

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## Twp.-City Suit Set For Jan. 3

January 3 has been set as the court date in Oakland County Circuit Court for a hearing of the lawsuit Farmington Township has filed to seek an injunction to stop the City from any water and sewer work in Woodcroft Subdivision until a financial settlement is reached on tap-in fees.

Township Attorney Joseph Brennan filed the suit after much research and preparation and will appear as the Township legal representative at the hearing. City Attorney Robert Kelly will represent Farmington. No judge has yet been assigned to the case.

In contention are tap-in fees in the recently annexed 475-acre Woodcroft industrial parcel. The City has stated it will pay its portion of the Township's bill for these water and sewer systems as determined on the assessed valuation in the Woodcroft area in relation to the assessed valuation in the Township as a whole.

Township administrators maintain that the Township stands to lose \$800,000 in revenue if the City does not pay tap-in fees for each unit serviced.

Several years ago Township residents voted at large approving a one mill levy to provide facilities to the Industrial Park.

City Manager John Dinan said Tuesday that Attorney Kelly will have the advice of a court of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, finance and bonding experts.

Dinan says the City "is on sound legal ground. We're supported by state law."

The law Dinan refers to states that where an area is annexed to the City, the liabilities and assets of the township are pro-rated, based on the assessed valuation of the area affected in relation to the assessed valuation of the entire township.

Dinan also says that the City Council's commitment to the Woodcroft residents would be met no matter what the court decision is.

This is in reference to the cost quotation made by Council prior to the annexation election.

Township Attorney Brennan was absent from his office Tuesday because of illness and was not available for comment on the legal aspects of Dinan's statement.



THIS WAS THE SCENE last Monday at City Hall when area Girl Scouts assembled to help decorate the civic tree. Plenty of help was offered, and Councilman Howard Thayer was on hand to welcome the participants.

City Manager Dinan was there also, and for a brief time the air was sweet with Christmas carols, and the tree was duly lighted to the satisfaction of everyone.

## Goodfellow Sale Tops Last Year's

Farmington Goodfellows have gone over the top again by about \$200-\$400 in their annual Newspaper Sale held December 9, assuring every happy family in the area a nifty holiday and no child going without a Christmas.

Total contribution from paper sales garnered by the 35 men who manned the street corners was \$2,100. Industrial contributions amount to \$700 and professional contributions to \$140, with both still coming in.

Goodfellow Chairman Robert Hall says "One extra big boon this year was the teen dance."

The affair, arranged and planned by Terry Frisco, Farmington resident who works at WXYZ, had a total take of \$800. Twenty dollars was deducted to pay two policemen with the Goodfellow total coming to \$780.24.

Frisco arranged for disc jockey Jim Hampton to work at the dance and Hampton contributed his services free. Admission charge was a dollar a head, so a crowd of 800 teenagers attended the affair.

Newspaper Sales Chairman Richard Tupper says he is mailing personal letters of thanks to the Exchange Club, Elks Club, Optimists, Jaycees and City and Township Police for their efforts in the Goodfellow's behalf.

Hall also commented on the efforts put forth by the service clubs.

Men receiving the most in contributions are those generally working the corners in downtown Farmington. Halls says that one worker manned his corner for 14 hours the day of the sale. He notes it's a toss-up who takes in the most money, the Jaycees at Orchard Lake Road and 10 Mile or the Township Police who rove around the area.

Hall and Tupper had high praise for Mrs. Ed Oglesby, Mrs. William Everhart and Mrs. Joseph Brodie, who worked 14 hours the night and morning after the sale totaling receipts.

This past week has been spent in investigation of approximately 250 families who are thought to be in need. The list will be narrowed to about 200 who will be supplied with gift certificates and food.

## Narrow Miss For Twp. Holiday Trash Calamity

What could have been a big post-holiday mess throughout Farmington Township was averted this week when the Township entered into what Supervisor Curtis Hall calls "a gentlemen's agreement" with McCreehy Rubbish Co. for trash pickup.

Township housewives had been thrown into confusion, thinking about Christmas and its trappings, when word went round that Tringalli Rubbish and Removal Service had walked out on the job.

A Tringalli spokesman is reported to have said his trucks went in Township ditches a couple of times. He had a truck that was not operating, so service was discontinued last week with notice.

Tringalli was not under contract. Hall says it takes time to arrange for such a contract and put it out on bid. This will probably be done in January, according to Hall.

Meanwhile, rubbish will be picked up throughout the Township in the forefront of next week. The same daily schedules will be maintained.

## 1.5 Million to OCC

The Michigan HEFA Commission, under the provisions of Title I of the Higher Education Facilities Act, has recommended the maximum allotment for construction of \$1.5 million to Oakland Community College. The Commission recommended \$750,000 each for Auburn Hills and Phase II of Orchard Ridge.

## To Be Or Not To Be Meeting

There was a certain amount of confusion rampant here about this week when a report got around that Farmington Township was going to present its financial statement to the City on Thursday.

Nobody knows where the report came from. What is known is that at 4:50 Monday afternoon, a Township employee posted notice of a special Township Board meeting to be held Tuesday night.

Obviously, the meeting was called so Trustees could act to transfer Township funds from the General and Revolving Fund into Building and Site Fund deposits.

But no such action took place. The Township cancelled the special meeting Tuesday morning. Supervisor Hall said Tuesday that the amount of money to be transferred was "so infinitesimal" that the meeting was not needed. He mentioned a figure of "\$300-\$500."

When asked Thursday if the financial statement would be presented to the City on that day, Hall said he did not know when it would take place.

He noted, "On annexation, the City is obligated to a certain percentage of the Township debts and a certain percentage of its assets. There is a lot of bookkeeping and accounting to be done and there is a difference of opinion on the amount of obligation the Township owes the City."



Russ Oehler is New Manager

New to the Enterprise office is Russell Oehler, who joins the staff as advertising manager, coming here from the Plymouth Observer.

He comes to the Farmington area with years of experience in the advertising field. He was in retail advertising with the defunct Detroit Times for 10 years and then spent three years with the Pontiac Press before joining the Observer staff.

## Custodial Grievance at State Mediation Level

Carrying their grievance over what constitutes overtime for custodial personnel to the state mediation service, Local No. 1456 and the Board of Education were still unable to reach a meeting of the minds, it was reported at Monday's Board of Education meeting. The Board feels that their letter of November 14 to the president of the Local represents a reasonable answer to the grievance and deems no further action necessary.

The letter, addressed to Walter Ritchey, reads as follows: The Board of Education has considered all material relevant to the grievance filed by Kenneth Vaeder (and others) on September 15, 1966, including information brought out in the hearing on October 17, 1966 as well as the opinion of our legal counsel.

Discussion of this grievance has focused attention on the need for having qualified personnel in the schools during all hours of use including after-school-hour Community activities. An attempt by the Board of Education earlier this year to reduce operational costs by the employment of part-time personnel has proven to be unsuccessful in view of the current labor market.

Therefore, until such time as we are able to employ qualified unassigned personnel to perform such duties as may be directed, we intend to continue the present practice of handling building permit work by our regular operational staff members.

We believe that this statement demonstrates the desire of the Board of Education to not only fulfill contractual obligations but also insure the proper use and upkeep of school facilities.

If we have neglected to keep the Union advised by listings of employees as required according to Article XVIII Section C, we shall henceforth strive to comply completely with this provision.

The Board of Education feels that the handling of the assignment of building permit work did not violate the terms of the contract, and therefore we are not granting overtime pay as requested in the grievance.

We trust that we may continue to work cooperatively with you in providing the important services to the community that your Local represents. Very truly yours, Board of Education Farmington Public Schools, Barbara Ann Brown, Secretary.

Another letter played a role in Monday evening's Board meeting, also. It was written by Glenn R. Johnson who refers to himself as a general contractor on school construction, and was critical of the school construction program in Farmington district.

Recognizing the need for an economical program, Johnson pointed out that he questioned some of the "apparent" economies.

He took exception to the school designs, calling them "very bland in comparison to adjacent school districts. The exterior site improvements and landscaping," he concluded, "are cut to a rough-grade situation leaving mud to be tracked into the schools which will cause higher maintenance, besides contributing to poor appearance."

Unpaved parking lots were criticized on the basis of higher long-term maintenance and their shoddy appearance.

Citing his own experience as a contractor, Johnson concluded that a little extra quality can mean savings in the long run.

Board members could only arrive at a four to three vote in favor of changing specifications for the parking lot at Beechview. Due to wet weather, it has been impossible to proceed with the work there, so the engineers have suggested a six-inch slag topping be substituted for the original specifications of four inches of gravel topped by two of limestone. This would mean an added cost of \$131.59 which

Board members Otis, Neel, and Washburn did not consider justified. They feel that a break in the weather would allow work to continue as originally planned and specified.

It was decided to withhold payment of \$2000 of the contract for blacktopping at four out of five school sites where work was performed this fall. Payment will be completed when the bad spots are repaired in the spring. The project included play areas at Fairview, Gill Rd., Highmeadow, Larkshire and Longacre Schools.

Purchase of fill dirt for sites at Fairview and Cloverdale was approved. Herbert Neel wanted to include some fill for Alameda, so that the play area might be expanded, but was not supported.

A request from the Farmington Area Recreation Commission for use of multi-purpose rooms for a recreation program from January 21 to February 25 was approved. The schools to be used in the Saturday morning program are Berechview, Cloverdale, Eagle, Gill Rd., Kenwood, Shawasssee, Ten Mile, and William Grace.

Purchase of a special Education Van received approval. O'Green's bid of \$2314.85 was low and accepted.

The Board authorized the administration to participate in an Oakland County bus purchase with the proviso that the nine buses and two vans involved must have the latest safety features.

Further investigation will be made into the new type of gutter feature which could save from \$5,000 to \$10,000 on each of the swimming pools to be constructed if that type of construction should prove to be satisfactory. It eliminates the necessity for digging the tunnel which ordinarily surrounds a conventional pool.

Three Detroit men were arrested by one Farmington Police officer when they were spotted in the act of attempting larceny December 12.

Officer Thomas H. Daniels saw Martin McCann, Steven Ladouceur and Ronald Ladouceur at 1:30 a.m. in the act of stealing tires from a car on the lot of Bill Root's Chevrolet on Grand River. Daniels made the arrest with some police he called to the scene.

The three pleaded guilty and were released on \$100 bond each.

## Twp. Police Close 20 Burglaries

Farmington Township Police closed the books on 20 cases of burglary with the arrest of two local youths Friday night, December 9, after the suspects had been under close surveillance for several days.

At 8:30 p.m. the night of the arrest, the two were apprehended as 10 police cars and 20 policemen closed in as they were leaving a home they had just looted.

One of the suspects is 17 and in school; the other is 19 and married. They were released on \$2,500 bond and appeared Friday before a Farmington Township Justice of the Peace Bryon Walters.

Included in the list of homes that were burglarized are those of Richard Fulling, 27276 Bramwell; Jerry Fisher, 36115 Castlemeadow; Gordon Grunwald, 29495 Gumherland; Norris Yarbrough, 28666 Greenacres; Carl W. Dixon, 28001 Statter; Mark Veverka, 29424 Cumberland; Guido Tenaglia, 27375 Springdale.

More are Gordon Huston, 34726 Springvale; Mrs. Walter Kelly, 27220 Bramwell; Lester Houghton, 28419 Bernadine; Duane Peltier, 35918 Castlemeadow; Walter Meier, 33964 Britany Drive; and Howard Bond, 29956 Ardmore.

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MISSING FROM UP ON "EDUCATION HILL" for some time now due to a family illness has been Mrs. Marjorie Eicher, Director of Community Relations for Farmington Schools. We've missed your cheerful visits to the Enterprise office, Mrs. E.

SOME DAYS THERE'S JUST NO LIVING with the "clever" people on the newspaper. I certainly ain't mad wanted to know the other day if his voice sounded lower. He was calling from the downstairs telephone. That same day, a certain editor in gratitude for a service performed (strictly out of the line of duty) by the printer, called "Vic, Vic, thanks for the stable table." "Glad I was able," was Vic's instant retort.

FRIENDS OVER IN BELGIUM who were trying to order a Thanksgiving turkey from a non-English speaking neighborhood grocer finally resorted to "Gobbie, gobbie." They got their bird. Or rather, they got two birds each weighing about five and a half pounds. It seems that the monster species which commonly graces our holiday tables must be indigenous to these shores. Even more American than we thought!

NO SOONER HAD THE PICTURE of the new Farmington Clinic with its new sod tidily in place appeared in the Enterprise than a car careened into the lawn after being involved in a Ten Mile - Orchard Lake Rd. accident. Talk about the temporary life of a blade of grass!

SEVEN WAS EXTREMELY DISTRESSED when she learned that her new lights had found their way into the clothes dryer. "What did you do that for?" she wailed. "Now they're all shranken."

FOR COUNTLESS AGES, seagulls on America's shorelines have dropped clam shells on surrounding rocks to open them. Now they use paved parking lots at the seaside parks and resorts. It's enough to engender a return to the automobile tire pump.

by Shirley Berber



FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP Supervisor Curtis Hall and Irving H. Yakes, Township Chief of Police, are shown with part of \$3,000 worth of stolen property recovered after Township Police arrested two local youths, 17 and 19 years of age, Friday, Dec. 9. The two were apprehended after several days of close surveillance by Township Police. Ten police cars and 20 policemen closed in on them at 8:30 p.m. as they were leaving the scene of a burglary. The arrest closes the books on 20 cases of burglary over a three month period.