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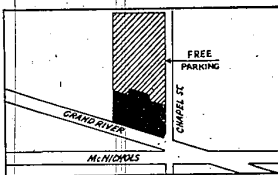
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School Enrollment Projections Substantiate Need For Continuous Building Program In District

This is the first in a series of articles to provide residents of the Farmington public school district with a better understanding of the problems which lie ahead in providing adequate educational facilities for youngsters of the area. Statistics and information material have been provided by the School Board and members of the school administration. The series is designed to give an insight into the school problems prior to the time elections will be asked to go to the polls on March 4 to vote on the proposed \$1 million school bond issue and special school operation tax levy option.

Considerable overcrowding presently exists in all school buildings in the Farmington Public School system with several grades at the elementary level already on double-sessions.

Even with the completion by September of this year of two new elementary buildings now in the final planning stages and a new junior high school now under construction, crowded conditions will still exist, school officials pointed out.

At best it will be possible to accommodate only a good portion of the students now on double-sessions and new students presently moving into the School District under the proposed elementary buildings for which money is now available are completed, it was indicated. Completion of the new junior high will permit the addition of the 9th grade at the junior high level greatly relieving extremely crowded conditions at the senior high school and the junior high. It will not, however, leave any amount of room to handle future increases in enrollment for these two school units, it was emphasized.

RAPID INCREASES

At the beginning of the 1955-'56 school year in September there were 4,438 students enrolled in the Farmington Public School system—3,683 in grades kindergarten through six, 838 in grades seven through nine, and 515 in grades ten through twelve. At the beginning of the current school year, September 1956, enrollment in grades kindergarten through six had swollen to 5,651 for an increase of 1,068. In grades 7 through 9 enrollment increased from 838 to 999 or 161 students and in grades 10 through 12 from 515 to 652 or 137 students. The total school enrollment at the beginning of the current school year was 5,282 representing a total increase of 846 students during the one year period.

Projected figures, based on a projection system which has proven exceptionally accurate over the past years, indicate that there will be 6,213 students enrolled in the school system by September of 1957 or 931 more students than were enrolled at the beginning of the current school year. The sharpest increase in enrollment is anticipated in the elementary grades where it is estimated that 745 additional students will be enrolled. An increased enrollment of 111 students is anticipated in grades seven through nine and an increase of 75 students in grades ten through twelve.

1958 NEED
It has already been established that existing facilities and school units to be constructed this year with funds now available cannot, at best, satisfy only anticipated needs as of September 1957. The School Board and school administrators, therefore, have already found it necessary to start planning on what the anticipated needs will be by September of 1958. This is necessary in order to assure

time for the selling of school bonds, the location of the best sites, the drawing up of plans and the construction of the new units or additions determined most necessary. A bond issue must be put to a vote of the people now and approved in order to assure that adequate educational facilities will be available for all children on a full-time basis by September of 1958, school officials stated.

That there will be a need for more new elementary units and additions at both the existing Junior and Senior high schools is based on projected enrollment figures for September of 1958. It has been estimated that the total enrollment at the elementary level will increase from 4,386 to 5,244 or 858 students between September of 1957 and September of 1958. An increased enrollment from 1,817 students at the beginning of 1957-'58 school year to 2,062 students by the beginning of 1958-'59 school year, or an increase of 255 students, is estimated at the junior-senior high school levels.

IMPROVEMENTS

The School Board and school administrators have also determined that some present facilities being used are extremely unsuitable and safe and should be razed with new, modern units being built to provide for the loss in classroom space resulting from doing so. They have further established that additional facilities, namely multi-purpose rooms, should be added at all existing elementary schools not now having them to provide better training facilities for youngsters and

working conditions for teachers.

Disregarding future development of the School District completely, the more classrooms will be needed in the years ahead, Superintendent O. E. Dunkel pointed out. This year only 168 students will be lost through graduation, he said, while the kindergarten enrollment this year is 747 students. A kindergarten enrollment equally as large if not larger is anticipated next year. This pattern is expected to continue at a decreasing yearly rate for several years, Dunkel concluded.

1959 PROJECTIONS

That a continuous yearly program of building new schools and making additions to existing facilities will be necessary at least until 1960, is indicated by projected figures compiled up to that year for the Farmington School District. It has been estimated that by the beginning of the 1959-'60 school year there will be 7,134 students enrolled in the elementary grades, 1,838 students in grades seven through nine and 1,027 students in grades ten through twelve.

This will give the School District a total student enrollment of 9,999 by September of 1960 if the conservative projection figures prove correct. This means that total enrollment in the school system by 1960 will be almost doubled over what it was at the beginning of the current school year.

Projection figures used here as compiled by local school officials are based on a "percent of survival" formula which has proved unusually accurate in the past, the School Board pointed out. It was indicated that less than 4 percent error for one-year projections and less than 15 percent error on five-year projections has resulted over the past years.

In And Around Springland

MRS. RALPH EVERT

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McEachin of 30229 Ridgeway Drive proudly announce the arrival of a baby daughter, Kimberly Mae. The infant was born on January 31, at the New Grace Hospital and weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces at birth.

The Springland Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, February 14, at the home of Mrs. Ralph Evert, 30755 Ridgeway Drive. Mrs. Raymond Mallon will be hostess.

Residents and volunteer workers of Springland subdivision were extended a thank you this week for their splendid cooperation in the March of Dimes. Volunteer workers were: Mrs. Arthur Schuen, Mrs. Hugo Sandula, Mrs. Raymond Mallon, Mrs. Jack Harrison, Mrs. Harold Boucher, Mrs. Richard Poole and Mrs. Henry Buttner. Mrs. Ralph Evert served as captain of the subdivision drive.

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Engineering Grads Get Highest Starting Pays

Engineering graduates received the largest average starting salaries among Michigan State University's 1956 bachelor's degree winners, statistics released by the university shows.

According to the M.S.U. Placement Bureau, the starting range for engineers was \$4,355 to \$5,355 among some 927 graduates who responded to a survey.

Other fields ranged as follows: Agriculture, \$3,670 to \$6,500; Business and Public Service, \$3,760 to \$4,840; Home Economics, \$3,697; Science and Arts, \$3,633 to \$5,112; Veterinary Medicine (Medical Technology), \$4,084; Education, \$3,980 to \$4,225, and Communication Arts (Journalism, etc.), \$3,687 to \$4,044.

Livonia Soldier Takes Parts Supply Course

Private David H. Tarbet, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. David W. Tarbet, 8008 Deering, Livonia, recently was graduated from the parts supply course in the Army's Armor Training Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During the eight-weeks course, he was trained in stock control, packaging methods and storage procedures.

Tarbet entered the Army last September and completed basic training at the fort.

He is a 1953 graduate of Plymouth High School.

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—Changing Times

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