

The Farmington Enterprise

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 31



EXCHANGE CLUB SPEAKERS in Farmington last week were the top officials from Oakland and Wayne counties who addressed the business and professional men's organization on the topic of county home rule. Pictured above (L to R) are Exchange Club Vice President and Program Chairman Thomas A. Duke; Jack H. McDonald, Supervisor of Redford Township and newly elect-

ed Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors; Delos Hamlin, Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors; and Joseph T. Brennan, Exchange Club President. McDonald and Hamlin presented their views on home rule and answered the questions of Exchange Club members at the April 14 luncheon meeting.

To Establish Beautifying Committee Exchange Club Hosts Top County Leaders

City councilmen took action at their regular meeting Monday night approving City Manager John Dimsen's proposed plan for the formation of a year-around special beautification committee for the City of Farmington.

At their meeting last week, councilmen agreed that such a committee would be beneficial in the city and asked the city manager to make recommendations for forming the same.

The city manager's suggestion was that the committee be made up of nine members with five members coming from the larger subdivision areas in the city including Albia Lema, Bel-Aire, Farmington Meadows, Warner, Farms and Floral Park. His suggestion for the other four members was one from the Farmington Exchange Club, another from the Board of Commerce and one member each from the Council itself and the City Planning Commission.

THE FEELING of at least a couple of the members of the committee was that the beautifying committee would be a good idea.

The Farmington Exchange Club heard two distinguished county leaders speak on the timely subject of county "home rule" at their regular luncheon meeting last Wednesday in the Salem United Church of Christ.

Delos Hamlin of Farmington who this month was elected to an unprecedented tenth term as the Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and Jack McDonald, Supervisor of Redford Township, who was elected Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors at their annual organizational meeting April 13, covered the home rule issue by detailing the growth of county government and defining the needs of the future in their respective counties.

HAMLIN, who is a life member of the Farmington Exchange Club, spoke first on the development of county government under the old 1904 Michigan Constitution. He stressed that limitations placed on counties by the old Constitution made it necessary for the State Legislature to act each time services were needed within the county. These services which Hamlin cited as being administered best at the county level of government needed enabling legislation from Lansing before they could get off the ground. He stressed that such services as well as social services were areas where the state legislature conceded the county could best administer programs at the local level.

The creation of a county Department of Public Works, Hamlin stated, was one of the giant steps forward in allowing Oakland County to administer to the needs of its many growing communities. It was created by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors in 1957 as a vehicle for municipalities to solve regional problems which they could not solve independently. Water and sewer systems, vital to each community, are examples of such services.

SEE EXCHANGE CLUB Page 6A

Car Safety-Check Program June 4, 5

The dates have been set for a Vehicle Safety-Check program in Farmington this year on the weekend of June 4 and 5 and the first organizational meeting of the Farmington Vehicle Safety-Check Committee will be held next Thursday evening at 8 p.m. in the Farmington City Municipal Building.

Acting General Chairman Frank Smith met with Farmington City Police Chief Maurice D. Foltz and Irvington Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes and Ross Crane of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce April 15 to take the first steps in planning this year's Vehicle Safety-Check program.

STEVEN, who last year served as co-chairman of the vehicle safety-check program, announced more support would be sought this year from community service clubs and organizations. Local automobile agencies and the local gasoline service and repair garages are again expected to provide the bulk of the trained personnel at each vehicle safety-check location.

The Farmington Jaycees last year provided much of the manpower and it is hoped this year will be able to assist in the scheduling of trained mechanics and auto repair men for the two-day vehicle safety-check program.

IT IS HOPED by staging the vehicle safety-check program early in June (June 4 and 5) that more cooperation from the weatherman can be expected. Last year's program staged in May ran into rough weather.

The Michigan legislature currently has a bill pending to make vehicle safety-checks compulsory for all motorists in the state.

Hamlin Again Heads County

Last week Delos Hamlin of Farmington was elected chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors for his tenth consecutive term.

The vote by the Board of Supervisors for Hamlin's reelection for another term was almost unanimous.

Hamlin lives at 23210 Cass in the City of Farmington and has been the city's representative on the county board for many years. He has distinguished himself not only as supervisor of one of the fastest growing counties in the state but also as a leader of joint cooperative efforts toward progress for the whole Detroit Metropolitan area.

Prior to entering county politics Hamlin was active in politics in the City of Farmington. He has been a businessman in Farmington for many years.



THE VEHICLE SAFETY-CHECK program will be staged in Farmington this year on June 4 and 5 with all service clubs and organizations as well as participating. Local deputies of police (L to R, standing) Maurice D. Foltz of the City of Farmington and Irving H. Yakes of Farmington Township met last Thursday with committee mem-

Masonic Restoration Program Set

Plans have now been completed and approved for a major remodeling and restoration program planned for the Masonic Temple (the old Town Hall building) at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road, the Farmington Masonic Temple Board announced this week.

Roy Line, Temple Board chairman, stated following a meeting of the Board that all financial arrangements have now been formulated and that only the signing of the construction contract remained to be done. It is anticipated that this can be completed within the next few days and that construction work can be under way immediately thereafter.

THE MASONS recently purchased the building from the City of Farmington and the Township of Farmington. All three organizations contributed to the original building costs; and until the great move to the suburbs began, all shared the structure.

Any organization or person wishing to contribute to the restoration of the famous old land mark are asked to do so by contacting Roy Line, Temple Association President, or Richard Steele, Association Treasurer.

This marks the 100th Anniversary of Lodge 151 which for the past few days has been meeting in the "Old Town Hall."

Need Two on Planning Bd.

The outcome of the April 5 City of Farmington election has made necessary a reorganization of the city planning commission as well as some other boards and committees in the city.

Action taken by the City Council at its regular meeting Monday night completed the necessary changes on the appointments of councilmen to other boards and committees but still leaves the planning commission two members short. The planners will be asked to make recommendations to the Council on two new appointees as quickly as possible.

In the re-organization action taken Monday night, newly elected Mayor Sanduski's Brotherthon steps down as chairman of the planning commission with new councilmen and planning commission member John Allen moving up to fill Brotherthon's vacated chair until June 1966. Brotherthon, who no longer can serve on the planning commission, takes former Mayor Robert Lindbergh's place on the zoning board of appeals.

Yoder now comes off the planning commission to become the Council's representative on the economic development committee until October 1965 and a member of the city employees retirement fund committee.

Replacements for Allen's position on the planning commission as well as the seat left vacant by Yoder is now necessary. The terms of office for both these planning posts run through June of 1967.

Allen Proposes Annual Report

Councilman John Allen proposed that the regular City Council meeting Monday night that serious consideration be given to the publication of a special city booklet annually outlining what city services and facilities are available, what has been accomplished in the city during the past year and what future programs and projects are planned.

In effect he was calling for consideration of the publication of an annual report by the city that would be distributed to all taxpayers of the community. It has his feeling that civic minded local clubs such as the American Association of University Women would provide help to the city in getting material together and making arrangements to have the report printed.

One of Allen's campaign promises while seeking a seat on the Council prior to April 5 was that he would work to develop a system for keeping the citizens of the community better informed on what was being done or being planned.

B. of C. To Meet Tuesday Morning

All Farmington Board of Commerce members are reminded that the general meeting this month, Tuesday, April 27, will be a breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. at Himmel's Dining Room, instead of the usual evening meeting.

Those attending will hear about the annual Spring Clean-up Campaign and more about Founder's Day.

City, Twp. Equalized Value Up \$6.5 Million Over 1964

An increase of over \$6.5 million in the equalized valuation of Farmington City and Township combined was recorded during the past year.

The combined equalized valuation set for Farmington City and Township for the year 1965 by the Equalization Committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, as announced this week, is \$18,699,241. The township's equalized valuation as set by the county committee ran \$9,475,793 while the city's ran \$9,223,448.

THE 1964 county equalized valuation for the city and township combined as set in April of last year was \$11,371,501 with approximately \$88 million of this valuation in the township and the remaining \$27 million in the city.

While this equalized valuation increase is substantial, it does not equal the increase recorded last year over the previous year when the combined valuation increase ran over \$9 million.

The city and township assessing offices emphasized the fact that these were county figures and that they were still subject to change by the state equalization committee.

For school, county and township taxes, the levies are made against the state equalized valuations on property and not the assessed valuations.

THE PURPOSE behind equalizing valuations is to bring the various assessed valuations set by individual governing bodies as closely in line with each other as possible for taxing purposes. The assessed valuations set by local assessors are reviewed each year by the county equalization committee and an equalization factor given each community to bring property values of the various communities in line.

Equalization factor figures are given based on the assessing practices used by the individual communities. Those that follow low assessing procedures are given higher factors and those assessing property nearer to what the state and county recommends lower figures.

THIS YEAR both the city and township were successful in getting slightly lower equalization factors from the county equalization board than they received last year.

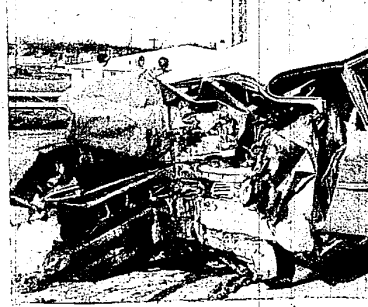
The city's factor of 1.14-plus last year was reduced to 1.13-plus this year. The township's factor of 2.11-plus last year has been cut down to 2.09-plus this year.

The substantial difference in the factors given the City of Farmington and Farmington Township is due to the fact that the city assesses property very closely to what the state and county says it should. The township, on the other hand, assesses property on a low percentage of real value formula and therefore gets an equalization factor almost twice as great as the city does.

THE TOWNSHIP'S assessed valuation for 1965 runs only \$43,174,534 compared to its county equalized valuation of \$90 million. The city's assessed valuation on the other hand, is \$25,742,620 or less than 33% million lower than the county equalized valuation set.

None of the figures as announced this week by the county are final since they are still subject to a review and adjustments in both the valuations and factors by the state equalization committee.

Taxpayers are urged to keep continuously in mind the fact that the way the regular bills for county, school and township tax levies are based on the state equalized valuations as finally determined.

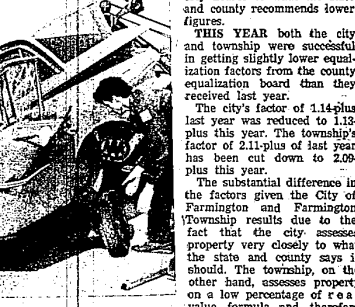


THIS IS THE WRECKAGE left of the auto which carried a Farmington man to his death on Good Friday afternoon on 196 and Farmington Road.

Killed in 1-96 Crash

Cecil B. Woodruff, 59, of 20801 Whitlock Street in Farmington was pronounced dead on arrival at Babcock General Hospital in Farmington Township after his car had smashed into a bridge abutment on 196 at the Farmington Road overpass Friday afternoon, April 16. There were no passengers in his car.

Farmington City Police who investigated the crash said Woodruff was in a 1960 Chevrolet station wagon, was traveling at a high rate of speed, according to one officer "close to 100 miles an hour" and struck the concrete abutment dead-center. There were no skid marks or other signs to indicate that Woodruff made any move to avoid the crash which occurred at 3:45 p.m. last Friday. Police theorize the man took his own life. Dr. Donald Boxman, coroner, believed the death as a suicide.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

Permits Issued Total \$2.8 Million in Value

Permits for almost \$2.8 million worth of construction in Farmington City and Township combined were issued during the first three months of 1965, according to reports released by the building department of these two local governing bodies this week.

The total valuation on the new construction, additions or remodeling work for which permits were taken out during January, February and March in the township ran \$2,613,278. The city valuation on the construction work that the city issued building permits for during this same three month period was \$125,000.

PERMITS FOR new home starts were issued in the township to only six permits for new homes in the city during the three months. Permits for 26 new home starts valued at \$480,200 were issued by the township in January; 21 were issued in February carrying a value of \$373,500 and permits for 34 new home starts valued at a total value of \$718,150. The total value on the permits for the six new homes that the city building department issued ran \$125,000.

One of the permits that the township issued during the first quarter was for the new Lakeshire elementary school valued at \$892,219 and another for a sizeable addition to the Bond School at a value figure of \$130,000.

SEE BUILDING PERMITS Page 6A

Library Repair Work Planned

It was disclosed at the regular City Council meeting Monday night that the Farmington District Library board of trustees have completed plans for repairs and improvements at the public library facility on Farmington Road in the city.

Included among the improvements will be the repairing of the roof, the repainting of the drive and parking lot area and the construction or a retaining wall around a portion of the library parking lot area.

It was also disclosed that a Zerex copying machine would be obtained to be used by patrons in having copies made from portions of books.

Dog Warden Proposed by John Allen

The problem of dogs running loose in the City of Farmington and the inadequacies of the present system which law enforcement officers have that requires dog owners get licenses and have their dogs properly vaccinated yearly came in for considerable discussion at the regular Council meeting Monday night.

John Allen, a new councilman, was of the opinion that very serious consideration should be given to the hiring of a dog warden by the city to see that all dog owners complied with the law and to pick up stray dogs. It was his feeling that the additional revenue to be received in dog license fees would take care of the warden's salary.

Maurice Foltz, public safety director, agreed that a thorough job was not being done in the enforcing of the law that requires dog owners get licenses and have their dogs properly vaccinated yearly. He emphasized, however, that he just did not have a large enough force to take care of the dog problem.

It was revealed that less than 400 dog licenses have been applied for in the city to date.

Councilman Allen stated that he would bring the matter up for consideration again at the next councilman's sit down to review the proposed dog license budget for the 1965-66 fiscal year. These review sessions will start next week.

The city manager and other councilmen agreed that a problem with dogs did exist and agreed to further discuss the matter. A city manager expressed a doubt, however, that a full time dog warden could be justified.

Twp. Zone Bd. Meets Thurs., Four Public Hearings Set

Tomorrow, Thursday, April 22, the Farmington Township Zoning Board will meet and hold four public hearings on zoning matters.

A request from the Shell Oil Co. to rezone the southwest corner of Orchard Lake and 14 Mile roads to permit construction of a gasoline service station will be heard.

The Grosse Pointe Nursing Home has requested rezoning of the Children's Hospital property in the west half of section 35, west of Tuck Road, between 8 and 9 Mile roads. The property has been under a non-conforming use and the proponents are asking to have it rezoned from RA-3 to RC to permit future development. All public hearings has been set for Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Township Post 4033 for approval of the rezoning.

ALSO SCHEDULED for public hearing is a request to rezone 100 acres in the northeast corner of section 3, south of 14 Mile Road and west of Orchard Lake Road to RC and B-2. The rezoning would allow development of Hunters Ridge, a 1,000 unit apartment project which will include a commercial shopping mall.

The fourth public hearing scheduled concerns revisions of the multiple residential zoning ordinance and two-family residential districts. The text changes and additions, submitted by Allen-Leman, planning consultants for the Township, would eliminate the present R-B (two-family district) and add three densities for multiple housing.

OTHER ITEMS on the Thursday evening agenda are a final plat review of Franklin Ravine, a proposed subdivision to be developed in the southeast quarter of section 24, east of Middlebelt Road and north of Ten Mile Road; and a request by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Farmington Post 4033, for approval of plans to enlarge their building on Orchard Lake Road.

Arbor Day Tree Planting Today

Today, Wednesday, at 4 p.m. a special Arbor Day service will be conducted by the City of Farmington.

A Dogwood tree will be planted in the Civic Center Park at the corner of River and Liberty Streets.

During the coming week citizens of the city are being encouraged by the well to plant trees and shrubs for the beautification of their property and the city as a whole.