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SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR—No. 26

## Assessed Value In City Climbs \$2 Million in '62

During 1962 the City of Farmington's total assessed valuation on both real and personal property increased by almost \$2 million, City Manager John Dipan reported this week.

The bulk of this increase was the result of new commercial and industrial construction during the past year, the city manager said. A number of new stores were built as well as two or three industrial plants being put under construction which provide a valuable tax-base for any community.

At the beginning of 1962 the city's total assessed valuation was \$20,546,000. The total assessed valuation has now been set at \$22,620,000 which is an increase of \$2,074,000.

A BREAKDOWN shows that the bulk of the gain in valuation was in real estate valuations. The hike ran \$1,648,410. The remaining \$227,790 was additional assessment on personal property which includes plant and store equipment and inventories of stock.

Based on last year's tax rate, it will mean approximately \$23,000 more coming into the city, in taxes.

Since the state equalized valuation of the city has not yet been set it is impossible to determine just how much more tax revenue this will bring in for the school district and the county. Both school and county taxes are levied on state equalized and not assessed valuation.

If the city's equalization factor is set about the same as last year's, the state equalized valuation will run about 10 percent higher than the assessed valuation.

## Designate April as Cancer Control Month

A request from the National Cancer Society requesting the city to declare the month of April as cancer control month along with other communities across the country was unanimously approved by the Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

Before the action was taken a check was made to determine whether this would conflict with earlier Council action giving the Michigan Cancer Society exclusive rights to conduct a door-to-door fund raising campaign in the city.

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SIXTEEN PAGES

## Ask Council For Better Buffer From New Plant

Gary Lichtman of 3272 Meadowlark St. and Elmer Blatz, a nearby neighbor, appeared at the City Council meeting Monday night to request that steps be taken to provide a suitable buffer between their property and the new Chesley Industries plant property adjoining theirs to the south.

All that separates their property from the industrially zoned property at this time is a six to eight foot high fence. The two residents said. They stated that they were very much concerned over the fact that it was planned to blacktop a 13 foot wide alleyway between the industrial plant's side of the fence along

with the balance of the plant's parking area.

Both residential homeowners stated that the plant looms high above the fence as they look out from their property. Since the plant is only 75 feet from the fence line they were concerned with not only the poor view they have but also with adverse conditions caused for them by noise and lights from the plant. Another concern was with lights from cars and with safety if cars were allowed to park right up to the fence.

THEY ASKED that the Council reject the present plan to blacktop the easement and see if the owner would agree to planting some tall growing trees in the easement to provide a buffer between them and the industrial firm's property. Maintenance of the 15 foot easement could be taken care of by the residents on Xenos Road if the subdivision association was not willing to assume this obligation, Lichtman said. He indicated the residents might even be willing to stand some of the cost.

See BETTER BUFFER  
Column 3, Page 8A

## City, Twp. Now Have Absentee Ballots on Hand

Absentee ballots for the April 1 Biennial Spring Election are now available at the offices of both the city and township clerks and may be obtained anytime during regular office hours.

The last day for obtaining these absentee ballots will be Saturday, March 30. Both clerks will have their offices open on this last day from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. specifically for the purpose of issuing absentee ballots to those who find at the last minute that they will not be able to vote in person on Monday.

City Clerk Trina Quinn pointed out that voting by absentee ballot is a privilege and that only those who absolutely cannot vote in person on election day should apply for absentee ballots.

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## Lowland Filling Concerns City

Some concern was expressed by city councilmen Monday night with filling being done in the lowland area on the south side of Grand River Avenue at Nine Mile near the Rouge River. Much running through the area.

Question was raised as to what effect this filling might have in causing more serious flooding conditions further upstream in the city during exceptionally rainy seasons.

City Manager John Dinn stated that he didn't feel concerned that the city did feel it was causing any real problems in the city but that it could cause some serious problems for owners of homes in the lowland area nearby in the township.

It was pointed out that the township presently has no ordinance to control filling of the city and that it was causing adverse effects the only course of action would be to seek a court injunction to get the filling stopped, Manager Dinn said.

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## Second Hearing On Re-Zoning For Apts. Set

The City Council has set Monday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. as the time for a public hearing on the requested re-zoning of a parcel of land on the west side of Power Road just north of Grand River to permit the construction of approximately 56 more apartment units.

This approximately four acre parcel adjacent to city park is presently zoned single family residential. The owner and the developer of River Glen Apartments nearby, had a first hearing on this proposed zoning change before the planning commission last month.

At this first hearing strong objections to the zoning change were voiced by a number of residential homeowners in the area to the east and northeast of the proposed development. A study of the matter was made by the planning commission following this public hearing and last week the planners voted unanimously to recommend to the Council that it reject the zoning change.

DUE TO the fact that the planners were unanimous in their rejection of this change, Councilman Sandy Brotherton questioned whether a second public hearing before the Council would be necessary. It was

See APT. HEARING  
Column 6, Page 8A

## Cancel Monday Twp. Meeting

The regularly scheduled Monday, March 25, meeting of the Farmington Township Board has been canceled. It was announced Tuesday.

Some work by the township accountant has yet to be completed to close out the books for the past year and this must be done before a proposed budget for the coming year can be finalized, Supervisor Curt Hall said.

It was stated that a special session would be scheduled the last part of the week to take care of business matters on Monday's regular agenda as well as considering the proposed budget. It will be on either Thursday, Friday or Saturday, depending on when most of the Board members can get together, the supervisor said.

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## Council Supports Delos Hamlin In Actions On County Airport Matter

A concerted effort made by Councilman Henry Forrest Monday night to discredit Delos Hamlin for his actions on the County Board of Supervisors in connection with the proposed development of a county airport went for naught.

At Forrest's request Hamlin was invited to the meeting to bring councilmen up to date on what the county's thinking was on development of a county airport at the Allen Airport site which had been purchased by the county board earlier. Hamlin, who is chairman of the county board, is also the city's representative on this governing body.

For an hour and a half the county's expenditure of over \$350,000 for the purchase of the land for this proposed county airport was argued pro and con with tempers flaring on several occasions.

The climax came when a motion was offered by Councilman Hugo Peterson to give Hamlin a 'vote of confidence' on his actions on this and other matters handled by the county board.

The motion carried 4-1 with Forrest casting the only negative vote. A counter motion made by Forrest shortly afterwards asking that Hamlin be instructed to vote against any further efforts to develop a county airport at the Allen Airport site and also urge that immediate steps be taken to recover the money spent for the land got no support.

In his attack on Hamlin and the county board, Forrest quoted from several letters, including two or three from Congressman William Broomfield, in an attempt to prove that the county board had been misled by indications that Federal assistance to develop an airport at this location would not be approved. Experts from the Federal Aviation Authority made it perfectly clear to county officials that all sites which they were considering for a county airport were objectionable to some degree.

FORREST also charged that a secret meeting had been held in town by Hamlin and others favoring development of the Allen Airport site and that the mayor of Pontiac, chairman of the county board's airport committee, had not been invited.

Hamlin refuted this but did indicate that there was a meeting with Federal Aviation Authority officials in Kansas. It was not a secret meeting, he stated, and pointed out that the reason the Pontiac mayor was not present was because of the fact that this meeting was held after he was off the aviation committee.

He also refuted Forrest's charges about going ahead with the purchase of the airport property despite indications from FAA that they would not give Federal assistance for a large airport development at the Allen Airport site.

THE DECISION to buy property to develop a county airport was made based on the recommendations of experts that there was a real need for such following extensive studies of this matter by them.

Hamlin said. Several points to substantiate this claim were made by Hamlin. The Allen Airport site was considered to be the best of those considered, he went on.

A verbal opinion was given county officials on the airport committee by the FAA upon which would be given for Federal assistance in developing the Allen Airport site as a long range project, Hamlin said. It was on the basis of this verbal commitment that the county went ahead with authorizing the purchase of the land, he said. Political actions got involved and a reversal of the FAA verbal commitment was made, Hamlin stated.

HAMLIN said that no further plans are being made to develop the site as a county airport until such time as it is learned whether the FAA will certify this location so that it can qualify for funding from the Federal government.

See SUPPORT HAMLIN  
Column 5, Page 8A

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