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SEVENTEETH YEAR — NUMBER 4

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1957

TWO ARMED BANDITS ESCAPE AFTER ROBBERY OF CITY BANK

Twp. Ordinance On Swim Pools Now Approved

The Farmington Township Board, at its regular meeting Tuesday evening, approved an ordinance setting up regulations and controls on the construction of private swimming pools.

The ordinance, as submitted by the Township Attorney, provides that swimming pools can not be constructed on lots of less than 4,000 square feet. It also stipulates that pools must be chlorinated or purified by water filters. All pools must be enclosed by a four foot fence to be constructed immediately adjacent to the facility.

THE ORDINANCE requires that no swimming pools be installed without first obtaining a permit from the Township Building Department. Construction is to be inspected by the Building Department and the Health Officer.

Officials explained that the fencing provision of the ordinance covers both present and future pools. It was suggested during the discussion that three foot rather than a four foot fence be required, however this was not agreed upon.

A PETITION, signed by property owners in the vicinity of Springbrook and Shawnee, was filed with the Board proposing the installation of an underground sewer in the area and requesting action to correct the situation.

The petition stated that the dwelling was built on the property in 1956 and that in the meantime nothing has been done to clean up the building or site. There are no doors or windows on the dwelling and that it has become dangerous as well as an eyesore.

The petitioners requested that the building might be used as a multiple dwelling. The Board moved that the matter be referred to the Health Department for investigation.

JOSEPH T. BRENNAN, in a letter to the board, advised that a new swimming pool company was constructing a model on 13 Mile Road between Michigan and Orchard Lake Road in violation of the zoning ordinance.

Township Supervisor Frank Stephenson stated that the owner had appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeals Monday evening requesting permission to proceed with the construction as well as the future establishment of a sales office. Stephenson added that the owner already had \$7,000 invested in the facilities.

FLOYD A. CALMS, Township Clerk, pointed out that a business was formerly operated on the property as a non-conforming use but that it was voided when the zoning was changed. The matter was referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a recommendation.

THE BOARD, following a detailed discussion, delayed action on a proposed weed control ordinance pending further study by the Township Attorney. Under the ordinance, owners of subdivided lands would be required to destroy noxious weeds prior to seed development.

It would also permit the Township, after proper legal notice, to enter private property and destroy such weeds with the cost being charged back to the property owner. A question was raised regarding the extent of state controls as well as provisions revering non-subdivided lands.

A resolution of condolence to A. G. Leonard family was unanimously approved by the board. Mr. Leonard, who served as Township Attorney for many years and more recently as legal consultant, passed away last week.

The Board commended Leonard for his many years of devoted service to the Township and expressed a deep sense of loss at his passing. A copy of the resolution is to be forwarded to Mr. Leonard's family.

Walks at 7 1/2 Months

A daughter, who is walking at 7 1/2 months is making the mother, Mrs. Kenneth Simmons, rather proud. Little Sandra Jean, who weighs 16 pounds, started walking a week ago, and now walks easily from one object to another.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons live at 15446 Dixie, Redford Twp., but Marlyne, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff Bates, 23052 Violet in Farmington.

They have a son who will be three in December. He walked at 8 1/2 months.

CHS Junior Class Chooses New Rings

Junior class members at Clarenceville High have been in the process of choosing class rings during this past week. The Junior Ring Co. of Minneapolis was awarded the contract by Clarenceville, Oct. 2. Junior and sophomore class sponsors and officers selected this company.

On Oct. 10 a junior ring committee met in the cafeteria to choose three sets of rings.

The juniors held a class meeting Oct. 16 to select the 1959 class rings. At this time the rings were fitted and a deposit of five dollars was made by students purchasing rings.

The proposed building to be erected by Farmington Development Company on land on the north side of Slocum street, east of Farmington Road, has tentative approval now.

Satisfactory bids were received Monday, and the apparent low bidder was Dick Roach of Walled Lake. The building had to be drawn to certain specifications and cost under a certain amount before the postal department would sign a lease.

All details are now in the Chicago postal office for a final approval. If no hitch develops, construction will begin very soon.

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Post Office Lobby Given New Look

Changes in the Farmington postoffice lobby were completed this week which cuts the patron area but gives workers more room.

In the change the postoffice lost one bank of boxes and one stamp window, and Postmaster Henry Trowless lost his office.

Officials of the Farmington Township Board will meet at the Township Hall to discuss the financial aspects of the project as well as coordinate the activities of the various units.

Officials of Farmington Township, West Bloomfield Township, Southfield Township and Keego Harbor will take part in the meeting which is scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m.

IMMEDIATELY following the discussion at the West Bloomfield Township Hall, the Farmington Township Board will meet at the Township Hall to discuss the financial aspects of the project.

The other governmental units affected by the Interceptor are expected to take similar action.

One of the teachers left the building at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when everything was alright. To gain entrance, the person broke a window in the mechanical drawing room, later broke down windows in the library and shops.

THE WARDEN added that during his brief tenure this past summer he sent out 500 notices to dog owners.

A public discussion on the proposed Industrial Land Use Plan for Farmington Township will be held Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Farmington Senior high school under the sponsorship of the Farmington Township Civic Association.

Officials of the Association stated that the discussion will center around such questions as: Why we need industrial development in the township, what effect it will have on our tax base, where industrial sites are being proposed and why.

Both sides of each question will be presented at the meeting. A panel composed of representatives of the Planning Board, any process which are established to the plan will present the opposite view. Members of the audience will be permitted to ask questions during a portion of the meeting.

All residents of the Township are invited to attend and take part in the discussion of this vital subject.

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Sewer Project Planning Goes Ahead in Twps.

A special meeting of the various governmental units affected by the proposed Farmington Sewer Interceptor will be held at the West Bloomfield Township Hall Monday, October 28, officials announced this week.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review the financial aspects of the project as well as coordinate the activities of the various units.

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FROM THIS WINDOW Manager Mark Benner was robbed Tuesday afternoon. The new building was opened less than a year ago, in a location readily accessible to the public—also to bandits.

Senior High Broken Into Last Sunday

Farmington Senior High was broken into last Sunday afternoon or night, and a small amount of money taken from a desk.

One of the teachers left the building at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when everything was alright. To gain entrance, the person broke a window in the mechanical drawing room, later broke down windows in the library and shops.

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Dogs, Elm Disease, Flu Are Among Problems for Township

In a written report to the Township Board Tuesday evening, Norman Raupp, temporary Dog Warden, emphasized the need for continued cooperation of subdivision groups in controlling the problem of stray dogs in the Township.

Raupp stated that because of limited powers, it is necessary for Township officials to seek the aid of citizen groups in solving the dog problem.

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Twp. Takeover Water-Sewer Planning Starts

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\$2,875 Missing As Twp. Chief Bit Too Late

Farmington broke into big time news Tuesday afternoon when the new branch of the Detroit Bank and Trust Company was robbed by two armed men who escaped with \$2,875.

Township Police Chief Irving Yakes came near to being the hero when he dashed in with a gun only seconds after the bandits wheeled away in a stolen car. Close behind him were State Troopers Paul Jones and Robert Rant.

THE PAIR eluded road blocks at main intersections and some 60 police cars. The getaway car was found an hour later at Cedar Drive and Plymouth in Detroit.

The bandits had apparently parked their own car nearby, stolen the vehicle, then returned it. MANAGER Mark Benner turned in the alarm which brought officers to the bank at 2346 Grand River. His desk in the new office bank was on the first floor, the street through a wide plate glass window.

From his desk he saw the men drive up to the front of the building and don rubber masks. They quickly he sounded a holdup alarm which rings in the Redford State Police post. Two troopers at Mile and Grand River were rushed to the scene.

MEANTIME Chief Yakes was sitting in his car on Middlebelt when he saw the car turn around the corner. He missed the car when his dispatcher relayed the alarm.

Before he got there the bandits had entered the bank and forced him out with orders to line up against the wall at revolver point. They made Teller John McLean turn over the money from his cage and that of Mrs. Edna McLean.

AFTER THE tellers' cages were looted Miss Roberta Scholer, a teller, was told to get the money out with orders for the bandits to combine the first time, but when she got it opened the other employees were herded into the vault and the bandits sprinted out. The entire operation lasted only three or four minutes.

CHIEF YAKES obtained a description of the car and the road blocks, which proved of no avail.

Today a detailed search was being made of what evidence was available.

Chief Yakes and bank employees were busy some time by newsmen, and many pictures appeared in the Detroit papers. Some were on a television show Tuesday night.

US-16 Bridge Steel Borrowed From City Span

Last week the state highway department confirmed that steel for the Novi bridge held up by the Novi bridge highway from Farmington to Brighton would soon be available, and the expressway might be open by Jan. 1.

This week there was an angry outburst from businessmen in the area near the Fort Street bridge over the Lodge expressway, for it appears steel for the Novi bridge will be used in the first and the Fort Street bridge would not be opened until perhaps February, because of this.

Sidney H. Woolner, chief deputy commissioner for the Highway Dept., said the decision to give priority to the Novi bridge was based on the fact that it is part of a 15-mile expressway which is being built to be detoured around the Fort Street bridge.

He also said the contractor supplying steel for both bridge projects is working a seven-day week to speed completion of the projects.

For Shriners Only

There are quite a few Shriners in Farmington Township, and thus a possibility of forming a Shrine Club here. Any Shriner interested is asked to phone Albert Guin at GR 4-7529.



FARMINGTON'S PROGRESS sometimes seems almost violent, it moves so fast. It can be symbolized by this city limits sign at the top of McGee Hill, near the intersection of Farmington Road and Ten Mile Road. The sign has been roughly uprooted and tossed aside as earth movers prepared the ground for the new Twin Valley Subdivision.



McGEE HILL in Farmington has quite a different look these days, with much of the earth work already done for the new Twin Valley Subdivision. This is the valley stretching west and north from the old narrow bridge over the Rouge branch, now blocked off.

The bridge is seen at far left. To the right the pavement stretches up the valley to a circle drive. Houses will be built along the south (far) side of the pavement pictured here.

which has already delayed much grading.

Another Subdivision Starts In Farmington

Tom Farmington Township boys 15 and 16, were arrested last week by State Police, who felt this may end a series of incidents during the last several weeks in which stones were thrown at cars on the Farmington by-pass near 8 Mile Road.

The pair admitted they had thrown stones at cars on the by-pass "several times." They were turned over to Oakland County juvenile authorities.

Police said the boys also admitted they stole a truck from Vance Keegen, metal operator at 30691 Grand River. Mr. Keegen said he saw the boys start off in the truck and jumped into his car to follow them. Seeing they were pursued, the boys abandoned the truck and ran.

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Presbyterian Group To Beg for UNICEF

Hallowe'en begging for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund will be done in Farmington Wednesday evening, Oct. 30, starting at 6:30 p.m.

"Beggars" will be the Junior High Westminister Fellowship of First Presbyterian Church.

The members will be asking money instead of the usual tricks or treats. After canvassing the city they will return to the Knox House for doughnuts and cider.

State Trooper Injured In Car

Cass Erbin, 30, a state policeman from the Detroit post, was injured last Sunday morning early on the Grand River Cutoff.

Erbin was sitting in a police car which had been pulled off the left side of the highway to allow a tow truck to remove the car. He was replaced by a highway barricade.

Although the patrol car's flasher was operating, it was struck in the rear by an arrow driven by Luther Wick, 2550 Middlebelt Road. Wick's car was arrested and charged with drunk driving.

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