the ninth of September and the place will be the Community Hall at the Methodist church. The exhibit itself will be sponsored by representatives of all the churches in the city and is intended to be in the truest and widest sense a real community affair.

A schedule of various classes of exhibits will be arranged and flowers, fruits and vegetables of all kinds will be welcomed and judged in their separate classes. Again as last year, it is the plan to grant first, second and third prize ribbons for the various exhibits.

Mrs. Thomas Armstrong has been chosen as the general chairman and she will be assisted by representatives of the churches and citizens. A supper will also be served jointly by the women's societies of the churches.

Mrs. A. J. Pickett is ill.

## Nine Mile Paving Contract Is Let And Work Begun

Two Miles To Be Paved This Year; Low Bid Is \$302,415

The contract for paving the 9-Mile road from Southfield road to Grand River was let Monday and work was begun Wednesday morning. Track is already being hauled to the vicinity of 9-Mile road and Lahser roads by the successful bidder, R. D. Baker Co.

Two miles will be paved this year, from Lahser road east to Southfield road, meeting the end of the present pavement, which terminates at Southfield road. The five miles west of Lahser road will be graded this year and concrete laid in the summer of 1931.

The Baker Company's bid, lower by about \$40,000 than the nearest to it, was \$302,415. This is reported by the County Road Commission as 30 per cent less than the estimates drawn up a year ago. The Road Commission calculates that about \$100,000 is saved due to the fact that present conditions bring about very low bids. The road will be paved with 20 feet of concrete.

Part of the new road in the west portion, will go through a section where there is now no highway. Grand River will be intersected just east of Farmington Junction.

At the same time, the Road Commission let the contract for paving of Sunset boulevard, in Southfield Township. [Five miles of road, comprising two 20-foot strips, will be laid. The cost of this job is \$398,612.70, the Baker company being low bidder on this job also. It was estimated that about \$160,000 was saved by prevailing conditions on this contract.]

## ASKS REDUCTION OF \$10,000 BOND ON SUBDIVISION

Lowering Of Obligation To Improve Streets In Farmington Woods Is Requested

A reduction of the bond on Farmington Woods subdivision, by which the contract purchasers of the subdivision were bound to improve streets therein, was asked of the Farmington City Commission last Thursday evening by Charles W. Burton. Mr. Burton, who holds a large interest in the company which has the land on contract, also asked that the City accept his personal bond in lieu of the surety bond now held.

The reduction asked is from the present bond of \$10,000 to \$2,500.

During the discussion it developed that the plat of a large part of the subdivision has apparently been vacated by an order obtained in the Oakland County Circuit Court, although City, State and County taxes for 1928 have not been paid and County and State taxes for 1929 are unpaid.

Charles H. Ely, former owner of the property, paid the 1929 city taxes.

It was stated that only 90 lots remain on the plat at present, of the 540 originally shown on the plat.

The Commission deferred action until a detailed inquiry could be made regarding the status of the property.

## SCHOOL STATEMENTS

Statements of three school districts in this area are published in this week's issue of the Enterprise. The statement of Clarenceville District No. 5 Fractional appears on page 1 of section 2, the statement of District No. 6, Farmington Township, on page 6, and that of Pierson School District on page 7.

Mrs. Ruby West of Ypsilanti spent several days with Mrs. Wm. Irish.