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Seven Children Die In Township Fire

Car Inspection Is Voluntary

Drivers stopped for a traffic violation in Farmington or Farmington Township during the next four months can expect an inspection and report to be made on the condition of their vehicles, according to City Police Chief Robert Deadman and Township Police Chief Irving Yakes.

The inspection will be voluntary, and should take no more than five or six minutes say both Chiefs of Police. Officers making the inspections will fill out cards covering specified areas of inspection.

Deadman says the extra work on the part of police officers will be "well worth the effort for the information that will be gathered." Yakes says, "It's something that should have been done a long time ago."

The vehicle inspections are part of a safety enforcement program being conducted as a united effort by most of Michigan's enforcement agencies. The program is an outgrowth of growing concern over Michigan's worsening traffic accident trends. Inspections will continue through February 10.

Points to be inspected include:

STEERING: The steering wheel should have no more than three inches of free play and steering should not be exceptionally hard.

BRAKES: Brakes should catch and hold evenly before the pedal is within one inch of the floor. Pedal should hold firm, should not sink slowly when pressure is applied and should not require pumping. The parking brake should offer firm resistance when forward motion of the vehicle is attempted.

HORN: Must be operating and sufficiently loud to be heard at the legally required distance of 200 feet.

MIRRORS: Inside and outside mirrors should be clear and properly adjusted.

WINDSHIELD AND WINDOWS: Must be clear and free of cracks and discoloration. No unauthorized stickers or dangling objects should obscure vision.

VISIBILITY EQUIPMENT: Defrosters, windshield wipers and washers should operate effectively.

HEADLIGHTS: Intensity and need for alignment correction will be checked.

OTHER LIGHTS: Must be working properly — especially that over the rear license plate.

TIRES: To be checked for amount of wear and whether uneven wear indicates poor wheel alignment or cupping indicates faulty balance. Presence of studded tires will be noted since use of these is presently illegal in Michigan.

EXHAUST SYSTEM: An exhaust system emitting smoke or undue noise from beneath the car will be listed as defective or improper equipment.

Officers will also indicate the status of the driver's operator's license in their report.

The special enforcement program is being initiated by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP).

Cooperating organizations uniting with MACP include the Michigan State Police; the Michigan Sheriffs Association; the Michigan State Safety Commission; the Michigan Federation of Safety Organizations; Traffic Safety For Michigan, Inc. (TSM); and the Michigan State University Highway Traffic Safety Center.

Officials of the chief's association point out that stepped up enforcement, via emphasis programs, has produced favorable results in the past.

"This program," they say, "is intended as an immediate and effective attack upon the continuing, worsening trend of our traffic toll over the past five years."

"Enforcement and the public must cooperate now if we are to keep the next few months from becoming the worst on our highways in Michigan's history!"

Reports filled out by the officers will be tabulated and analized to provide facts to:

- Demonstrate the effects of increased violator contacts and emphasis upon safe vehicle condition upon improved driving behavior and safer vehicles.
- Provide information on improper vehicle maintenance and driver's license status to encourage the development of needed legislation to make Michigan streets and highways safer.

A STATION NO. 3 FIREMAN attempts to revive one of the Polmateer children with a resuscitator. This little boy and six others in his family died early on November 10 in one of the Township's worst fire tragedies.

One Child, Parents Survive Tragic A.M.

One of Farmington's worst fire disasters occurred during the early morning hours of Thursday, November 10, claiming the lives of seven children.

Chief Irving H. Yakes of Farmington Township reported that the seven died at their home at 22840 Colgate in Farmington Township. They are the children of Harold and Rose Polmateer of that address.

At 2 a.m. Mrs. Polmateer called for help. She stated that she went to bed at 1:15 and that something woke her up. She entered the living room and discovered that fire had broken out, took her oldest girls, Cynthia, 9, and Carol, 12, outside.

They re-entered the house to get the other children out, but two were turned back by the smoke and flames. Carol did not come outside again, and was found later in one of the back rooms.

Corporal Jack Brown and Patrolman Pete Larion assisted the firemen in removing the children from the house. Chief Ray Gary of Station three said that it took just three minutes to get the fire down to where they could reach the children. Twelve men from the station were at the scene.

Harold Polmateer was at work at the time of the fire. He is employed as a welder by Evans Products Co.

Dead on arrival at Botsford Hospital were David, 5, Denise and Dennis, 2-year-old twins, Suzanne, 6, Lisa, 9, Randolph, 3, and Carol.

Coroner Leroy Neuman attributed the deaths to asphyxiation and burns. State police fire marshal and Township firemen are investigating the cause of the fire which seemed to have gotten its start in a chair or wall of the living room's northwest corner.

Guidance Group Issues Call

Farmington Youth Guidance Committee is holding an "open meeting" on Tuesday, November 15, at 8 p.m. The public are not only invited, but urged to attend.

Prevention of local delinquency through local action is our objective. Participation of local citizens is our only means of accomplishing this.

The committee has action programs ready to implement. There are not enough active members to get them all moving.

These plans include: Coordination of local youth services, prediction of delinquency, statistical analysis of delinquency by square mile location, problem solving groups organized to attack localized problems, newspaper question and answer service for teens, etc.

In a new approach towards action, the executive committee will handle the routine, day to day business item with only routine full committee approval for expenditures.

Meetings will concentrate on reviewing the active committees' progress, and consulting with them on action to be taken and staffing requirements.

So, newcomers and old members, the committee is anxious to see both on November 15 at 33423 Grand River (above the Observer office) and outline how a real contribution can be made to tomorrows Farmington through aiding today's youth.

FAIRVIEW PRINCIPAL, Mrs. Jean Ralph, poses at the base of the bell tower which contains the bell from the original Fairview School. The new elementary building was dedicated in ceremonies held at the school on November 9.

Fairview School Holds Dedication Ceremony

Situated on a 12.5 acre site at 28500 Oak Crest Dr., the new Fairview Elementary School was dedicated on Wednesday evening, November 9. The building was completed at a cost of $511,910 and has a unique feature in its bell tower which contains the bell for the original Fairview School, one of the Township's early seats of learning.

The dedication program included a medley of songs by the sixth graders and opening remarks by Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison.

Board of Education president, Richard H. Peters, gave the dedicatory address, and a prayer was offered by Rabbi Milton Rosenbaum of Temple Emmanuel in Oak Park.

Barbara Brown, secretary of the Board of Education, led the dedicative pledge and a parents' response was made by Dean McCarthy.

In her response, Mrs. Jean Ralph, principal, said, "Let us dedicate our new Fairview School to the past, to history and heritage. From history we learn that the Farmington pioneers authorized Nathan Power in 1835 to build a school for the sum of $375.00. He build it on the hill above the creek and it became known throughout the district as 'The Little Red Schoolhouse.'

"Nathan Power was hired as the first teacher. This was the original Fairview School and Farmington Township's first school. This one room school still stands on Grand River between Drake Road and Halstead Road and is presently painted white. The bell that rang each day above the first Fairview School now hangs in the bell tower in front of our Fairview School.

"This bell from the original Fairview School continues to summon Farmington Students to the path of knowledge and is hereby so dedicated.' These words written by Richard Peters, president of Farmington Board of Education are engraved on the plaque at the base of the bell tower.

"Let us dedicate our school to the continued pursuance of wisdom and knowledge. Fairview School will strive to provide the fullest development of each student through the mastery of skills, the acquisition of knowledge, the growth of reasoning, and the fostering of acceptable attitudes and appreciation in all areas of the curriculum. This is the philosophy of the Farmington Public Schools.

"Let us dedicate our school as the child's protector while he learns to become a learner, to bring the world into the classroom and let the child learn as he is ready. We will strive to give each child a balanced experience with the things and values of his world.

"I sincerely believe that with communication between and the cooperation of parents, teachers, and children, Fairview Elementary School will become the place where education is superior; creativity, fairness and mutual respect of each other will be our goal."

Beautification Group Expanded By Council

Much of the time at Monday's City Council meeting was devoted to the Farmington Beautification Committee and its plans for making the community a more attractive place in which to live. Chairman George Strelczuk requested an expansion of the present nine-member committee to 15 members. This was authorized by the Council and five additional members were appointed.

To serve on the expanded committee, Augustine Pereira, Mrs. Richard Tyler, Ralph Yoder, Pat Nowak, and Mrs. John Richardson were named to terms which will expire on June 30, 1968.

Matters of current concern to the beautifiers are: Further improvements to the parking lot area surrounding City Hall, moving and possible enlargement of monument now located on property at Masonic Temple, erosion of sidewalk at Farmington and 10 Mile Rds., curbing on Farmington Rd. between Nine and 10 Mile.

Other problems under survey by the group are delay in construction of Eight Mile Rd. between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads and the dead trees which have been left there by the county. The former problem is caused by a standstill in determining whose responsibility the storm sewer should be in that stretch of territory. The latter is occasioned by the fact that the county is eight months behind in its removal of dead trees.

Council members were invited to attend a slide lecture on December 8 to be shown by the beautification group from Birmingham. Many ideas are contained in this lecture which could be utilized by the people of Farmington, and the Council members expressed interest in the program.

The next regular meeting of the Council on November 21 was established as a public hearing for the rezoning of lots four through seven of Ebenezer Stewart plat excluding the northern 115 feet of same from residential to parking.

The D.P.W. and Dept. of Safety were commended for a report which they have prepared on traffic control signs and the codification of traffic control orders. Types of signs have been reduced from 20 to 13 and as these become obsolete, there will be a further reduction down to eight standard parking control signs.

Action on the report will be postponed until the next meeting so that members of the Council may have enough time to accord it proper study.

Acting on a request from the Farmington Area Recreation Council for additional members, the Council appointed Ralph Yoder to represent it on that organization.

A flag which has in the past flown over the Capitol in Washington was accepted by the Council as a gift from Congressman Billie S. Farnum and will be duly placed upon the City Hall flagpole. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Congressman.

Councilman Howard Thayer reported that either due to Hallowe'en pranks or just general "high spirits," many of the tires which had been stored by various merchants on their property had been rolled downhill into the stream which runs through the City Park. He suggested that merchants be requested to chain tires to their premises to prevent recurrence of such antics.

Jaycees Sponsor Pageant

Its Junior Miss time again, and all senior high school girls in the Farmington community are invited to participate in the Junior Miss Pageant.

The Farmington Jaycees, again sponsors of the event, announce that it will take place November 26 at the Farmington Junior High School.

Co-chairmen for the project are Jaycees Craig Rockafellow and Larry Boncher.

For further information regarding the event, call Rockafellow at 474-6258 or Boncher at 474-9153.

Guidance Committee Proposes Letterbox

Sometimes communications problems are the worst offenders in an unhappy home situation, and this holds true for teenagers as well as parents. Many teens prefer, or would prefer, to talk over their problems with someone outside of their immediate family, but no one seems to be readily available. Or the problem may not seem serious enough to run out to seek help.

The Farmington Youth Guidance Committee is proposing a regular newspaper column, "Teens Letterbox," to help bridge the gap between adults and teens. Letters sent to the Youth Guidance Committee would be coded to keep them anonymous and would be submitted to a panel of local professional and qualified lay members of the Committee for consideration and answers.

Not only will the letter writer get some guidance toward reaching a solution to his problem, but all local teens, many of whom feel they have similar problems, will be exposed to some thought-provoking questions and discussions of possible solutions.

For further information call Jim Alstrom, 476-5576, or Ed Klein.

Around Town

IF ANYONE IS MISSING A WHITE DOGHOUSE, some Hallowe'en prankster evidently has deposited it on Drake Rd. near Grand River and there it sits forlorn and tenantless. Late the other evening in passing we thought we heard a sad refrain issuing therefrom: "Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone?"

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MAYOR AND MRS. BROTHERTON, RECENTLY RETURNED from a journey to jolly old England, had difficulty adjusting to all the time changes a trip like this subjects one to. That "inner clock" Lowell Thomas talks about continues to tick away on a good old American time schedule, Big Ben to the contrary. Amsterdam was also a port of call for the Farmington travelers, but Mrs. Brotherton recalls the changing of the guard at Buckingham palace as the most vivid experience of the trip.

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MRS. ROBERT N. BROWN OF RIVER GLEN APTS. is distractedly driving her poodle around all day in the car as the family has nowhere to leave their pet while their permanent residence is being completed. She would so much like to find a temporary home for her well-mannered animal.

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A QUICK-THINKING YOUNG LAD FOILED a pair of burglars who were looting his family's home by running outside and removing the ignition key from their waiting car. He then ran to a neighbor's to call the police who arrived just as the culprits were trying to push their car away from the scene. This didn't take place in Farmington, but it could well be a technique worth studying. One never knows when one might be a "key" witness in a similar situation. It was one instance where the getaway car didn't get away.

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THE FORT SMITH ARKANSAS BULLETIN brings to your attention the following observation: The superiority of men over animals is not so clear when you consider that a cow is now milked with a machine without a man . . . but never without a cow.

by shirley berger

Incumbents Return To Office

Nearly 75 percent of the registered Farmington voters went to the polls Tuesday to give a solid majority to the Republican ticket. Of 4,294 registered voters, 3,217 cast ballots. There were 107 absentee ballots, bringing the total vote to 3,324.

The annexation question carried by a straight "yes" vote in the city, but the vote for annexation of 1,820 acres known as the industrial park, encompassing the high tax base Independence Green and Star Cutter plant, was defeated 95 to 18 in the township. Proposal No. 2 for annexation of 457 acres including Woodcroft Subdivision, carried by 10 votes, 77 for to 67 against, in the township.

The city vote on annexation of the industrial park was 2,417 in favor, 526 against.

The complete city tally reads: Romney 2,615, Ferency 641, for governor; George Washington 1,814, James M. Hare 1,335, for secretary of state; Robert P. Griffin 2,478, G. Mennen Williams 747, for full term as U.S. senator.

Lawrence D. Lindemer 1,985, Frank J. Kelley 1,128, for attorney general; Jack McDonald 2,251, Billie S. Farnum 902, for state representative, 19th District; Raymond L. Baker 2,291, Leonard P. Baruch 756, for state representative, 64th District; George Kuhn 2,221, Paul F. Livingston 857, for state senator, 14th District.

The vote for regents for the University of Michigan went Robert J. Brown 2,187, Trudy Huebner 2,125, John J. Collins 821, and Irene Murphy 845.

The tally for board of trustees of Michigan State University was Frank Merriman 222, Ken Thompson 2,145, Nathan G. Conyers 769 and Warren M. Huff 817. Elected to the board of governors at Wayne State University were Alfred Sokolowski 2,071 and Norman O. Stockmeyer 2,228, defeating Jean McKee 886 and Leslie R. Schmier 774.

Elected to the State Board of Education were Leroy G. Augenstein 2,150 and James F. O'Neil 2,173, defeating Leon Fill 795 and Donald M. D. Thurber 981.

In the township, the state proposal on the 18 year old voting age was defeated 6,119 to 2,611. The county proposal for parks and recreation carried 4,494 to 3,866; the county proposal for a merit system carried 5,092 to 2,655.

On the non-partisan ballot, the vote for justice of the state supreme court was Thomas E. Brennan 1,479 city — 4,337 township; Thomas M. Kavanaugh 1,342 city — 3,603 township; Otis M. Smith 966 city — 2,656 township; Meyer Warshawsky 630 city — 2,180 township.

The vote for the 10-year term on the circuit court was Clark J. Adams 1,479 city — 4,252 township; Arthur E. Moore 1,720 city — 4,866 township. Voting for the eight-year term circuit court was William Beer 1,389 city — 4,134 township; Frederick Ziem 1,417 city — 4,042 township.

For the six-year term on the circuit court, the vote was William Beasley 1,141 city — 3,382 township; S. Jerome Bronson 839 city — 2,444 township; Cecil McCallum 551 city — 1,642 township; John O'Brien 860 city — 2,483 township; Farrell Roberts 1,432 city — 3,790 township; Robert Temp-

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