

# 1st Quarter Report Twp. Among Top Ten In Home Construction

Farmington Township jumped into eighth place among Detroit area communities in the number of permits for building permits issued during the first quarter of the year.

One hundred-six residential permits were taken out in the township this quarter, as compared to only 46 in the first quarter of 1939 when the Township was well down the list of greater Detroit communities in residential building.

## Hire Consultant With Hope of Better Rating

The overall picture, however, shows a marked decrease in building activity in Farmington, Oakland and Macomb counties. Only in the city of Warren, where 382 permits were taken, has there been a substantial building boom. Livonia, in the number two spot, had just 234 permits.

IN THE SAME quarter, last year four areas: Dearborn Township, Nankin Township, Livonia and Warren, all issued more than 300 permits while the tenth place Inkster had 114. This year tenth place Bloomfield Township issued only 81 permits.

Macomb County was the leading county in home building, topping the others in each of the three months. Much of the housing growth in Macomb County is attributed to the high total in Warren which accounts for 33 percent of the county total. Total of permits for the entire Detroit area amounts to 2,244, down about one third from 1939 activity. In recent years only the first quarter of the present rating has not been reflected in the general economic recession then taking place.

THREE OAKLAND County communities are among the top leaders in housing permitted during the first quarter. Along with Farmington Township in eighth place, Royal Oak took fifth position with 135 and Bloomfield Township had 81 and was tenth.

There were 14 residential permits issued during the first quarter in the City of Farmington and one in the Village of Wood Creek Farms.

## Mayor Will Be Staying Home

The City of Farmington will not be taking part in the Mayors Exchange portion of the Michigan Expo program next week as originally planned. City Manager Earl Scherffius disclosed Monday.

Mayor Robert Lindbergh was slated to swap places for a day with the governmental head of the Michigan Expo program next week in the southwest section of the city.

Last minute word was received from Lawrence's mayor, however, that he would not be able to take part. Manager Scherffius said.

## Treasurers Plan Meeting Tomorrow

The first board meeting of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, City and Village Treasurers will be held Friday, May 13 at Devon Gables.

Elise P. Avery, Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce secretary-treasurer of the organization.

## Brookside Group Cites Alleged Sub Violations

Several residents of the Brookside subdivision appeared at Tuesday's meeting of the township Board as they had one week ago seeking action on alleged violations of health and zoning violations in their subdivision.

Spokesman Andrew Young requested a letter from the township Board to the city of Farmington, Michigan, to the township Supervisor citing eight particular residents of his subdivision as violators, as well as the following reasons for the violations.

Supervisor Hall acknowledged receipt of the letter and advised that the action had been taken on each complaint. After considerable discussion on the progress of the action being taken, Trustee Wendell Brown made a motion that a detailed report be prepared for the next regular Board meeting. The motion was carried.

Young, at the meeting, made a statement that the Brookside violation be formally included in the agenda for the next meeting. The request was granted.

THE FIRST complaint in the letter of April 29 referred to the home of Henry Claybaugh, where the home has been retained undisturbed for the past five years while the family has set up housekeeping in the basement. Piles of debris such as old furniture, broken glass, concrete and miscellaneous trash are strewn over the lot in addition, there is no running water or inside plumbing.

Another complaint called attention to the home of Tracy Clark, where a partial addition was made to the power company for more than a year. There are also piles of debris in the premises and six sheds, one of which is properly used, the letter stated.

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## S. Farmington Ass'n Slates Sewer Talks

Sewers will be the discussion topic at a regular meeting of the South Farmington Township Civic Ass'n to be held next Thursday, May 10, at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Township Fire Hall on Wheeler Street.

An invitation is being extended to all citizens to attend.

Indications were given that a resolution would be offered requesting the Township Board to favorably consider a program of getting sewers constructed in all areas where need for them has been expressed.

## DR. MELVIN Goldman, Oak- land County Sanitarian, will discuss the need for sewers.

Township Clerk Floyd Cairns will outline the area to be served by the proposed Grand River Arm to the Farmington Interceptor and a Supervisor Curtis Hall will report on what must be done to get work started. He will also, reveal cost estimates. Donald Ringle from the Oakland County Dept. of Public Works will discuss sewer arm to homes, estimated costs for such work and how soon the work can be completed.

Persons wishing to circulate sewer laterals from the Grand River Sewer Arm are asked to contact Conrad Braseth, GR. 4-9605, immediately.

Hope was expressed by officials of the civic association that some estimated costs for bringing Detroit City water to "dry area" homes would be available by the time of the meeting.

## Seek Action to Change Zoning At Plumbing Co.

A letter from the attorney of the Allen Plumbing Company adjacent to the DeGeorge property, 2491 Haynes, was read and discussed at Tuesday's meeting of the Township Board.

The plumbing company had been granted a variance for storing plumbing materials inside the building. DeGeorge has been objecting to the storage stating much of it is outside the building. In addition, DeGeorge maintains that the building is unsanitary in that it has no plumbing facilities.

Supervisor Hall, in commenting on the letter from DeGeorge's attorney, stated that the plumbing Co. had until May 17 to install sanitary facilities according to a letter from Oakland County Health official, Goldman.

Township attorney Brennan expressed the opinion that Allen is within his rights on the zoning variance. Brennan was instructed to contact DeGeorge's attorney on the matter.

Township Health Officer, Dr. Sylvan Brennan, then questioned the date set by Goldman (Continued on Page 8A).



PICTURED ABOVE are the Farmington High School students who won awards at the annual Department Honors Assembly last Friday at the school. In the front row (left) are: Margaret Hanson, Carol Schramm and Kathy MacKichan, all art award winners; Carolyn Balman, dual recipient of a history and music award; and Muriel Dowling, music. In the middle row are: Sue Giffin and Brenda Johnson, music honors; Irene Hyland, English; and Bonnie Maki and Judy Cranfield, business and education. Top row: Dick Kerschner, band award; Al Thomas, Ed Morey and Bob Mazur, all industrial arts; and Ed Isari, mathematics award for a straight A average. Absent from the picture is Lesley Michila, winner of a history award.

## Experimental School Safety Project Set

A considerable amount of work has been going on behind the scenes in recent months in Farmington public school system. The work is being done to provide for the utmost safety of children walking to and from schools in the Farmington public school system.

INDIVIDUAL programs for each of the schools in the district are being worked out based on recommendations of the safety committee itself.

The committee is now ready to try out some of its traffic safety recommendations on an individual school basis, Donald Hossler, elementary school administrator on the committee, told the Board of Education Monday night. The Eagle School on 14 Mile at Middlebelt has been selected as the school for this experimental program.

One of the big safety problems in the vicinity of this school and several others in the district is being caused by parents coming to the school to pick up their youngsters, Hossler said. This is the opinion of both the safety committee and the AAA safety expert, he added.

ONE of the two requests of the Board by Hossler on behalf of the committee was that it authorize the sending of a letter to all parents having children walking to this school, urging them to permit their youngsters to walk whenever possible. Also included in the letter proposed to be sent to parents was a request that they follow specific safe practices when finding it necessary to pick up or leave their children off at the school. These practices were spelled out in the letter which the Board unanimously approved for mailing.

The second request was that safety patrol boys be allowed to be used off school grounds for this specific experimental program prior to the originally set date for an expanded safety patrol program to go into effect for the entire district.

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## Okay Change in Math Program

A proposed change in the mathematics curriculum at Farmington Senior High was given the blessings of the Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday.

Called for on an experimental basis for the next school year is the offering of a combination solid and plain geometry course in one year for better mathematics students. A year and one-half of study is presently needed to complete the two courses.

The class will be offered to tenth graders. Only those ninth graders who have obtained a B average or better in algebra will be permitted to take the course, however.

If the change proves successful, it will permit students more advanced in mathematics to take advanced courses, not yet offered, as 12th graders, it was indicated.

## Call for Vote On Salaries

In addition to selecting three members for the Board of Education, Farmington School District voters will be asked to cast their ballots on a special proposition at the general school election on June 13.

Voters will be asked to approve salaries of \$300 a year for each School Board member. This would amount to a total of \$2,100 yearly for the new seven-member board to be seated July 1.

Salaries of \$150 each yearly are being paid members of the present five-man board.

A motion calling for placement of the salary increase proposal to a vote of the people was offered by Treasurer Leonard Clifford at the regular Board of Education meeting Monday night and unanimously approved.

## Plan 13 Mile Road Repairs

Township Board members voted at Tuesday's meeting to appropriate \$11,400 for road improvements on 13 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road to Drake Road.

According to Oakland County Road Commission statistics, this is a heavy traffic area and should have immediate attention. The county will make an outlay of the Township for a total expenditure of \$22,800.

Indications were given, however, that work would be started up again at a rapid tempo as soon as the weather breaks. A construction crew is shown here doing preliminary work preparatory to the widening of Farmington Road from Shilohssee northward through Twin Valley Subdivision to Ten Mile.

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## Proposed Large 'Subs' Concern School Board

### Moving Ahead On Large City Parking Lot

Work is moving ahead on development of the large parking area called for in the southeast quadrant of the Downtown Farmington business district.

A considerable amount of earth for fill has now been moved into the area just east of Farmington Road and a short distance to the south of stores fronting on the south side of Grand River.

LEVELING operations will be underway in the near future although some of the work may be delayed for a short time until a new water main is put in through the parking area. City Manager Earl Scherffius commented.

The proposed large parking lot, which will accommodate over 400 cars, is being paid for on a special assessment basis by the owners of business property fronting on the south side of Grand River and those with property on the east side of Farmington Road south of Grand River. A share will also be paid by owners of the property on the north side of Orchard Street.

ALTHOUGH construction on the proposed commercial units to be built backing up to Orchard St. and facing onto the parking area has not yet been started plans are still firm, it was disclosed. Homes nearest to Farmington Road have already been razed to permit a start on construction at that site.

A new A & P Food Store is called for at the Farmington Road - Orchard Street corner.

First special assessment payments have now been received from all property owners to benefit directly from the new parking area, Manager Scherffius stated. The city is proceeding with arrangements to get bonds sold to finance completion of the parking lot and other improvements as called for earlier.

The area will be completely leveled and gravel surfacing put on yet this summer, the city manager commented, although blacktopping of the entire area may not be undertaken until next spring. Arrangements have been made to blacktop enough area to adequately serve parking needs for any stores put up along Orchard Street by the locally formed business development corporation, however he added.

## Review School Plans; Addition Gets Approval

Authorization to proceed in completing plans and advertising for bids for the construction of a six classroom kindergarten addition at the Wooddale elementary school was given at Tuesday's meeting of the Farmington Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday night.

The action came following a review of final plans and instructions calling for some minor changes. Most of the changes called for were based on suggestions made by the building sub-committee of the School Citizens Advisory Committee.

Thursday, June 2, was set as the date for opening bids. Although plans for the new junior-senior high to be constructed in north Farmington were not scheduled for discussion on the agenda, Trustee Vernon Fisher raised some questions relative to them. His biggest objections were to the size and general layout of the library and shop areas.

It was brought out during discussion that considerable study had been made relative to the layout of these two areas in earlier planning and it was felt that the layouts presently called for were the best solution without going into considerable additional expense.

Architects are now busy on working drawings and specifications for this building and should be submitting them for final approval by the Board in the near future. It was pointed out a short time ago that construction work on this new high school would have to get underway soon if it was going to be ready for occupancy by the start of the 1961-62 school year.

## Tag Sale Set This Weekend

Plans are now complete for the "tag" sale to be held in the community this weekend for the benefit of the Cystic Fibrosis Society, Inc.

The sale will be held Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, in the city. All proceeds will be used to continue research in an effort to find a cure for this dread childhood disease as well as providing funds for which to treat the thousands of youngsters presently suffering from it who are still alive.

In addition to the tag sale, canisters will be placed in business places throughout the community for your contribution during the remainder of May.

## Award Contract to Raze Band House

The old Farmington School District band house, located on Grand River Ave. at School St. will soon be a thing of the past.

A contract was awarded to the Star Wrecking Co. Monday by the Board of Education to tear it down. The Star Company bid of \$475 to do the job was the lowest of four submitted.

## Hire 8 More New Teachers

We're continuing to whittle away at the number of new and replacement teachers that will be needed to fill out the staff for the opening of the coming school year. Assistant Supt. Marjorie Van Ameyde told the Farmington Board of Education Monday night.

His recommendations for the appointment of eight new teachers was unanimously approved by the Board.

Van Ameyde indicated that all regular teachers have now been hired, but that there are still eight and that only one remains to be hired for the senior high. Still needed are 28 grade school teachers and six special education instructors, he commented.

to school and the vehicles were running again by the time schools let out in the afternoon. City police are seeking information on the vandalism that occurred at the bus parking area located next to the Farmington Junior High School.