

# Says Water Change Should Require No City Tax Levy Hike

This is the third in a series of articles giving details about the City of Farmington's proposal to convert to a Detroit type water supply. City voters will be asked to vote on the proposal on Monday, April 11, to cast ballots on a \$250,000,000 general obligation bond issue proposal to finance the proposed conversion.

What is this proposed quarter of a million dollar project to convert Farmington City to a Detroit water supply going to cost us as individual taxpayers?

This is a question that has been asked and is continuing to be asked and discussed by residents in all sections of the city.

The actual cost for each individual water user will be determined on the basis of the assessed valuation of the property which you own. The rate needed to meet principal and interest payments on the general obligation bonds which are proposed to be sold would be included as a part of the total city tax levied, City Manager Earl Scherffius explained.

The advantage of financing a project of this kind by selling general obligation bonds is that a lower interest rate can be obtained, he said.

If this is the case, then just how much of an increase can we expect in the city tax levy of 12 mills (\$12.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) which we paid last summer if the general obligation bond issue proposition is approved? This is the next logical question.

"It is not anticipated that any increase in last year's 12 mill levy will be necessary to meet principal and interest obligations on bonds sold," was the city manager's answer.

Exactly what the city tax levy will be this year has not yet been determined but it has been estimated that the rate can be lowered enough to offset the rate which would be needed to meet obligations on the proposed bond issue. The proposed operating budget for the coming fiscal year will be submitted to the city council for action April 4 (a week prior to the date of the special election).

Based on an estimated total assessed valuation of \$18,000,000 for the city, \$18,000 would be raised from a one-mill levy. It has been determined that this amount would be sufficient to cover payments on the water project bonds to be sold for the first year.

The \$18,000,000 estimated assessed valuation was termed "conservative."

But, what about the years hereafter? On bond retirement schedules, interest rates go down each year but the payment requirements on principal go up more. Does the fact that total payments on bonds sold will go up over the first year in years immediately following, the city manager expressed confidence that no more than a one-mill levy would be necessary each year. Increased growth in the city—industrial, commercial and residential—will boost the total assessed valuation enough so that no increase in the rate should be needed, in the opinion of Manager Scherffius.

For what period will we be paying on the proposed bond issue?

It is expected that the bonds will be sold so as to be paid off in either a 15 or 20 year period.

The bonds could be sold so as to be paid off in a shorter period of time but a higher interest rate would probably be necessary, Manager Scherffius said.

Even though bonds are sold for the longer period, however, they can be paid off sooner. Some of the bonds to be paid on during the last years are made callable. Thus, if enough extra money is raised from the established rate during the earlier years on the scheduled rate, it is expected to call outstanding bonds at the end of the schedule, the city administrator explained.

What would the actual cost figure out to for the average water user, including both principal and interest, to pay up on the proposed \$250,000 bond issue?

Figuring that the bonds would be sold on a 15 year period.

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## Farmington Boasts Two Speed Skating Champs

Farmington has suddenly become a prominent name in the state in the sport of speed skating.

Just two weeks ago at the state indoor speed skating championships at Lansing, Dr. Mario Trafletti, the Farmington dentist who is generally considered the finest indoor skater ever developed in Michigan, came out of retirement from competitive skating to capture the men's 500 yard title. Trafletti set new records in the 400 and 500 yard mile while amassing a point total double that of his closest rival.

Winning the state juvenile boys (age 12-13) title for the second consecutive year was Bill Freeman, 2551 Crystal Spring Court, Farmington. Bill skated the 400 in 45.1 seconds, shattered an existing 12 year record by a half a second.

BILL SOARED to even greater heights last weekend as he journeyed to Rockton, Illinois and emerged victorious in the National indoor meet. The Farmington Junior High School youngster won his title, the 400, and placed second in the 200 and 800 yard races, a total of 11 points, four better than runner-up Al Sanger of West Allis, Wisconsin.

During his competitive skating career Trafletti has won all the local titles for two years to become the youngest sectional and national champion. His greatest thrill was taking the North American outdoor championship in 1947 at the age of 18 to become the youngest skater ever to win a national



FARMINGTON'S SKATING dentist, Dr. Mario Trafletti, is shown with one of several trophies accumulated during his career as a speed skater.

title in senior men's competition of the New York "Invitational Race of Champions." Trafletti has won the state indoor championship seven times (1941-42) and is a two time (1941-42) and is a two time

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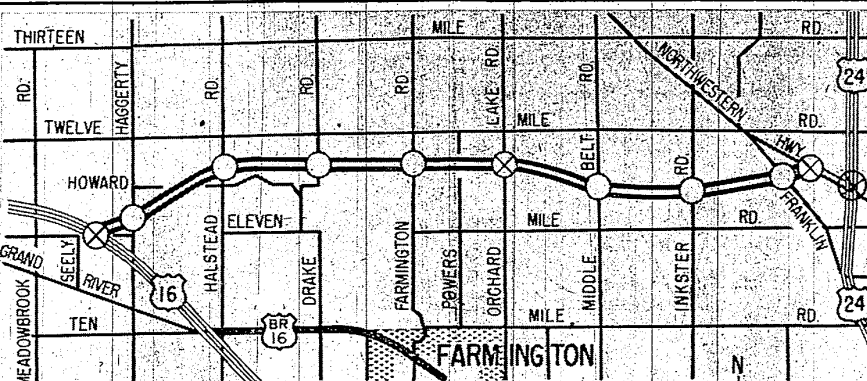
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SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR — NO. 25



THIS MAP SHOWS rather generally the route of the proposed 11 1/2 mile Road Expressway from Telegraph Road in a general direction westward to its point of connection with the Farmington-Brighon Expressway. The plain dots at crossroads indicate proposed separate points where bridges will be built to permit cars to pass under the super highway. The dots with Xs in them indicate proposed interchanges where motorists will be able to get on and off the expressway. This portion of the expressway is scheduled for completion sometime in 1962. It is planned to extend this limited access highway eastward to connect with the Edsel Ford Expressway. This eastern leg is slated for completion in 1967.

### Face Is Red!

It's impossible to do but we said it, we saw it.

In an article in last week's paper on registration for the special city election April 11 and where and when absentee ballots could be picked up, we recorded a real dandy.

According to our account absentee ballots were to become available March 21 and could be picked up at the Municipal Building. This part is correct. But where we really "goofed" is on the deadline we set. Instead of saying the final date for picking them up would be Saturday, April 9, we went back one whole month and said March 9 instead.

### R-1-O Zone Talk Slated April 4

The establishment of a new R-1-O Office District Zone for certain areas in the City of Farmington, as recommended by the planning commission, should be ready for Council action by its next regular meeting.

Discussed briefly at the Council meeting Monday night, Councilman Wilbur Brotherton, a member of the planning commission, stated that it was the feeling of that body that a zone of this kind was needed badly. The council gave instructions to have a finished draft of the proposed ordinance which would accomplish this ready for discussion by the April 4 meeting.

### May Take City To Court On Basement Issue

The question of whether or not basements should be permitted for homes proposed to be built on the low ground in Twin Valley Subdivision will probably be settled in court as the result of action at the Farmington City Council meeting Monday night.

Worried over the fact that the Council's final split decision was to deny the developers' request that basements be allowed in this development north of Shawwassee along Farmington Road.

AT THE REGULAR City Council meeting this Monday night, the subdivision developers were once again back before the Council with their attorney, Burt Holzberg.

The council wanted additional evidence which would give more assurance that basement flooding would not occur. The developers were equally as insistent in wanting to know why some of the councilmen were not willing to accept engineering facts to bear out their claim that basement flooding was not likely.

"Based on the best engineering evidence we can give to you and based upon the advice of your own engineer, there is no need to fear flooding of basements," Attorney Herzog said. HEZKOC ALSO pointed out that the developers would stand to lose as much as \$45,000 by not being permitted to have basements in the homes on the low ground. We will have no recourse but to start legal action against the city if a decision to allow basements is not reached, he stated.

A proposal to delay action on other two weeks was not agreeable to either the developers or their attorney.

The same motion that was offered two weeks ago, calling for basements to be permitted providing certain restrictions were complied with, was put to a vote again. Councilman Wilbur Brotherton and Mayor Robert Lindbergh voted for it. Councilmen V. O. Bates, Hugo Peterson and Howard Thayer, however, held firm in their opposition to approval.

At the last board meeting Brennan was requested to check with the Department of Agriculture, administrator of the dog act, to clarify a meeting for deputizing local police officers.

Brennan will meet with Township police officers tomorrow morning at 9 a. m. to present the legal aspects of the dog act.

The annual Township meeting has been set for 2 p. m. Saturday, April 2, at the Duncel Junior High School.

### Some 11 1/2 Mile X-way Contracts To be Awarded Late This Year

Before this year is out contracts will be let for the first phase of construction work on the 11 1/2 mile Expressway, formerly termed Interstate Route 696.

This was the official word given by area officials of the State Highway Department this week.

The final big snarl in planning was untangled last week when the Southfield City Council gave its approval to that small portion of the route in their city running from Northwestern Highway westward to Telegraph.

FOR A PERIOD of nearly 18 months, the Southfield Council held off giving its approval while debating with highway department officials and among themselves over routes. Actually, the Council was not opposed to the route from Northwestern Highway westward. It was the route of a later proposed extension eastward from Telegraph Road to hook-up this expressway with the Edsel Ford Expressway that had Southfield councilmen concerned. Final approval for both the eastern and western legs was given a week ago Monday night in separate action.

"Bridge work on the 11 1/2 mile Expressway will be started first. Advertisements for bids are scheduled to be placed on November 9 with contracts to be let on December 3.

These contracts will be for all bridges from the western terminus at the Farmington-Brighon Expressway eastward to Northwestern Highway. Work will also include a start on a mass network of bridges and interchanges in the area around Northwestern Highway and Telegraph Road, according to the area highway department spokesman. The cost estimate set for this phase of the project is \$3,000,000.

THE CONTRACTS for grading and paving are to be let sometime during the first quarter of 1962, according to highway department's timetable. The cost estimate for this work is \$4,000,000.

Running across the entire width of Farmington Township between 11 and 12 mile roads, the expressway linking Northwestern Highway and Telegraph Road, according to the highway department's timetable. The cost estimate for this work is \$4,000,000.

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### Public Meeting on Residential Zoning Attracts Crowd of 300

An estimated crowd of 300 township residents turned out Thursday evening for the public meeting on proposed residential zoning changes held at the Duncel Junior High School.

Township Supervisor H. J. Brennan took the floor and presented a picture of the study and planning that finally resulted in the proposed zoning changes, as well as the legal aspects involved.

Industrial and commercial changes in the township zoning were made at an earlier date and were not included in the agenda.

CHARLES Lemay of the firm of Vilcan and Leman, Township planning consultants, then gave a detailed report on the proposed changes as well as the thinking behind each move. In general, the lot sizes have been somewhat reduced, reflecting the potential township population from 145 to 150 thousand, and to 120 to 125 thousand, Lemay said.

Lemay further pointed out that the ultimate zoning plan would call for 33 elementary schools in the township with the result in the children being within walking distance of the school they attend.

The proposed zoning changes leave 700 acres zoned industrial and 247 commercial. The planning board and consultants had originally set a goal of 1200 industrial acres but had to settle for less for the overall effect.

Require Treatment After Accident

Both Sarah Heinzman of Milford and William Konopacke of Madison Heights were treated for injuries at Beaumont Hospital following a recent accident on 12 Mile Road.

While passing another car, Konopacke's automobile spun and crashed into the car driven by Mrs. Heinzman. Township police rushed the pair to the hospital.

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### Delay Action on Metal Building

The request of the Nicholas-Dancey Co. for permission to erect a metal and wood constructed building on their property on Nine Mile just east of Gill Road is still under study.

This building is proposed by the company as a potato chip storage unit and a point from which small route trucks can be dispatched according to company officials, a building of masonry construction as called for by the city in all commercially zoned areas, can not be used.

Moisture resulting in such a building affects the chips, they said.

The long-range plan is that this building would be converted into a truck garage when the proposed potato chip factory is built on the ten acre site here owned by the Nicholas-Dancey Company.

The matter was first brought before the City Council two weeks ago. It was brought up again this Monday night at the City Council meeting.

Wilbur Brotherton, absent when the request first came before the Council, it was decided to delay any action for another two weeks. In the interim period councilmen plan to look at another building of similar construction in Taylor Township. They will also analyze more thoroughly what adverse effects, if any, a building of this kind might have in the immediate area where it is proposed to be built.

PUTTING the final touches on one of the many acts that will be featured in this year's musical show "Funnie Will" sponsored by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, have now been completed.

The entire show is being staged Friday and Saturday evening, March 25 and 26, at the Farmington Junior High gymnasium. Certain time both shows is 8:15 p. m.

A TOTAL of 45 acts and musical selections will be featured in this year's show, including solos, duets, quartets and variety of musical renditions. Show producer is Bob Hall. Co-directors are Frank Myrsk and Dan Kobman.

## C'ville School Voters Give Hearty Approval To All 3 Propositions

Clarenceville School District voters gave their wholehearted approval to all three proposals on the ballot at Monday's special school election.

A total of 589 turned out to cast their ballots. This is the heaviest vote cast on school propositions in the district in the past decade, according to Supt. of Schools Louis Schmidt.

Although it was a record vote, the total represents less than 20 percent of the total vote of voters in the district. There are over 3,000 registered voters in the Clarenceville district which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Township and Redford Township.

On the \$80,000 bond issue proposal 408 voters in favor of the issue and 174 against.

MONEY from this bond issue will be used to pay the cost of constructing additional classrooms and equipment these new school units and making improvements to existing school plants.

Plans for the first project to be undertaken with a portion of this money, an addition at the Clarenceville Junior High School, have already been completed, according to Supt. Schmidt. As soon as the bonds are sold, contracts for construction can be awarded, he said.

THE VOTE on the proposition to increase the total amount to be levied against taxpayers was 408 in favor and 174 by 2-mills; was 382 for to 195 against.

Plans on where a goodly portion of the additional money would be used, the approval of this proposition—approximately \$37,000—have also already been made.

A \$100 across-the-board pay increase for all full-time employees of the school district has been authorized. Teachers will reap a major portion of the increase. It will be the starting pay for teachers to \$4,500 yearly and increase the maximum on the salary schedule to \$6,000. For instructors, who make up the majority of the staff, the schedule will be \$2,000 higher.

THE PROPOSAL for reclassification of the district from third class to a district of the third class was carried by a 408 yes to 168 no vote.

The bond issue proposition was restricted in voting to property owners. On the other two propositions, all voters, whether they own property or not, were permitted to cast their ballots.

Prepared by Supt. G.V. Harrison and his administrative staff, the budget was turned over to the board last week. Hope was expressed that board members could complete their review of the budget and be ready for final discussion and action on it at the next regular meeting this coming Monday, March 26.

Approval of this or a revised operating budget will be necessary soon so that it can be included in the state law, the early part of April, Supt. Harrison commented.

The proposed budget calls for an expenditure of \$3,073,426 for operating during the 1960-61 fiscal year. Based on present projections, it has been estimated that this amount of income property coming in from local sources, such as taxes, and from miscellaneous areas to permit operating expenditures in this amount.

Efforts to operate within a balanced budget is the policy of the present school board and its administrative staff.

The proposed budget runs slightly higher than that under which the school system is being operated this year. Improvements in the salary schedule for personnel and an anticipated increase in enrollment were two reasons given for the need of additional operating funds.

### LaForge Rites Held Tuesday; Hit-Run Victim

Funeral services for William LaForge, Township water supply superintendent, were held Tuesday at 2 p. m. at St. R. C. Victor Halpho of the Grace Lutheran Church, Redford Township, officiating.

Mr. LaForge was struck by a hit and run driver last Thursday night while walking south on Inkster Road just north of Eight Mile. He died the following day in William Beaumont Hospital.

Orville Vader, 20045 St. Francis, the only witness to the accident, told township police that the hit and run car was a dark color but could give no further description. The car threw LaForge 50 feet and continued traveling south according to the witness.

Mr. LaForge, 21055 Inkster Road, Farmington, was born in Alpena November 26, 1891, the son of Alex and Anne LaForge. He was married to Alfred Burns November 8, 1919 and has been a Farmington resident for the past forty years.

Before his retirement Mr. LaForge was employed with General Motors as a tool maker. He had served in his present capacity as water superintendent for 10 years.

HE WAS a member of Clarenceville Lodge 427 I.O.O.F. and was chief patriarch of the lodge.

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Record School  
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