

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township
FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1953



FARMINGTON'S HOST FAMILY for the foreign exchange student scheduled to attend classes at Farmington Senior High School this year is pictured above with Arthur Lamb of the Exchange Club and Mrs. William Parsons of the American Field Service Chapter in Farmington, which received a check for \$700

from the Exchange Club. Pictured (L to R) are Gary Lockwood, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Lockwood, Lamb, Mrs. Parsons and John Lockwood. The Lockwoods reside at 24496 Wisteria in Wagonbine Subdivision. They will have Giovanni Zibetti of Turin, Italy, as their houseguest for the coming school year.

No Objectors To Downtown Step Removal

The public hearing before the City Council Monday night on the necessity for substantial street improvements in the downtown Farmington business section including the removal of all existing steps proved to be nothing more than a formality. Not a single voice in the area where work is to be done appeared to voice any objections to the project or raise questions on details of the work planned to be done.

In addition to the removal of the troublesome steps between the road level and the sidewalk the project will include the installation of new sidewalk curbing and changing of the road grade.

THE LONGEST stretch to be improved will be on the north side of Grand River Avenue from Farmington Road eastward a distance of approximately 435 feet. The removal of steps and installation of new curbing is also called for around Farmington Road on west side and to the north a distance of about 100 feet.

At the southwest corner of the Farmington-Road-Grand River intersection the same work will also be done. About 170 feet of area fronting on Grand River Avenue is involved here.

Since there were no objections or questions raised on the project as proposed, the Council proceeded to adopt a necessary resolution to permit the administration to go ahead with other phases of the legal work required.

SINCE A portion of the cost will be paid by the benefiting property owners, a special Column 2, Page 3A

Zoning Hearing Set for Aug. 19

A public hearing on a zoning change for parking in a portion of the property now being used for parking and as an ingress and egress route east of the Van Furniture Store has been set for the next regular City Council meeting August 19.

The proposal is to re-zone 20 feet adjacent to the furniture store for parking leaving another 20 feet as an access route to be purchased by the city.

Donald Wingard, local dentist, has purchased the small Pauline Estate building to the east and has stated he wants to buy four feet adjacent to it for a walk. He has agreed to provide required street parking to the rear of the building.

City Manager John Dinan said that he felt there was enough for an ingress and egress route if the council goes ahead with the land right - of way purchase which now appears it will.

Highmeadow School Opens Temp. Office

The Highmeadow Elementary School office is being temporarily located in the Middlebelt Elementary School while workmen complete construction details on the new school building in Holly Hill Subdivision.

Information concerning registration of students at Highmeadow can be obtained by calling the temporary office, MA. 6-3166. Mr. Don Hossler, principal at Highmeadow expects the new school to be ready for occupancy for the beginning of classes this fall.

Select Host Family Here For FHS Exchange Student

Farmington's American Field Service Chapter announced this week the selection of the host family where the foreign exchange student slated to attend classes at Farmington Senior High School will reside for the coming year.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Lockwood of 24496 Wisteria Drive in Woodbine Subdivision Farmington, were selected by the local AFS Chapter as the host family for

17-year-old Giovanni Zibetti of Turin, Italy.

THE LOCKWOODS have two sons, Gary and John, who both attend classes at Farmington Senior High School. John is 18 years old and will be a senior at FHS this fall. His brother, Gary, is 16 years old.

Both Gary and John were members of the Farmington High championship track team this past year. They both com-

pete in the same track and field events and have been mistaken for one another.

The fact that both young Lockwoods are fine athletes contributed a great deal, according to local AFS Chapter president Mrs. William Parsons, to their family's selection as the host for the visiting exchange student.

GIOVANNI has indicated he is interested in athletics and plans to report to coach Forry Kennedy next spring on the Falcon track team along with Gary and John Lockwood.

The Italian youth will arrive in New York August 30 and will proceed to the Lockwood residence. He has written a check member of the host family explaining his interests and describing his native country.

Many of his questions were relative to what he could expect to find in Michigan that would contrast to his home town of Turin, Italy. Turin is the automotive capital of Italy and so Giovanni doesn't expect to find see EXCHANGE PUPIL, Column 6, Page 8A

School Book Stores to Open Wed., August 14

While your thoughts may still be on a vacation just concluded or one coming up, it's already time to think about getting books for your youngsters for the opening of another school year.

Again this year two book stores will be maintained and will both open on Wednesday August 14, of next week.

Both the main book store in the basement of the east unit at Farmington Junior High on

Thomas Street and the second store in the multi-purpose room at the Bond School at 19 1/2 Mile and Orchard Lakes will be open during the same hours and have the same books available.

REGULAR hours at the book stores are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday.

From August 16 through September 14, however, the stores will be open for longer hours on Fridays and on Saturday mornings from 9 o'clock until 12 noon. The Friday store hours during this time will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. except on the Labor Day weekend.

On the Labor Day weekend, the book stores will close at 4 p.m. Friday, August 30, and will not be re-opened again until Tuesday, September 3.

It was reported that copies of used book forms turned in by students will be kept at each of the book stores so that they can be credited on the new books they obtain at either location very easily. Students living in the north Farmington area are being urged to go to the Bond School store and those in the Farmington Junior High store. Used books available will be distributed equally between the two stores, it was emphasized.

SCHOOL officials reminded that all pupils will be expected to see BOOK STORES, Column 2, Page 8A

Boy Scout Hero Spurns Reward

A 16-year-old Farmington Boy Scout put to good use his life saving training this past week as he rescued three young children from the surf 200 yards off shore at Caseville, Michigan.

The parents of the children prevailed upon Thomas Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Phipps of 21708 Jefferson Street in Farmington, to locate their children after they discovered the group of youngsters they had been watching in the surf were not their own three children.

The 11th grade student at Farmington Senior High found the three children and returned them to shore, possibly averting a drowning tragedy. He identified a reward from the grateful parents, saying it was a 11 part of his training in Herbert Barmus's Boy Scout Troop 35 of Farmington. Tom has been a Boy Scout for five years.

To Take Out All Meters in City for Trial Period

All meters still remaining on Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road in the downtown Farmington business section will soon be coming down for a 90-day trial period.

Removal of the meters for this trial period was recommended by the city manager and sanctioned by official action of the Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

The matter was first brought up for discussion about a month ago and at that time the Council instructed the city manager to conduct a survey to determine how the merchants in the areas where meters are still up felt about their removal. Of a total of 28 questioned, 20 responded and 17 of this number stated they were in favor of having the meters removed. However, the city manager's report disclosed only two were opposed with the third business place being in favor but only the reserved parking spaces in front of the National Bank of Detroit were retained.

AS SUGGESTED by Manager John Dinan, the meters will not be removed for the trial period until work actually gets started on the elimination of the steps and installation of curbs on the north side of Grand River.

When the meters are removed, one-hour parking limits will be established to prevent parking at the curbs for extended periods of time. The fullest cooperation of merchants in reporting any drivers parking at the curbs for more than the limits will be necessary, City Manager John Dinan stated.

To Reconsider Bar's Dancing Permit Request

Reconsideration by the City Council on a request for a dancing permit for the Gay-Way Bar on the north side of Grand River Avenue just east of Farmington Road is the topic of a hearing to be held at the City Council meeting Monday night.

An earlier request for such a permit by Mrs. Kolakowski had been denied by the Council based on recommendations from the public safety department indicating they felt there was inadequate parking provided and that the establishment was not large enough. The Council did agree, however, to grant a special dancing permit for four holiday dates during the year.

IN A LETTER to the Council which was read at Monday night's meeting, Mrs. Kolakowski asked to be reheard by the Council. Present at the meeting, she was invited to present her case at that time.

She pointed out by her that a small vacant building next to the bar could now be opened into and this would allow more area for dancing. She also emphasized that the building need not be made up with any intent of having dancing with a live band every night or even every week but to allow a few couples to get up and dance to juke box music when they wished. Without approval of a dancing permit by the city, the state liquor control commission will not allow this, she said.

The chief concern of councilmen seemed to be with regard to parking controls. She had to leave after such a permit was approved if they decided to grant the same. Attorney Robert Kelly was of the opinion that present city ordinances gave the Council very little control.

THE FINAL decision was to let the matter stand. The district attorney and city manager to come up with a proposed ordinance which would give the city more control in the event it wishes to revoke such a license at any time when and if they felt there was just cause.

Middlebelt-Gd. River Traffic Controls On

The Oakland County Road Commission completed work this past week on the intersection of Middlebelt Road and Grand River Avenue in Farmington Township, installing new traffic signals and erecting no left hand turn signs.

Citizens' Plea Prompts Call For Crackdown on Speeders

A city-wide crackdown on speeders and reckless drivers will soon be getting underway if the wishes of Mayor Robert Lindbert, as expressed at the City Council meeting Monday night, are carried out.

The mayor stated that he was deeply concerned with the increasing amount of speeding and reckless-driving practices being reported in areas throughout the city. His feeling was that a concerted effort should be made to correct this situation and Councilmen Sandy Brotherton and Henry Forrest were in agreement with him.

Every effort will be made by the city to the additional expense of putting another patrol car on the road and providing additional patrolmen. Preliminary steps are going to have to

be taken, the mayor stated. While most seemed to be in agreement that a crackdown on speeders should be started, no official Council action was taken ordering such a crackdown.

Discussion on this matter was triggered by an appeal from residents living on Farmington Road and connecting streets in Twin Valley Subdivision for action to curtail speeding and reckless driving incidents on Farmington Road between Ten Mile and Shiawassee roads which cuts through their subdivision.

A letter from Henry A. Schmenk of the 241605 LeQuinnie Court in the subdivision reported the Council stated that cases of traffic violations and particularly speeding were becoming

increasingly worse on Farmington Road through the subdivision and that the situation deeply concerned him and his neighbors. The letter was quite critical of the police department's inability or unwillingness to control traffic within reasonable limits.

Not only Schmenk but several of his neighbors were at the Council meeting to express their views and discuss personally the situation with members of the Council.

As a result of Schmenk's letter which was submitted to the city manager the latter part of July, a speed camera speed count study was made on Farmington Road just below the hill at Ten Mile Road. The police department's several speed camera studies were exceeding the 25 mile per hour speed limit in this subdivision and that many were traveling at speeds far beyond reasonable safe speeds.

Numerous speed control recommendations were made by the police department for this short stretch of roadway. They included the establishment of a three-way stop at the Farmington Road-Ten Mile intersection and several signs to help regulate the speed limit but also warning of sharp curves, the steep hill and the fact that this was a residential area.

NO PARKING signs on Shiawassee Road in the vicinity of See SPEED CONTROLS, Column 6, Page 8A



A FAMILIAR OLD BUILDING gave way to progress this past week in the City as the Shoe Repair Shop located on Farmington Road at Grand River underwent remodeling. The 63-year-old building was torn down to provide parking space.

Old Building Razed In Business District

One of Farmington's older buildings fell victim to the wrecking crews this past week in the City as a remodeling program took shape at Andy Koukovich's shoe repair shop, 23704 Farmington Road.

According to City records, the building was constructed in 1900 and remodeled in 1923. Some believed the building to be even older. It was the last of the wooden frame buildings which once comprised most of the downtown business section in Farmington.

SHAY LOCAL buildings got their start at the Grand River and Farmington Road location of the old two-story frame building in recent years. The upper level has been used for apartments and the lower portion of the building has been a shoe repair store.

Actually, according to the City Assessor's plot of the building, there are two frame structures connected by an addition which fronts on Farmington Road. The addition is a single-story structure while the two older buildings, one fronting on Grand River now housing a barber shop and the other, Andy's Shoe Repair Shop, are two-story structures which were connected by the addition.

Some of the businesses which once occupied the building include a general store, dress shop, insurance agency, dry cleaners, watch repair shop, record and sheet music store, artificial florist, electrical shop, and tailor shop. It was reportedly once a state police post shed at one time a blacksmith shop.

Three businesses are now operating in the remaining portion of the building, a beauty shop, the barber shop and Andy's Shoe Repair.

THE DRIVER of the car was 21-year-old John F. Chapman of 16763 Rockdale in Detroit. His injured passengers included a brother, James, 19, R. G. E. Brown, 19, and Gary Avenue in Detroit, and Kate Wilson, 19, of 15068 Dolphin Street in Detroit. Chapman told Township Police he had been drinking.

A TWO-CAR collision at 10 Mile and Power Road in the Township-Saturday morning, August 4, resulted in serious injuries for Mrs. Jean Wiley, 58, of Southfield, who was a passenger in her husband's car. One of their three children in the car with them, 15-year-old Robert Wiley, was seriously injured. None of the occupants of the other car were seriously injured, although the two passengers were slightly injured.

See TEN INJURED, Column 6, Page 8A

COUNCILMEN GIVE VIEWS

Critical of Cleanliness in City

Councilmen Howard Thayer and Henry Forrest voiced sharp criticisms at the regular Council meeting Monday night on the cleanliness of the city. They urged that efforts be made to determine if there are not some steps that could be taken to at least get the worst conditions which now prevail corrected.

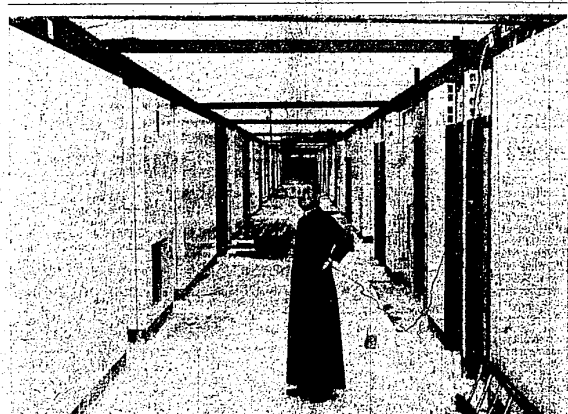
COUNCILMAN Sandy Brotherton admitted that the Township had already started a

crackdown of this kind and suggested that a check be made to see what procedure is being followed and what ordinances they are operating under to carry out this project.

Councilman Forrest was highly critical of the operations at the service station at the corner of Grand River and Oakland Street. He said that over the weekend he counted eight junk cars located around the station and that some were being cut up outside the premises. He was also critical of steam-cleaning work being done there on Sunday.

Forrest was of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to force the owner to clean up around the business establishment and conduct a cleaner operation in the future.

ALSO COMING in for criticism by Forrest was the unsightly condition at the small park site across Grand River in this general area. He questioned the city manager as to why debris was not being cleared away and the grass kept cut. The manager explained that not too much had been done at the small park site as yet due to the fact that a garden club project is already in the works to beautify the location at the corner of Grand River and Grand River. The councilman's criticisms prompted a question from the audience as to why brush and trash had not been cleared away from the small park area north of Shiawassee Road where the old McGee Hill bridge used to be. The Council instructed the city manager to look into the situation at this location and get done whatever clean up work is necessary.



THE NEW ST. FABIAN elementary school now under construction behind the parking lot within its walls. Although the building is slated for completion this fall, classes won't begin until the fall of 1955 due to the time needed to train the teachers who will staff the school.

12 classrooms, two offices, a clinic and library