

# The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal of Progress" Established 1888  
P.O. Box 435 23023 Farmington Road, Farmington, CT 06025  
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Represented Nationally by AMERICAN NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES.

## In Our Opinion . . . .

### Share Hospitalization Cost With Teachers

In a recent Farmington Education Association member publication a program which would spread the cost of hospitalization among members of families on the Farmington public school system's professional staff they have been discussed. This problem has to do with the fact that the Board of Education has not seen fit as yet to pick up a part of the cost which these family heads have to bear to provide adequate hospital and medical insurance protection for themselves and their families. It was stated that the FEA salary committee would make an all out effort during the current school year to convince the Board of Education that it should at least stand part if not all of the cost for health of families on the staff who must provide this kind of insurance protection for their families. The story in the bulletin emphasized the fact that most corporations and businesses of any size stand some if not all of the cost for hospital insurance programs for their employees. They also cited some area school systems which are doing so. We have never been strong advocates of a lot of fringe benefits for employees. We lean more toward seeing that they get a just pay for the work they perform and let them take care of any needs they feel they might have in the "fringe" areas themselves. In recent years, however, we have made one exception in our feelings on this matter and that is with regard to hospitalization insurance. We

### Many Years of Usefulness Yet

We were pleased to announce last week the official approval given by the City and Township to the purchase by the Masonic Lodge of the building at the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River. An old structure and a landmark in the community, the building is in a somewhat rundown condition right now. It sounds as though, however, Masonic Lodge officials plan to do some major remodeling and improving work on the building and grounds around it which should result in a substantially improved appearance. It will still be an old building and perhaps not able to offer all the latest facilities and conveniences that could be incorporated in a new structure but it surely doesn't have to become an eyesore such as many old area buildings have and we don't think the Masons intend to allow it to. Contrary to what some may have felt by things we said in the past, we never advocated tearing the building down because of a dislike for all old buildings. We still feel that a new community-center type of building at this location

### Looking Back in the Files

**5 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1958  
Student Gov't Day  
The Farmington High School took over the reigns of City government for a day this week and were treated to a display of what it's like to run the municipality. Fourteen Farmington High seniors, elected to offices by their fellow classmates, as a result of the election, were given the reins of City government. They were to be in charge of the city's affairs for a 24-hour period. The "mayor" was a student, and the "city council" was made up of other students. The day was a success, and the students showed a great deal of responsibility and leadership.

**10 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 10, 1953  
Withdrawn Charges  
In a closed door session of the City Council this week, City Manager James Tenhart formally withdrew charges against 27m.

**15 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 6, 1948  
Victorious Debut  
The Farmington Falcons traveled to victory over a hapless Wayne five in the season opener for both schools, 28-23, before a jammed packed crowd in the City Council this week.

**20 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1938  
Hospital Fund  
The St. Mary Hospital came a little closer to reality this week when the Star Cater Company of Farmington contributed \$6,000 to the building fund.

**25 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1938  
Goodfellow Paper  
The old newspaper of Farmington will be substituted on street corners throughout the community this Saturday to sell the special Goodfellow Edition of the Farmington Enterprise.

**30 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1933  
Annexation Vote  
Property owners in the City of Farmington and Floral Park Subdivision go to the polls to vote on whether or not the latter will be annexed to the former in a special election.

**35 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1928  
Twp. Barn Fire  
An early morning blaze which completely destroyed a barn on the farm of Jerry Carroll at 2749 Springdale in Farmington Township was extinguished only by loss of a live livestock due to quick action by firefighters.

**40 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1923  
Police Chief Joseph G. DeVriendt, Tennant stated later, he found his charges were based on information not true and final and agreed that the charges were dropped.

**45 Years Ago**  
DECEMBER 11, 1918  
Shifting Wall Case  
The case of the shifting wall at the O. E. Dunckley Junior High School continues to be a problem this week after a meeting Monday night of the School Board at which time a letter from the contractor involved stated the firm was adamant in its claim their was no fault on their part but unstable soil conditions which caused the wall to shift on its foundation.

## News From Briar Hill

**Toys Donated By Girl Scouts**  
Thanksgiving morning several girls of Troop 216, Junior Girl Scouts, under the leadership of Gail Goltra, presented Mrs. Sills of Beacon Dr. with an overflowing decorated basket of handmade toys for the children of the Plymouth State Home and Training School and the Leeper State Home and Training School. The girls spent many weeks in the preparation of the toys to fill the basket and in fashioning the toys. They had been in 'tin can caddies' which fitted with a huge red ribbon and gave to Mrs. Sills to add to her collection of bells. They also donated toys to the workshop where Mrs. Sills collects and refurbishes toys for the children in the homes. **THE SCOUTS ALSO** gave her a beautiful Christmas tree, decorated with their Troop or Treat bags and were joined in this gift by the Scouts of Troops 317 and 318. The girls of Troop 216 recently visited the animals at the Nankin Mills Nature Center and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the animals. They also donated some normally in the fields and woods of Michigan. Scouts who are members of Troop 216 are Alice Carley, Deanna Coine, Linda Crane, Ginny Edwards, Cindy Gearin, Glize Grant, Cathy Gollira, Debbie Heister, Debra Klingling, Susan LaBare, Peggy Kowal, Mary Lou Pappalardo, Holly Waters, Debbie Woodard and Diane Sabon. **IT** is our hope that Board of Education members will see fit to provide a hospitalization insurance program for their teachers who want and need it and will agree to pick up half the cost. Other types of fringe benefits such as a guaranteed number of sick days off with pay per year whether you're sick or not and 15-minute and longer coffee breaks both morning and afternoon we don't go for. We feel that hospitalization and medical program we do

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DODD**  
Bill's British-built Ford on Drummond Island.

**THE DEVILS** took their annual Thanksgiving trip to Bill's family's cabin on the Manistee River. While there, Bill did some hunting and they celebrated the twins' birthday. The party was held on Dec. 3 and each had a party. Jim's party was on his birthday and his guests were Dick Palmer, O'Neill, Wm. Corp, Bob Roe and Mike Turk. They roasted hot dogs in the fireplace and later Bill took the first P.J. party the following Friday. Bowling, dancing and the Limbo were enjoyed by Diane and Gail Denaro, Mary Lou Lewis, Patty Deas and Cheryl Moffitt. Wilma and Don Pratt, formerly of Old Bedford, send their greetings to friends by way of the Devils. Wilma re-

**THE HARDIN** children, who live in Mooney's former home, are making little figures from empty thread spools. They would appreciate any contributions. Complaints have been received about animals running loose. Will everyone please make an effort to keep their pets under control? If you are missing a hupeac, check with Lucy Andridge as one was found in her yard. Patricia Denaro's daughter just a pair of black suede shoes. She would appreciate a call if they were found.

**1763-Indian War** throughout the west of the Allegheny Mountains. Some of the fighting on Pontiac lasted 135 days. The British in Michigan except Detroit taken by Indians.

### PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication should be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

**Upset About Condition at Intersection**  
Dear Sir:  
I am a resident, living at 6124 West 8 Mile Road, about one mile west of the intersection of West 8 Mile Road and Grand River. As a matter of further identifying myself, I have been a resident of this area for thirty-five years and have tried to take my place in the community, advancing those things which are best for the culture and growth of the community and the one that will follow. At the northwest corner of 8 Mile Road and Grand River is a building station and garage, which I am sure is constantly violating the State, County and Township laws. The northern twenty-seven feet of 8 Mile Road has been sold to the State of Michigan for a widening project which has never been culminated. It would be of advantage to the motorist and to the safety of all who travel to broaden this highway; but this is not my immediate concern. Trucks, junk vehicles, and various other vehicles are constantly parked on the highway property, waiting for repair. I have watched the parking from time to time, and I have known and can copy the same position continuously for two weeks on state highway property. It is unsightly, it offers a traffic hazard, and it is something that should be definitely cleaned up. There is a landscape company right beside the garage and filling station combination, which is also guilty. They constantly park their trucks on State property. I am asking that you employ your good offices to do something about this if you feel, upon investigation, that the impression of Farmington Township, with Botsford Ltd. immediately across the street, and a new hospital, with all other courtesies respectable, that this is an eyesore. If you have asked county officials for years to do something about it, as well as the Michigan State Police, and I suppose it will take a lot of time before something is done about it. As a leader of the people, I believe these things cannot be done overnight. At the same time, I believe twenty years is long enough to wait. If it requires a petition of the people, I will take that you get that. On the other hand if it is a violation of the law, as a citizen of Michigan I would expect you to correct it. If I can be of any help, please command. Sincerely yours, E. Deane Elza, D.O.

### Meaning of Lights

The recent interview displayed by the Enterprise moves me to comment on the flashing red light intersection accidents such as those occurred at 8 Mile and Middlebelt, 13 Mile and Orchard Lake and 13 Mile and Middlebelt. The flashing red signal has a flashing red light and a flashing red light ahead, he thinks, "STOP—Red light!" and then when the red goes out he naturally and normally thinks the next light is a flashing red light. Therefore what with watching pedestrians, cross traffic, on coming traffic, the car ahead and perhaps the kids in the car, he has little time to see the red when it appears again. It is possible that we are overreacting to these circumstances, contributing to these accidents? Would it not be wise to try to assist the driver in differentiating between the flashing red and the flashing red meaning danger? I would suggest that the frequency of the flashing red flashes per minute, be increased so that there would be a rapidly flashing red or amber light of these frequencies. This would differentiate between the flashing red meaning "Danger Death" and the red that may change to green and allow one to coast ahead and not be hit by the following driver. And please use the red-green-amber type of light such as at 13 Mile and Middlebelt and 13 Mile and Orchard Lake. It is not that not a part time red-green operation and part time flashing. Make it red amber for the whole day. The only thing anything is usually just that. Part this and part that, and little of either. Now let's see some action. THE OBSERVER

### Elementary School Menu

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce  
Green Beans  
Jelly Cornmeal Muffin and Butter  
Fruit  
Milk  
Dec. 17  
Meat Loaf  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Buttered Carrots  
Hot Roll and Butter  
Appetizer  
Milk  
Dec. 18  
Grilled Cheese Sandwich  
Asparagus  
Orange Juice  
Celery Stick  
Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting  
Appetizer  
Milk  
Dec. 19  
Barbecue Turkey on Homemade Bun  
Yellow Beans  
Apple Crisp  
Milk  
Dec. 20  
Fish Sticks  
Parsley Potatoes  
Carrots and Peas  
Hot Roll and Butter  
Fruited Jelly  
Milk

ports that all of them are fine and are enjoying their new home. While Christmas shopping at Farmington Plaza on Saturday, Jan. 23, I saw a spider which snaggled one of the ping pong balls thrown out of the helicopter by the high flying Santa. The ball was cured in, it turned out to be worth fifty cents toward any purchase at Kresges. Merry Christmas Jimmy. Kaye and George Britton had an old fashioned New England clam bake on Nov. 30. They had a barrel of lobsters and a sack of clams flown in from the East. Their guests were business friends from Ford Motor Co. **PACKING DAY** at the Hedges was Dec. 4 and since Mary had to eat lunch anyway, Jan Patterson invited her to lunch at Westbrook coffee shop. Joining them were Marge Scott, Ruby Kennedy, Kaye Britton and Eloise and Rhonda Moore. Thursday, Dec. 5, saw the Hedges leave Briar Hill for their new home outside of Kalamazoo. For all those interested, their new address is 3311 Genesee Rd., Kalamazoo, Michigan. **JANUARY** MARK COPP, CHIEF OF POLICE, PALMER AND DAVID BABCOCK as members of Job Scout, Den 10 are Christopher Weber, Dan Crapker and Bruce Patterson. Chris and Dale are new to Scouting but Bruce transferred from Garden City, Mich. Friday, Dec. 6, Mr. Riley of the Enterprise took the Scouts on a tour of the Enterprise building. Helping Shirley O'Neill, den mother, was Sharon Palmer who replaced Fran Copp because of illness. **THE HARDIN** children, who live in Mooney's former home, are making little figures from empty thread spools. They would appreciate any contributions. Complaints have been received about animals running loose. Will everyone please make an effort to keep their pets under control? If you are missing a hupeac, check with Lucy Andridge as one was found in her yard. Patricia Denaro's daughter just a pair of black suede shoes. She would appreciate a call if they were found.

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Orange Juice  
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Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting  
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