

# FARMINGTON CITY NEWS

## The Farmington Enterprise

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TWENTY PAGES

# Twp. Fires Bldg. Dept. Inspector-Reinstate 4

The five suspended Farmington Township building inspectors had their hearing before a four-man committee of Township Board Trustees Monday night, December 20, and were all found guilty of being absent without leave December 9 and 10 and insubordination for failure to sign a time book instituted Dec. 2.

One of the inspectors, John S. Drury, 48, of 38475 13 Mile Road in Farmington, was discharged for "failure to conduct inspections assigned to him; gross misconduct; and gross dereliction of duty."

Drury, a plumbing inspector for the Township since 1956 and the leader in a current attempt to unionize the Township Building Department, had as spokesmen for his defense two union

representatives from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union, Local 1456, AFL-CIO.

THE TWO UNION representatives, field coordinator Walter L. Oliver and bargaining agent Clyde Alsup, also acted as spokesmen for the other four suspended inspectors, Gerald Banfield, George Crooks, Art Maki and Ray Melvin, who were re-instated with loss of pay for last week and two days of absence prior to their December 13 suspension.

Serving on the four-man committee for the Township Board were trustees Earl Oppenhausser (chairman), Arthur Bastien, Thomas A. Duke and Thomas R. Nolan. They deliberated for 30 minutes after the hearing was concluded at 11

p.m. on Monday night before announcing their decision.

Oliver and Alsup said following the decision of the Township trustees they would file Tuesday morning with the State Labor Mediation Board charges against the Township on both the week-long suspensions of the building inspectors and the firing of Drury.

THREE CHARGES were lodged against the building inspectors as a group with additional charges also leveled against Drury following the Township Board's decision at their meeting of December 13 to uphold Supervisor Curtis H. Hall's action in suspending them when they showed up for work Monday morning after being absent the previous Thursday and Friday.

At the request of the Township Board, Township Attorney Joseph T. Brennan prepared a list of charges against the men and served them. The four-man committee was appointed to hear answers to the charges from the suspended inspectors.

BRENNAN STATED in opening the hearing that should the committee rule out the charges against the inspectors they would be reinstated with full back pay. He emphasized that the purpose of the hearing was to hear from the men any defense they might have for being "absent without leave" on the two days prior to their suspension Dec. 13.

The Township Board, Brennan stated, was reluctant to take disciplinary action against the men without hearing their

defense. The suspensions were made on a temporary basis for a "breach of discipline," Brennan said, and it was the committee's job to find whether the men maintained each of the men "acted independently" in absconding themselves on the two days.

INSUBORDINATION charges, based on failure of the men to sign a time book instituted on December 2 for keeping track of hours put in on the job by the inspectors, were upheld by the committee which ruled the excuses made for refusing to sign the time book were "not valid."

The union spokesmen maintained Township officials instituted the time book procedure in an effort to "irritate" the in-

spectors during the period of bargaining talks aimed at reaching agreement on a labor contract. The bargaining talks on a labor contract have been in progress for the past seven weeks with Township and union officials meeting for half-day sessions each week up until last week's suspensions. Since the union has filed charges against the Township this week in protest of the suspensions and firing of Drury, bargaining talks will be stalled until the State Labor Mediation Board makes a ruling in the matter.

Leonard Bennett of the State Labor Mediation Board was present at Monday night's hearing as an observer.

THE CHARGES AGAINST Drury were based on plumbing inspection reports in the Build-

ing Department that some requests from builders for plumbing inspections had been "delayed" as long as six weeks creating a "backlog" of work in the department.

It was also pointed out by Township Trustee Tom Duke that inspections requested and not made within a 48 hour period are "approved by ordinance" since the Township Building Code Ordinance limits the time a builder can be delayed in waiting for inspection approval. This ordinance is a disservice to the homeowner and all Township taxpayers.

ATTORNEY BRENNAN also presented information obtained from the cities of Livonia and See TWP. INSPECTORS Page 8A

## Adult Ed. Winter Term Begins Soon

The Farmington Schools' Adult Education winter term begins on January 10. Director Dick Tyler urges advance registration inasmuch as many classes have limited enrollment and are filled by the first meeting.

"Blanks for registration by mail will appear in next week's Enterprise along with complete class schedules and course fees. Personal registrations will be accepted at the Adult Education Office, Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee, on January 5 and 6. Brochures will be going out to all former students and anyone wishing to receive one may call the office, 467-0810.

DIRECTOR TYLER reported that 806 students participated in 43 classes during the fall term. There were 139 students attending nine classes on Mondays, 140 students at ten classes on Tuesdays, 207 students for 13 classes on Wednesdays, 120 students in eight classes on Thursdays, 45 students who attended two classes on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and 153 students in the ski classes.

Categories of classes included high school and college credit classes, and non-credit classes in business, fine arts, crafts, homemaking, language and liberal arts, recreation, and health and safety education.

## Suggest More Recognition Of Honor Students

Herbert Neal, trustee of the Farmington Board of Education, presented to board members at a special meeting on December 20, some suggestions for greater recognition of honor students in the schools.

Neal stated that interest in scholarship among high school students might be enhanced by increased recognition of excellence in the following ways: increased recognition at meetings of the School Board; greater use of the school public address system; special awards established by the Board of Education; induction ceremony for National Honor Society designates, to be held at a time convenient for parents to attend; recognition of high scholarship on graduation day; multiple diploma system; and Honors Convocation (A c a d e m i c Award Dinner).

Board members made plans to hold a special study session with the high school principals to consider the suggestions.

## Enterprise To Be Closed Friday

The Enterprise office will be closed all day this Friday, December 24, to give employees a three-day holiday. News and copy normally brought in on Friday and Saturday may be dropped through the mail slot in the front door anytime during the weekend.



THE WATER HEARING STAGED in Farmington Township last Wednesday night attracted close to 100 residents interested in getting facts on extension of Detroit water into areas now being serviced by private wells and subdivision systems. Officials on hand to answer questions and explain water plans are pictured above (L to R) Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall, Trustee Earl Oppenhausser, Superintendent of Water and

Sewer for the Oakland County DPW Bud Corwin, and Trustee Thomas R. Nolan. Corwin, who led the hearing with his presentation of the county-operated water system and extension plans, is pictured pointing out the area of Farmington Township proposed to be serviced in the new water project which would be financed by the establishment of special assessment districts.

## Water Extension Plans Discussed

Farmington Township residents had an opportunity to ask questions of an authority on capital improvement projects at an open hearing on plans to extend Detroit water into areas now being served by private wells and subdivision systems. The meeting, attended by about 100 residents, was held in the O. E. Dunckel Junior High School auditorium last Wednesday evening, December 15.

Bud Corwin, Superintendent of Water and Sewer for the Oakland County DPW, presented the master plan for extending Detroit water into the Township and answered questions raised by residents along with Township officials present at the meeting, Supervisor Curtis H. Hall, and Trustees Earl Oppenhausser, Thomas R. Nolan, and Arthur Bastien.

A SHOW OF HANDS near the conclusion of the hour-long hearing indicated about 90 percent of those present were in

## Crackdown On Parking

Consideration of an ordinance permitting the City of Farmington to enforce reasonable parking regulations on private parking lots was revealed by the City Council at a regular meeting on December 20.

The ordinance is being considered as a result of requests by businessmen in the city, one of whom stated that too many businesses refuse to furnish parking facilities and take advantage of others who do. If adopted, the ordinance would allow property owners to call police when violations occur. A ticket, signed by the owner of the lot as complainant, may then be issued. If the fee is not paid, the violator would then be required to appear in court with the property owner as complainant.

At present, there are trans- See WATER HEARING Page 8A

## Principal Appointed For Gill Rd. School

The appointment of Frank Kasun as principal of G111 School, the approval by the Farmington Board of Education at a special meeting on December 20. The appointment was made after extensive inter-

views with numerous other candidates.

Kasun, 36, is married, has three children and resides at 11407 Mayfield, Detroit. He is presently teaching Industrial Arts and Remedial Reading at Vetal School in Detroit.

A product of the Detroit schools, he holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Arts and Physical Education from Central Michigan University in 1951, an M.A. degree in Administration and Supervision from University of Michigan in 1958, and is currently continuing his education at Wayne State University.

IN DETROIT Kasun has been chairman of millage and bond drives, responsible for local and city-wide exhibits, teacher of special abilities and upgraded classes, member of textbook selection and institute planning committees, and chairman of city-wide Industrial Arts committees. Building chairman of the De- See PRINCIPAL Page 8A

# Council Said It Must OK Flood Plain Apts.

The City Council's decision regarding a plan to build a six-foot high decorative wall around the apartment complex to shield it from flooding was unanimous in favor of re-zoning the 6.1 acre parcel of flood plain land area on the south side of Grand River west of Lakeway Avenue to permit the construction of 51 apartment units there.

At least three of the five councilmen made it clear, however, that they were approving of the re-zoning with some reluctance at seeing this river valley land area in the city developed. It was the feeling of all, none-the-less, that there was no other answer, based on the findings presented as a result of extensive study and research done.

THE RE-ZONING of the parcel, previously zoned commercial fronting on Grand River and single family residential in the lowland valley area, was approved with two qualifications, however. One of these qualifications is that if a building permit is not applied for within six months then the

Council would have the right to reconsider the re-zoning approved with the idea of having it changed back again. The second was that the owner must file a letter stating that he will waive his rights to appeal for a greenbelt rather

than a six foot high decorative wall around the apartment complex to shield it from flooding.

BEFORE the councilmen voted, detailed reports were read as were letters of petition from various groups expressing their

## School Dist. To Seek Fed. Funds

The Farmington Board of Education, at a special meeting on December 20, approved a proposal to apply to the Federal government for Title I funds to develop and extend educational opportunities in the Farmington district for children identified in the new education act.

The proposal was arrived at by a citizens' committee who met twice early this month to study the needs of the district. Dr. Harry Hahn of Oakland University, who has been employed by the Board of Education to assist in the project, led the study of the committee on how educationally deprived children in the school district can be helped.

Committee members included Mrs. Donna Cavanaugh, Oakland County Health Department; James McNeely, Office of Economic Opportunity; Mrs. Leroy Legros, PTA Council president; Clayton Weeks, Farmington

## Set Early Pickup For City Trash

An earlier pickup schedule has been set for the next two weeks for collection of trash north of Grand River in the City of Farmington.

The normal pickup day for that area is Saturday, but since the next two Saturdays are holidays, the pickups have been set for the two Fridays, December 24, and 31.

It has been requested that all property owners in the designated area have their trash out extra early both Fridays.

feelings that the rezoning for apartments that had been requested by Omar Sanderson, a realtor, should be approved.

One of the reports was from the city engineer with regard to the rezoning. He expressed about the adverse flooding affects that might result when grading was done in the flood plain area and plans put in to support the apartment unit buildings. The report stated that extensive plan detailing

See APARTMENTS Page 8A

## Seven Police Officers Earn BPTS Diplomas

The Basic Police Training School graduation class December 16 included four officers from the City of Farmington and three from Farmington Township.

Officer Daniel A. Byrnes of the City Department of Public Safety achieved the highest final grade of all officers in the class, a total of 69 officers from 18 different communities in southeastern Michigan. Officer Byrnes scored a final grade of 99.4 out of a possible perfect score of 100.

The other officers from the City of Farmington are Eugene Lane, Alan Watson and Michael Guilmette, all scored final grades in the upper ten percent of the class. Officer Norman Rose who still has one semester to complete at the school earned a 96.5 rating for his first semester just concluded.

FARMINGTON Township police officers who received their diplomas from the school were Jack D. Brown, Riemer P. Krueger and Alan A. Nalepa.

The Basic Police Training School is sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## City, Twp. Set Holiday Hours

Office hours for both the City of Farmington and Farmington Township for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year's holiday weekends have now been officially set.

The City of Farmington offices will close at 12 noon Thursday prior to both the December 23 and January 1 Saturday holidays and not re-open again until Monday, December 27. The Farmington Township offices will remain open until normal closing hours on each of the Thursdays but will not be open on either Friday or Saturday to the Saturday holiday dates.



NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH School Varsity Club members are pictured above unloading the canned goods donated by students at NFHS for the Goodfellows. Lou McCreedy, Chairman of the Goodfellows Packaging and Delivery Committee, reported the delivery was the largest made by any of the local schools. Varsity club members from the high schools are also helping with the deliveries of Goodfellow baskets to needy families this week.