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SIXTY-NINTH YEAR — NUMBER 44

# The Farmington Enterprise

LEADERSHIP-OUR PURPOSE SERVICE-OUR GOAL

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Wayne and Oakland Counties

SIXTEEN PAGES

## BOARD APPOINTS ELISE AVERLY AS NEW TOWNSHIP TREASURER

### Supervisor Plans Talks With County On Sewer Project

Township Supervisor Frank Stephenson reported Tuesday that he intends to request a meeting with officials of the newly organized Oakland County Department of Public Works within the next week to discuss plans for the proposed Farmington Township sewer interceptor.

The Supervisor added that he hopes to be able to meet the officials on August 7. The Commission, which will administer the new Public Works Department, is composed of the Drain Commissioners as well as four members of the Board of Supervisors. It was announced last week that Harold K. Schone, former Township Manager at Farmington, had been appointed as Director of the new Department. At the time the new department was established, it was understood that the Farmington sewer interceptor project would be given a top priority.

STEPHENSON stated that the purpose of the meeting with the Department of Public Works officials was to determine what he had been doing thus far on proposed financing of the project as well as how the Township can cooperate in facilitating the planning program. The new department has been set up to organize and supervise various water and sewer projects within the County. Under the new organization, the County would handle the sale of the necessary bonds and the Township would be responsible for financing the projects on either a special assessment or revenue bond basis. The full faith and credit of the Township would be used to back the financing of the bond issues.

On the basis of preliminary engineering plans, as prepared by the Township, the proposed Farmington Interceptor would serve the eastern portion of Farmington Township as well as sections of Bloomfield and Southfield Townships.

Stephenson added that he is anxious to meet with county officials as soon as possible in order to determine future planning procedures. The Supervisor stated that the Interceptor facilities are urgently needed in the Township to insure proper sanitation.

### VISITING NURSES HANDLE RECORD VOLUME IN AREA

The Visiting Nurse Association, a Torch Drive unit, disclosed that it helped doctors care for 75 patients among Farmington City and Township residents during 887 visits conducted last year.

J. Redmond, supervisor of the Southern Oakland District of offices at 307 West Sixth, said that the growth of the visiting nurse service, continuing throughout South Oakland County, resulting in increased demands for VNA services. The District Office, Farmington, is now continuing to expand its services to the Township. Troy Township, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, Berkley, Southfield Township, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Ferndale, Oak Park and Hazel Park.

### AROUND THE BLOCK

**THE DAMAGE**—The damage caused by vandals at the city's new storm water treatment plant last weekend presents a pretty sorry problem. This malicious destruction of public property will not only cost the taxpayers money, but will cause an unnecessary delay in the opening of the sewer intercepting system. It is hoped that someone who understands how anyone could derive satisfaction from such destruction. Several years ago a drinking fountain at the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River had to be removed because it was too costly to keep it in repair. The fountain was continually being wrecked. Now the storm water treatment plant has become a key target. Apparently someone is out looking for "kicks" and in our opinion they should be handed a few, in the opposite direction.

**A HISTORIC EVENT**—The historic event will take place on October 1 when the Farmington Hotel becomes the new Elk's Temple. The former hotel has long been an important landmark along Farmington's main street. According to plans, the building will undergo some remodeling, but the basic structure will remain the same. This is understandable when you consider that the basement walls are made up of three separate rows of concrete blocks with air space in between to provide a four foot wide foundation. The hotel was probably one of the first buildings to be built using cement blocks as exterior walls. The ballroom, on the third floor, once the scene of many gaudy dances, has been closed for a number of years, as have the rooms on the second floor. This will all be changed on October 1 when old memories are intermingled once again with the new.



FARMINGTON'S present Post Office building, located on Farmington Road north of Alta Loma, may soon become the Joint City-Township Library if negotiations for a new Post Office are successful. Preliminary plans for a new Post Office building, to be located at the northeast corner of Slocum and Farmington Road, are now being completed. They will be submitted to postal authorities within a few days for study and consideration.

### Postal Officials Request Preliminary Plans For Proposed New Post Office

Preliminary plans are now being drafted for a proposed new Farmington Post Office building, preparatory to submitting them to District Postal officials for study and consideration.

Officials of the Farmington Development Company met last week with Postal authorities in Detroit regarding the construction of a proposed new Post Office at the corner of Slocum and Farmington Road. During the meeting, authorities agreed to consider the proposal and requested that preliminary plans for a building be submitted to them for study.

John Allen, Farmington architect, has been authorized by the Development Company to prepare the preliminary plans. Allen stated Monday that the initial drawings are almost completed and will be submitted to postal authorities within the next few days. It is anticipated that some type of decision will be rendered in approximately two weeks.

The proposal to construct a new Post Office building was disclosed at last Monday's City Council meeting. It was suggested that the present Post Office building be purchased for the proposed city-township library. This would permit the necessary expansion of postal facilities in the Farmington area as well as clear the way for transfer of the library from its present cramped quarters in the Town Hall to the centrally located post office building.

CITY OFFICIALS have indicated that they favor the proposal. It is estimated that the Post Office building can be purchased for approximately \$40,000. Funds currently in hands of the Joint Library Board as well as monies in the Clinton W. Wilber Estate could be used to purchase and remodel the building for library purposes. Funds in the Wilber Estate are being held by the City pending approval of joint agreement of the Township and the library program.

Officials emphasized that the proposed program as submitted, is contingent upon approval by Post Office Department authorities of plans for a new Post Office building.



The Farmington Township Board met last Tuesday evening to discuss the proposed new Post Office building.

### Local Resident Injured Fatally In Truck Crash

Thomas W. Arnold, 21, of 21410 Roosevelt, Farmington, was killed instantly Sunday evening when he lost control of the dump truck he was driving and it hurtled across an embankment, hit a tree and rolled over.

The accident occurred on Dequindre Road, approximately 500 feet south of Avon Road. Arnold suffered a broken neck and fractured skull.

Fred Daltay, 19, of 35893 Clark Road, Novi, a passenger in the truck with Arnold, suffered cuts about the head. He told police that he was asleep at the time the accident occurred and didn't know how it happened. Police expressed doubt that Arnold may have fallen asleep at the wheel of the vehicle.

Six other persons were injured in two separate auto accidents in Farmington Township over the weekend.

**SUNDAY** morning around 9:45, three persons were injured in a three-car rear end collision on Grand River Avenue a short distance east of Halsted Road. A car driven by Thomas Adams of Ferndale smashed into a second car, driven by William Van Amerongen, Jr., of Detroit, which was in turn driven into the rear of a trailer being pulled by a third vehicle, operated by James Stauder of Allen Park.

Injured were: Marshall Adams, possible fractured leg; Albin Adams, 14, lacerations about the face and chin; and Leonard Steel, 14, cuts on the nose and left leg. All three passengers in Thomas Adams' car, were taken to Redford Receiving Hospital for treatment.

Shortly after midnight Sunday evening three others suffered minor injuries when the car in which they were traveling ran off Nineteenth Street into a creek a short distance east of Drake Road. The mishap resulted when Virginia Schurz, driver, mistakenly turned her duplex coming to an intersecting road.

Mrs. Schurz suffered lacerations about the chin. Herman Schurz suffered lacerations about the face and head and Sharon Varney, 9, lacerations about the lower lip.

### Second Bob-Lo Trip Due Friday

A total of 220 boys and girls participated in the first section of the annual Band and Recreation trip to Bob-Lo Island held last Friday.

The second group is scheduled to make the trip this Friday. The group included 120 boys and girls from the Bond and Shawnee school areas. This is the first year that the annual Bob-Lo trip has been held. The group was led by Piche, Recreation Director, stated that it was being done to insure better supervision.

This Friday youngsters from the Girl Road School, Eagle School and City Park areas will take part in the Bob-Lo excursion. Buses will load at the respective playgrounds at 8:30 a.m. The group will travel to Bob-Lo on the 10:00 a.m. boat and return on the 4:00 p.m. trip. Boys and girls are expected to arrive back at their respective playgrounds about 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the trip are \$1.50 for youngsters 12 years of age and over and 75c for those under 12 years. Each child is requested to bring his own lunch. Parents are invited to accompany their children for duplex units.

A contract was awarded to the Detroit Pure Milk Company for the supplying of dairy products to the District for the school year 1957-58. The Detroit Pure Milk Company bid was the lowest of several received by the Board.

### Listed Sixth In County

### Township Among Leaders In New Building Activity

Farmington Township is still listed as one of the top six communities in Oakland County as far as the issuance of building permits is concerned, in spite of a considerable drop in construction activity, according to a report released this week by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

The report, based on building permits issued during the first half of 1957, shows Farmington Township in sixth place among the leading cities and townships of the County. This is a drop of one place over the same period a year ago. According to the report, the Township issued 210 permits for new home construction during the first six months of 1957 as compared to 385 permits issued during the same period of 1956. The Township was listed in fifth place at the end of the second quarter a year ago.

Although there was a substantial decrease in the number of residential building permits issued during the first half of this year in Oakland County, the percentage decrease is less at the first half than it was at the first quarter of 1957. The decline was less than either Macomb or Wayne Counties. The major areas of building activity are in the southeastern portion of the County with Royal Oak City, Madison Heights and Bloomfield Township being listed among the top ten home building communities in the Metropolitan area. It was pointed out in the report that the 70 permits issued by the City of Royal Oak, 540 were for multiple units and eight for duplex units.

**THE SEASONAL** upswing in building activity for summertime construction has had an effect on the percentage of permits issued



REPRESENTING Farmington in the initial round of the Little League District Tournament held Friday afternoon at the Southfield high school are the following: Top row, left to right, Bill Wall, manager; Tommy Thomas; Jeff Barth; Bob Byrne; George Becker; Tom Kaufman and Jack Tabb, manager. Second row: Dennis Hennessey, Allan Harkes; John Walton and Danny Elliott. Third row: George Giffitt; Joe Jentz; Craig Nelson; Cameron Ault and Larry Clayton. The members of the All-Star team were selected by coaches and managers from each of the four Farmington Little League teams. The All-Stars lost out in the first round when they were defeated by the Southfield Nationals 4 to 2. (See story on Page 7.)

### Board OK's Plans Elk's Lodge Purchases Grace Hotel For Special Vote For New Farmington Temple At Clarenceville

The Farmington Elk's Temple Association has completed negotiations for the purchase of Grace Hotel on the north side of Grand River in the center of the Farmington business district, Fred Curcio, chairman of the Building Committee, announced Tuesday afternoon.

Curcio stated that the Association will take possession of the three-story building on October 1, 1957. The former hotel was purchased from the Ulysses S. Grace Estate at a price of \$36,000. Curcio stated that the Temple Association has been granted permission to begin work immediately on the remodeling of the interior of the hotel, which will be used for Elk's Club activities.

The three-story building includes a full basement ground floor with dining room, kitchen and service facilities, second floor with 12 rooms and third floor with large ballroom. Curcio stated that the building is in excellent condition and will require only limited alterations to convert it into a satisfactory Temple.

**THE UPPER** floors of the former hotel building have not been open for use for many years. It is proposed that the ballroom on the third floor be opened for community activities as soon as alterations and repairs are completed. Curcio stated that the new alterations on the ground floor will be used for meeting rooms.

Curcio stated that as soon as possible plans will be prepared for remodeling of the front of the building. The Elk's Club had previously planned to construct a new temple on Orchard Lake Road, opposite Lamar Street in Farmington Township. These plans are now being abandoned because the Elk's Club will continue to hold the property.

### Vandals Damage City Sewer Plant

The scheduled opening of the City's sewer intercepting system suffered another setback this week when vandals broke into the storm water treatment plant, causing irreparable damage to the interior of the building.

According to Earl Scherff, City Manager, the building was broken into sometime Sunday. The vandals gained entrance by breaking a window in the rear of the plant, which is located north of Nine Mile Road and east of Brookside. Scherff stated that great damage was done to the interior of the building, as well as over much of the equipment.

In addition to the point, the vandals broke into a box containing parts and motor for a special sewage separation unit and set fire to the container. Scherff stated that much of the interior was blackened by smoke and the motor will require rewinding.

It is estimated that it will require approximately a week to repair the damage. The new interceptor, which is connected to the Detroit system, was scheduled to go into operation the week after this. Scherff stated that the vandalism probably resulted in a delay of one week to ten days.

City police are now conducting an investigation of the vandalism. They stated that a careful check is being made of footprints found inside the building as well as other evidence.

George Giffitt; Joe Jentz; Craig Nelson; Cameron Ault and Larry Clayton. The members of the All-Star team were selected by coaches and managers from each of the four Farmington Little League teams. The All-Stars lost out in the first round when they were defeated by the Southfield Nationals 4 to 2. (See story on Page 7.)

### Report Progress On Water Petitions

Officials reported this week that progress is being made on the circulation of special assessment petitions for the proposed water system to serve the southern and southeastern sections of Farmington Township.

Mrs. Philip Newberg, chairman of the volunteer solicitors stated Monday that approximately 30 persons are participating in the petitioning program. She added that while no direct report had been compiled as yet signatures had been obtained in increased numbers throughout the various special assessment districts.

The chairman stated that additional volunteers are still needed to assist with the circulation of petitions. It is estimated that as many as 65 persons could be used to obtain signatures in the area. Mrs. Newberg added that the more volunteers we have the quicker and easier it will be to complete the project. Persons interested in volunteering their services are urged to call Mrs. Newberg at GR 4-6478.

The special assessments petitions must bear the signatures of the owners of at least 25% of the total land area involved in each of the seven special assessment districts. Officials emphasized that each district must qualify to be included in the project.

### JOINT TOWNSHIP PLANNING MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY

A joint meeting of the Township Board and the Planning Committee will be held this Thursday evening, August 1, at the Town Hall for the purpose of discussing the proposed industrial land use plan for the Township.

Vilic-Leman, Planning Committee, are expected to be present at the joint meeting along with members of both the Township Board and the Planning Committee.

A special hearing within a few weeks to discuss the proposed amendment. Following the hearing, the Board will submit its recommendations to the Oakland County Commission for their consideration. The recommendations of the two groups will then be submitted to the Township Board for final action.

### Charges Politics Caused Candidate To Withdraw

At a special meeting Tuesday evening, the Township Board by a vote of 4 to 2 approved the appointment of trustee Elise Avery as Township Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Clayton Goers. Prior to the vote on the new appointment the Board unanimously approved a motion accepting Goers' resignation as Township Treasurer with respect to the resignation to become effective September 1, 1957. In making the motion, Wendell Brown stated that both Mr. and Mrs. Goers have performed a valuable service to the Township through their combined efforts in behalf of the Treasurer's office.

Immediately following the acceptance of Goers' resignation, Supervisor Frank Stephenson stated that four applications had been received for the position of Treasurer. He expressed regret that more citizens were not present at the meeting to observe the activity of the Board on this important question. Stephenson added that as far as he is concerned every man and woman who is 21 years of age and a registered voter of the Township is entitled to a valuable service to the Township through their combined efforts in behalf of the Treasurer's office.

**THE SUPERVISOR** advised the audience that one member of the Board told him Tuesday that "Donald Lee had no business applying for the position because his family had been affiliated with the Democratic Party for years." Stephenson added that Lee has all of the qualifications necessary for the job but because he was told he wouldn't have a chance he stepped aside.

Applications of the four candidates were read to the board and the audience. Stephenson suggested that each of the applications be considered one by one. He cited the application of Mrs. Philip Newberg, 20805 Cass and added that she was an experienced bookkeeper and would be a tower of strength on the Board. Stephenson then moved the appointment of Mrs. Newberg as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Richard Hug. In a roll call vote the motion was defeated 4 to 2. Fred Westlake then moved that Mrs. Avery be nominated for the position. Hug also moved that Robert Nelson be nominated for the Treasurer's post.

The fourth applicant, Howard Lee, was not included in the Board nominations. On the roll call vote, Mrs. Avery received the nomination, 4 to 2. Westlake, Avery, Brown and Curcio voted for Mrs. Avery, with Hug and Stephenson. (See TOWNSHIP BOARD, Pg. 8A)

### Zoning Proposal Filed With Board

A proposed amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance, providing for the rezoning from Residential to Commercial of a parcel of land at the southeast corner of the intersection of Nine Mile Road and Grand River, has been forwarded to the Zoning Board for study and public hearing.

Floyd A. Cairns, Township Clerk, announced that the rezoning of the property at the intersection of Nine Mile Road and Grand River has been recommended by the Township Planning Committee. The Township Board declared its intent to rezone the property at its regular meeting last Tuesday evening. Officials of the Planning Committee stated that the proposed rezoning is in accord with the overall commercial land use which provides for business centers at principal intersections. Three corners of the Ten Mile-Six Mile intersection are rezoned as commercial at the present time.

The Zoning Board is expected to take a special hearing within a few weeks to discuss the proposed amendment. Following the hearing, the Board will submit its recommendations to the Oakland County Commission for their consideration. The recommendations of the two groups will then be submitted to the Township Board for final action.

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