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The Farmington Enterprise

LEADERSHIP--OUR PURPOSE SERVICE--OUR GOAL

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SEVENTIETH YEAR — NUMBER 8 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1957 EIGHTEEN PAGES

TENTATIVE ROAD PLANNING FOR TOWNSHIP TOLD BY COUNTY

Federal Grant To Help Pay For New School

Though contracts were let only last Thursday, work is already underway on a new elementary school at the south end of Warner Farms Subdivision a short distance east of Farmington Road.

The new 14 room elementary unit, which will include a multi-purpose room and kindergarten, is expected to be completed in time for the opening of school next fall.

SCHOOL District taxpayers will stand less than half of the cost for building and equipping the new unit. Federal funds allocated to the district totaling $278,833.50 will take care of an estimated 55 percent of the total cost.

The Farmington School District is one of 153 systems across the nation receiving federal grants this year totaling $31,792.50. The grants are made to districts where it has been determined that enough federal connected workers live to be a direct cause of overcrowding.

This is the first time that Farmington has ever qualified for a Federal grant.

ANOTHER savings to taxpayers will be realized since construction cost per-square foot will run somewhat lower than has been the general case on past buildings. It is estimated that it will cost 13.95 per square foot to erect this new unit. The cost for building new schools in the past has been running between $15 and $16 per square foot, Superintendent G. V. Harrison said.

The general contract on the building was awarded to the Furguson and Philip Company for $299,000. Stroll Comerford, Inc. was awarded the mechanical contract for $99,373 and Boyd Electric the electrical contract for $29,760.

C. of C. Names Industry Group

One of the prime projects of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce is proper industrial development, and the committee to further this has now been announced by Manager Donald D. Pullen.

Members are:

C. A. Quigley, Quigley Machine.
Herbert Lundberg, Western Tool.
Lee Stevens, Stevens Machinery.
M. C. Hasley, Hasley Products.
Elbert Fowler, Ashton Realty.
Leo Fendt, Fendt Builders Supply.
Jean Ross, G & R Employment Agency.
Charles Tucson, SatinAire, Inc.
J. Dee Ellis, The Enterprise.
Howard M. Warner, Farmington Holding Co.
Norman B. Lawton, Star Cutter Co.
Frank Holtzman, Farmington Savings.

Township Man Found, Dead in Barn on 14 Mile

The body of Willard Martinson, 45, was found in the barn of the farm home where he was staying at 38765 Fourteen Mile Road last week. His wrists were slashed.

According to Township Police Chief Irving Yakes, his car was located parked at Fifteen Mile Road and Drake containing a partially emptied bottle of highly poisonous liquid and a butcher knife. He apparently walked from the car to the barn where he died after having taken the poison and slashing his wrists, Yakes said.

C. of C. Retail Plans Starting

The new retail committee of the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce, as part of its activities, is making plans to decorate Farmington streets for the Yule season.

Members of the committee, headed by Tom Serdenis, include Sam Turvow, Richard Svatora, Gene Hymes, Fred Menke, Bayard Tupper, John Voccano, Hugh Owen, Forrest Dickerson, C. Ralston, Thurlo G. Minhinnick, Jr., Bud Felton, Earl Vivier, Ed Sierens, Dan Lowe, Farnham W. Haeger and Joe Himmelspach.

Seek Muscular Dystrophy Drive Help for Dec. 3

A Mothers March to raise funds to aid in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy will be held in Farmington city and township Tuesday, December 3, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Volunteer solicitors who can spend even a half-hour of their time are urged to contact Mrs. Gladys Stephenson, chairman, immediately. Call GR. 4-3849. Members of various civic organizations and groups are also being called on to help in any way possible.

"Thousands of Muscular Dystrophy victims, most of them children, are waiting to be delivered from a future which holds only years of disability and an untimely death," Mrs. Stephenson said.

"Their plight is a ringing challange to the American people to wipe out this crippling disease by contributing to support an all-out research into its cause and cure.

"This mysterious disease which attacks the muscles is no respector of age, color or creed, Two thirds affected are children and it is a sad truth that most of them will not live beyond their teens unless a cure if found.

"The Mothers March of December 3 is an opportunity for each and every one of us to help the children who are afflicted with Muscular Dystrophy," Mrs. Stephenson concluded.

State 'Studies' City-16 Route

The state highway department has written the Greater Farmington Chamber of Commerce that it is studying the problem of trunkline routes removed from the state system.

This was in response to a request by the Chamber that Grand River be designated as City 16 when the expressway opens about the first of the year.

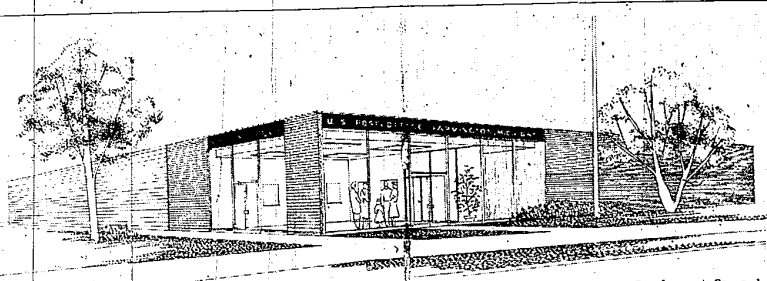
The department's office of planning wrote there were other such situations, and no decision had been reached. However, prior to start of work on the expressway the county signed an agreement it would take over maintenance of the abandoned stretch of present US-16 in Oakland.

City Water Pump House Damaged by Fire, Friday

Dammage to studding and the roof of the Farmington City water pump house in city park resulted last Friday afternoon when an oil burner in the building apparently caused over-heating.

Smoke damage in the building was also reported.

The blaze, which was reported shortly before 4:30 o'clock, was quickly brought under control by members of the city police department.



NEW POST OFFICE for Farmington is undoubtedly the one sketched here by Architect John Allen. There is still a possibility of disapproval but the chance is remote. Final approval has not yet come from Chicago. It would be located on Sloeum street, to the east end of a lot which has Farmington Road as a west side. It would be built by Farmington Development Co., and bids have already been received for construction. Then it would be leased to the post office department. When completed, the present postal building would be purchased by the library board for use as a community library.

County Vocational Rehabilitation Program Hampered by Lack of Funds

Vocational Rehabilitation spent $62,525 in Oakland County during the last fiscal year.

This expenditure was to aid in the rehabilitation of 755 disabled persons served here, James V. Huddleston, "Rehab" counselor in this county for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Public Instruction, disclosed.

Huddleston reported that 195 Oakland County people were rehabilitated into paying jobs during the year. Even more disabled citizens could be rehabilitated this year.

The Rehabilitation service is hampered, however, by a severe limitation of funds, he stated. All services cost more. Also, people with more severe disabilities are being served, which increases the cost per person.

According to Mr. Huddleston, additional Federal funds were available but are not being claimed by the State. Oakland County would have had 55 per cent more funds for rehabilitation this year if state funds had been appropriated to earn the total federal funds available through matching.

The expenditures in Oakland County, Mr. Huddleston explained, were for the following services:

1. Medical examinations and other diagnostic services to establish the disability and measure how much it limits a person's activity - $5,063.

2. Treatments, including medical and surgical services as well as hospitalization, to correct defects or lessen disabilities that interfere with working - $2,984.

3. Appliances, such as artificial arms or legs, crutches, braces, and hearing aids -$17,078.

4. Hospitalization, for correction of defects - $4,948.

5. Training, in school or on the job, to prepare a person for suitable work in spite of a disability - $23,810.

6. Other services, such as tools and transportation - $8,561.

The total expenditure, $62,525, brings a major benefit to the Oakland County area. Mr. Huddleston pointed out that the average weekly earnings of people rehabilitated in Michigan last year was $54.60. Before rehabilitation, they earned $8.61. Applied to Oakland County, this indicates an estimated annual increase of $487,500 in wages earned by the 195 persons rehabilitated here, he commented.

According to Mr. Huddleston, there are $562,000 in federal funds for Vocational Rehabilitation that Michigan has not claimed this year because the state appropriation was not large enough to match them. The disabled of Oakland County are, therefore, only receiving about two thirds of the services this year that would have been possible with an adequate matching state appropriation. These services result in such gains in earning power in the community that everyone in the county would benefit if the state appropriation next year is sufficient to claim the maximum federal grant.

Persons wishing information or services from Vocational Rehabilitation can reach James V. Huddleston, field agent, on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Employment Office in Royal Oak; call Lincoln 1-2113.

Sewer Plans to Be Done Jan. 1

Plans for the Farmington interceptor sewer are expected to be ready by Jan. 1, Oakland County's Dep't of Public Works announced last Thursday.

It is expected that a court case to test validity of the bonding program will be started soon, to insure sale of the bonds by the county when plans are completed.

Recently officials of Farmington, Southfield and West Bloomfield Townships, and the City of Keego Harbor signed the agreement with the county under which the interceptor sewer will be built. Each governmental unit will pay its proportionate share of the bond costs, and charge it back to the users.

Four Injured In Car Accidents

Three persons were injured last Wednesday when a car operated by Marjorie Smith of Wayne rammed into the rear of Detroiter Robert Blough's auto on Grand River near Mayfield.

Mrs. Smith suffered chest and nose injuries and Blough injuries to his neck. Laura Glidden of Walled Lake, a passenger in the Smith auto, received leg injuries and bruises.

Joan Sharon Doyle of 21302 Renselaer, Farmington, was hurt when her car rammed through a barricade on eastbound Grand River near Springbrook early Tuesday morning. She was taken to Redford Receiving Hospital suffering from shock and minor bruises.

Start Planning Next Year's "Our Town Day"

The Farmington Area Community House Association has already started plans for "Our Town Day" in 1958. Committees will be formed in the near future and workers will be needed, officials commented.

At the last meeting of the F.A.C.H.A. a site committee was also appointed to investigate the availability of property in the Farmington area for a community house.

The next meeting of the association will be held on Monday evening, December 9, at the Dunsmoor's home.

Water Petitions Being Checked

Signatures on the petitions for water service in the "dry area" in southeast Farmington Township are now being checked by Burton Abstract Co.

More than 50% of the deedholders had to sign the petitions in the various districts to give authority to the township to go ahead with the water service plans.

Upon certification of sufficient signatures, the Township's legal counsel will begin the problem of setting up legal machinery, and the engineering planning can start.

Children's Matinees Planned for Nov. 30

Plans are now complete for a special entertainment program for children on Saturday afternoon following Thanksgiving, November 30.

The Ten Mile Parent-Teachers Association, under the direction of Duncan Carter, will present two matinee performances of Walt Disney pictures for the children.

The program will include "Dumbo" and Walt Disney's "Parade" which is a collection of cartoons. The first performance will be at 1:00 p.m. with a second to follow at 3:00 p.m.

The pictures will be shown at the Junior High School gymnasium. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Early Deadline

Because we at The Enterprise are all looking forward to that big Thanksgiving turkey dinner next Thursday, the same as you, the paper will be coming out a day earlier next week.

In order to have the paper delivered Wednesday, both advertising and news material copy deadlines must be moved up a whole day. The deadline for display advertising and news stories will be 12 noon on Monday. Classified advertisements will be taken until 10 a.m. Tuesday.

We request that as many advertisers and persons handling publicity as possible try to get material to us prior to noon on Sturday in order to avoid a heavy overload of work on Monday and Tuesday.

To Hear Talk on School Financing

School Board Treasurer Leland Clifford and Superintendent G. V. Harrison will represent the Faumington School District at a joint conference of the Michigan Association of School Boards and Michigan Association of School Administrators.

"Financing Michigan Schools" will be the major topic for the fifth annual conference to be held at Michigan State University December 2 and 3.

The panel on financing will present the views of Lynn Bartlett, state superintendent of public instruction; Superintendent Samuel M. Brownell, Detroit; Superintendent Benjamin J. Buikema, Grand Rapids; State Senator Frank Beadle, St. Clair; and other leaders in education and government.

It is estimated that teams of superintendents and school board members from an estimated 100 school districts in the state will attend the conference to be held at Kellogg Center.

Ten Mile Unit School Addition Contracts Let

Contracts for the construction of a substantial addition to the Ten Mile elementary school and the complete remodeling of the east unit on the site were awarded by the School Board Monday evening.

A multi-purpose room and eating area will be constructed at the rear of the west unit and a connecting corridor run between the east and west units. Remodeling work to be done on the east unit will include the installation of a new heating system, and ceilings and the resurfacing of the floors.

A drive will be constructed along the east side of the building to a parking area in the rear. Existing drives and the parking area will be resurfaced.

The general contract was awarded to T. J. Keim for $117,797. Magnolia Heating Company was given the mechanical contract for $32,666 and the J.J. Campbell Electric Company the electrical contract for $13,429.

U.F. Drive Goes Well Over Top

Total contributions for Farmington in the 1957 United Foundation Torch Drive had climbed to $25,252 as of Tuesday morning, Louis C. Lundstrom, region drive chairman stated.

This puts Farmington $3,547 over its goal of $21,705 set at the beginning of the fund raising campaign.

A breakdown indicated that $10,262.91 had been collected from industrial firms and business places and $13,805 in the door-to-door residential drive. Contributions from schools in Farmington totaled $1,002.09 with $182 being collected from employees in governmental units here.

Funeral Held Tuesday for Longtime Township Official, Harry McCracken

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon for Harry N. McCracken, prominet life - long resident of Farmington Township who devoted more than 50 years of almost continuous public service in his full and long life.

Officiating at the funeral services held from the Spencer J. Heeney Funeral Home was Reverend Russell Sursaw of the First Methodist Church of Farmington. Interment was in North Farmington Cemetery.

McCracken, 92, passed away Saturday at his home at 35720 Twelve Mile Road at Drake Road on the same family property where he was born in a small log cabin on July 14, 1865.

A MAJOR portion of Mr. McCracken's life was spent as a governmental official in Farmington Township. The last position which he held was that of Township Clerk, an office which he held continuously from 1935 until the time of his resignation in January 1956. During his long service as a township official he also served as Township Supervisor and Justice of the Peace.

McCracken received his early education in one of the Township's public schools. He then went on to complete his formal education at Ypsilanti Normal College and Valparaiso University.

FOLLOWING graduation he returned to Farmington where he taught for six years until his advancement as Farmington's first school superintendent, a position he held for seven years.

From 1900 to 1902, McCracken was editor and publisher of The Farmington Enterprise. He became actively engaged in farming on the ancestral homestead in 1902 and maintained that interest until his death.

He still found time, however, to serve two terms in the State Legislature in 1904 and 1906 and also to serve as the first Agriculture Agent in Oakland County.

Left to survive are three sons, Howard W. and Donald E., both of Farmington, and Harold M. of Detroit; a sister Mrs. Arthur Green of Walled Lake; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Two Fires Break Out In Township Monday

An old, unoccupied home on Nine Mile Road just west of Gill Road burned to the ground Monday afternoon.

By the time firemen arrived the flames were raging out of control. The cause of the blaze was not determined.

Another fire at 22516 Haynes Street around 8:30 p.m. Monday night was confined to the furnace area where the blaze originated. Only slight smoke damage and minor damage to the furnace was reported.

Students to Run City Government

Members of the Farmington High senior class will take over the positions of Farmington city officials on Tuesday, November 26, to gain practical knowledge of government operations.

This marks the third year that a special Student Government Day has been set aside for this purpose.

Students to serve in the various city governmental positions were elected by members of the senior class at a mock election held Monday.

THOSE students elected to administrative positions will meet with the city officials for the offices they were elected to fill and spend the day observing duties performed by them. Students elected to legislative positions will be taken on a general tour of city facilities and also have an opportunity to observe city personnel at work.

Student officials will be guests of the city for lunch. In the evening they will be feted at a dinner sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. It was through the efforts of local Kiwanis Club members that the practice of setting aside a Student Government Day annually was started in 1955.

STUDENT administrative officials and the offices they will hold are: Pam Chapman, city manager; Dick Fosmoen, engineer; Linda Clarke, attorney; Mary Durfee, treasurer; Cynthia Scully, clerk; Ed Fulton, judge; Sig Whitehead, superintendent of water and sewers; Sharolynne Brown, superintendent of public safety; and Dean Bradley, superintendent of public works.

Named to the city council were: Ross Byron, Dave Catherman, Ron Jordan, Preston Ports and Ben Riding.

Rezone Hearing By City Monday

A public hearing on rezoning of the Crossett property will be held next Monday evening at 7 o'clock prior to the regular council meeting.

This property is located north of the parking area for Farmington Shopping Plaza, southwest of the Shiawassee and Mooney intersections. The request is to rezone it commercial so a shopping center may be built.

The council also expects a report from Architect John Allen and several Warner Farms Subdivision owners who were attempting to iron out minor differences on rezoning north of Slocum, so that three apartment houses can be built there.

Police Sergeant Exams Taken

A sergeant in the Farmington Public Safety department will be named the fore part of next week, effective Dec. 1.

Five members of the department who now have the necessary second class rating took the examinations Tuesday.

The Public Safety department operates in three shifts. It now has a director, Joe G. DeVriendt, one Lieutenant and one Sergeant. With the change there will be either a Lieutenant or Sergeant in charge of every shift.

3-Year Plan to Be Announced Before Dec. 2nd

How Oakland County's coming three-year road building program will affect Farmington Township was indicated tentatively Monday evening by Paul VanRockle, County Highway Engineer.

He spoke at the maintenance roundtable sponsored by the League of Subdivision Associations, as part of a three team panel of county officials.

SERIOUS consideration is now being given the final plan, Mr. VanRockle said. The County Road Commission hopes to announce the complete plan on Dec. 2 or before.

It is fairly certain a four mile stretch on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Haggerty will be paved.

CONTEMPLATED also is extensive rebuilding and widening of both 12 Mile Road and Middlebelt Road. The Middlebelt work may be done from Grand River north to Northwestern Highway.

It had already been announced that Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 12 Mile Roads would be paved next summer.

Also under consideration is elimination of the sharp curves north of 10 Mile Road, and paving between 12 Mile and 14 Mile Roads. If the latter is in the announced program, it will probably be graded in 1959 and blacktopped in 1960.

THE SECOND panel member, Oscar Loomis, County Superintendent of Maintenance, reminded property owners that it is absolutely necessary to obtain a permit before doing any work on a road right-of-way.

He also explained that keeping drainage ditches open was one of his department's greatest difficulties with subdivision roads. The property owner can help by not allowing obstructions to collect in his ditches because good drainage is a prerequisite to good roads, he stated.

WAYNE SIEFERT, Oakland County Agricultural Agent, in his panel discussion, offered the publications and the services of the Michigan State University Extension Service to the subdivision associations.

He also discussed the diagnosing and treating of Dutch Elm disease, the control of crab grass and the Extension Service recommendations on desirable shade trees for this locality.

FROM HIS experience as chairman of a very active committee in his own subdivision, Elliot Rogers, League President, outlined the organization and operation of maintenance committees.

He stated that successful achievements of the committee depended not only on a worthwhile plan of action, but also on gaining the interest and participation of all the residents.

The meeting was ably moderated by Bernard Cantor, League Vice-President, and included discussion and questions by the officers and maintenance committeemen of the member subdivisions.

Langwald Plans Service Stores

The new building to be erected north of the Kroger store in the Farmington Shopping Plaza will house several service stores, it has been announced by Philip Langwald, developer.

He said there have been requests for such stores at the Plaza, and that the building would house from three up to five or six, depending on the type. Stores of this classification would include beauty and barber shops, repair shops, etc.

ANNUAL ELECTION

The annual election of officers for the Baseball for Boys organization will be held Tuesday, December 3, at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Senior High school on Shiawassee Road. All fathers interested in the summer baseball program in Farmington are invited to attend.

AROUND THE BLOCK

Rifles began resounding throughout Michigan early last Friday morning as deer season officially opened and before noon of the same day hunters began trickling in to have their prize possessions cut up and stored at the Conroy's Market Locker Plant. Tracy Conroy and his employees have since been working night and day to keep up with the steady flow of deer coming in. As of noon Wednesday it was reported that a total of 104 deer had been brought in for processing. Nearly half of this total, 49, were brought in on Monday.

There's always some good stories come out of the deer hunting season, some of which are true, of course. One of the barbers at Ken and Pete's shop on Grand River is taking quite a kidding from friends. He drove north Saturday night, then Sunday morning took up a post to wait for deer. Trouble was, he leaned back against a tree and finally went to sleep. Slept most of the day away, and didn't see anything—except maybe in his dreams. Many people, like Township Clerk Floyd Cairns, came back empty handed. Architect John Allen also made a dry run, but he says he got a good rest out of the trip, anyway.

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