

The Farmington Enterprise

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Mud Woes: Many Moan, A Few Act

Hundreds of Farmington Township residents called the Oakland County Road Commission to complain about their muddy roads.

Dorcas demonstrated to stop trucks from driving on and ripping up their streets to reach the Powers Junior High School construction site.

But so far, just a handful of persons have taken the only kind of direction action that will give them any permanent aid—petitioning for street paving and asking to be assessed for it.

"THAT'S THE ONLY way they're going to get what they want," said Township Supervisor Curtis Hall, who has watched the developments with tied hands inasmuch as the township government has no authority over local roads.

Township officials are advising residents to circulate formal petitions that begin "The undersigned hereby petition your board to improve the following streets in said township by ditching, draining and paving the same . . . and to assess the cost thereof . . . in accordance with benefits . . ."

Said Hall: "If we can get just three or four (paving projects) under way, that will be kind of contagious."

A check with Clerk Floyd Cairns showed that the number of paving petitions in circulation could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

THEY ARE:

- Farabach, Roseland Gardens in Sec. 33, including all or parts of Colfax, Bude, Cass, E. D. n. A. Harlow, Rhonwood, Flinders, Arthur Place and Hill. Approximately 150 to 200 families live in this area, according to Mrs. Kay Raleigh, 32973 Colfax, a petition circulator who began work Monday.

- Grand River Homes Subdivision in Sec. 33 north of Grand River and west of Middlebelt, and covering Purdie, Colgate, Albion and Tulane. Two housewives picked up a petition form in the township office Wednesday noon.

- Shindale north of Eight Mile and east of Farmington Road in Sec. 34. The circulator, Mr. Matthew Ott, was quoted as saying the petition work is going well.

(See MUD, Page 2)

around the block

JUST LOOK WHAT HAPPENED to all those eggs in last week's column. Chicks all over the place. So maybe this week's scribbling won't be quite up to scratch.

LAUNCHED UPON A BRAND new month, we discovered that April holds such goodies in store as: National Laugh Week, Chalk Day, National Pencil Week, Old Time Fiddlers' Convention, Ice Cream Smorgasbord Time, the Mermaid Menagerie, Raisin Week; and what's more, it's the only month which admittedly starts out on a foolish note.

DESSERT THE OTHER EVENING consisted of a confection called Marguerites, and we reminisced for Seven's benefit that they were a special favorite from childhood days. With no malice aforethought, she came back with the perfect put-down, "How come they aren't distinct by now?"

PRESUMABLY, THE BEACH RIOTS are over for another year. We old fogies just can't seem to stand the truth when it hits us in the eye, particularly when it's the naked truth.

THE GREATEST TURNOUT seen in many months was present at the Board of Education meeting due to school board shifting. The female contingent of the chauffeurs' union was well represented.

SOME NEIGHBORS WHO JUST returned from Hawaii list among the pleasures of their trip a game of lictactee played on someone's bald head.

NOTE FOUND UNDER windshield wiper: "I have just smashed into your car. The people watching think I am writing down my name and address, but they are wrong."

by Shirley Berger



HOW TO GET ACTION—Three residents of Sec. 33 are among leaders in a petition drive to get streets permanently paved in Roseland Gardens Subdivision. From left: Mrs. Vernon

Antis, 34129 Rhonwood, signing; Clifford Antis, 21294 Cass, a relative; and Mrs. Kay Raleigh, 33973 Colfax. They are standing by a car that has been stuck on Colfax for more than a week.

No Contest In Ho-Hum City Vote Kuhn Opposes Income Tax Bill

Ho, hum. There's a city election Monday.

It will be the first Farmington election in recent years in which there isn't a single contest on the ballot. All incumbents seeking re-election are unopposed.

Polls in the four city precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TO BE ELECTED are three city councilmen and two municipal judges. There will not be another election for councilman for two years.

The two councilmen polling the highest number of votes will be elected for four year terms, the third man will serve for two years.

Seeking new terms as councilmen are Hugo E. Peterson, 32724 Oakland, owner of Peter Barber Shop on Grand River; Howard R. Thayer, 32603 Grand River, owner of Thayer Funeral Home; and Ralph D. Yoder, 31861 Lamar, supervisor at Van Avery Sand and Gravel Co., Novi.

Michael J. Hand, 32247 Cass Ct., is seeking another term as municipal judge, and Dennis J. Phenev, 32264 Valleyview Ct., another term as associate judge. Both are lawyers.

Terms for judge expire Jan. 1, 1970.

CITY CLERK Trens Quinn says it is difficult to predict the number of people who will vote.

Fifty-three per cent of the voters went to the polls in the last city election in 1965 when a state senatorship was on the ballot.

Mrs. Quinn said a 45 per cent turnout will be good. There are 4,101 registered voters.

The negligent homicide charge filed against Ruth A. Walton, 32, of 23948 Glen Ridge, Novi, was dropped in the Farmington Township Justice Court last week.

Following an examination, Justice of the Peace Byron Walter refused to bind over Mrs. Walton to the Circuit Court for trial.

State Sen. George Kuhn, R-West Bloomfield, cast one of the key votes Thursday against Gov. Romney's state income tax bill, which went down to defeat 23 to 14.

Kuhn, who represents Farmington as part of his district, was one of a handful of GOP senators to oppose the tax reform package.

He based his opposition on failure of the majority to buy a number of suggestions aimed at limiting the scope of a state income tax.

THE CONSERVATIVE senator said that "historically in Michigan all taxes have had limitations—the sales tax, by the constitution; the city income tax, by law; property taxes, by a 15-mil limitation and city charter and so on."

Kuhn said, earlier in the week he voted for Sen. Robert J. Huber's proposed amendment to require a vote of the people before an income tax rate could be increased.

He withdrew the proposal, however, when other lawmakers objected that it was unconstitutional inasmuch as one legislature couldn't bind another.

Finally, Kuhn had sought to remove cities' power to levy an income tax on non-residents as part of the price of his support for a state income tax. When the subject couldn't be brought up for discussion, Kuhn decided to oppose a state income tax.

Local Teen Is Pageant Finalist

Paula Pendergrass, who was Miss Teen Farmington, finished as second runner-up in Thursday's "Miss Teen Great Lakes Pageant" in Detroit's Cobo Hall. She's on the left in the photo of local entrants on Page 1-B of today's Enterprise. Winner was Pam Martin, Miss Seaborn, Birmingham.

One of 12 regional fairers for the 10th annual Metropolitan Detroit Science Fair will be open to the public from 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at O. E. Dunckel Junior High School, 32800 12 Mile Road.

The local exhibit will include displays by about 200 junior and senior high school students from southwest Oakland County.

Neil McCallum, 24197 Twin Valley has been a top flight amateur in golfing circles for more than 30 years.

Engineers, is senior site representative for the local fair. Winners here are eligible to enter the Metropolitan Science Fair in Cobo Hall April 15-18.

Winners in the Detroit competition will be given expense-paid trips to San Francisco, along with their teachers, to compete in the International Science Fair in May.

Local entrants come from an area bounded on the west by the Oakland County line, on the east by US 24, on the north by M59 and on the south by Eight Mile Road.

Now Court Reform May Affect Area

By TIM RICHARD

Farmington's Municipal Court and Township Justice of the peace courts would be eliminated, and this area would become part of a new District Court system under lower court reform plans now in the Legislature.

The District Court would have two full-time judges and expanded powers, in one important bill.

Reason for the reform plan is a provision of the new state constitution that wipes out the constitutional status of JPs and Circuit Court commissioners at the end of 1968.

But the impending reform, while welcomed and praised by most students of law and courts, will also raise some serious administrative and public questions. Farmington public officials have already begun to think about them.

ONE BILL, sponsored by Rep. J. Bob Traxler, D-Bay City, and eight other House members, would give Oakland County 22 district judges in eight divisions.

Farmington city and township would be in a division with the cities of Northville (Oakland segment) and South Lyon and the townships of Novi and Lyon.

This division would be 18 miles from east to west and six miles north to south. It would have two judges.

Other Oakland divisions have two to four judges. The bill provides for \$20,000 annual state-paid salary for district judges. Counties could supplement these salaries.

ALSO, TRAXLER'S bill would:

- Not only abolish township justice of the peace courts, but municipal courts as well, including Detroit's Recorder and Common Pleas courts — and Circuit Court commissions.

• Place responsibility for local courts on the state rather than on the cities and townships.

• Require that the few district judges be full-timers. Farmington's two city judges and two township justices are part-timers.

Legally, the Legislature could provide for the continuance of JP courts by statute, but the courts would be advocates at the time of the Constitutional Convention and now is that the lower court system in Michigan needs a thorough overhaul.

WHAT'S TO become of the present courtrooms?

The City of Farmington's courtroom doubles as a council chamber and meeting room for such bodies as the planning commission.

City Manager John Dinean says it could continue as a courtroom, although there might be a shortage of office space if the new District Court is to have more functions and more personnel than the existing Municipal Court.

Dinean points out that it would be good for the judges to move around their district.

For her role as clerk, she has made one bedroom of her home into a village office. Wood Creek Farms has no municipal building.

Mrs. Billis lists the growth of village business as one of her reasons for quitting. She says that seven years ago the job was not as demanding as it is today.

AN IN-DEPTH REPORT

Otherwise, the public and police officers who must testify in court would lose too much time traveling to other parts of this 108-square mile division.

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall would like to see the District Court located in the township's offices.

He points out that the township is in the process of planning a major expansion of its cramped offices and would be happy to make room for a District Court. The state would probably lease its facilities from the unit of government where the courtroom is to be located.

TWO PROVISIONS in the proposed District Court plan are aimed specifically at the township JP system.

One is that judges would have to be lawyers. JPs may be laymen. The change wouldn't have a practical effect on Farmington Township, however, because both JPs are lawyers.

The other is that judges would run on a non-partisan ballot whereas JPs run on partisan tickets and are sometimes the object of political pressures. They could be purged by a political machine in a partisan primary for a decision offensive to a powerful politico.

DENNIS PHENEV, associate municipal judge, says Circuit courts are over-burdened and that District Courts, as proposed, would have increased civil jurisdiction.

Municipal courts now have civil jurisdiction in cases involving up to \$1,500, while township JP courts have a \$300 limit.

District Courts, says Phenev, would have exclusive jurisdiction in cases up to \$1,000 and concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit Courts in cases

from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Phenev also notes that District Courts would have conciliation facilities to handle small claims up to \$50 in a procedure less formal than that of a lawsuit. An underlying reason is that currently only 20 or 25 per cent of lower court civil cases are actually litigated; in the rest, judgment is rendered by default because defendants don't fight.

FARMINGTON'S courts are not "courts of record." Pheney points out. The District Court would be. This is the difference.

In a court of record, a stenographer always keeps a transcript of everything that is said. In a non-record court, a record is kept of decisions and actions, but not of every word spoken in most cases.

The significance is this: When a decision is appealed from a Municipal or JP court, the case must be tried "de novo"—in its entirety—in the Circuit Court. But in the proposed District Court, an appeal would be taken to the State Court of Appeals and wouldn't be tried all over.

THE PRESENT judges and justices of Farmington, along with those of Novi and Lyon, will have to decide whether to run for the new \$20,000 posts or go back to their non-judicial work.

Judge Michael Hand is entitled to a maximum of \$7,500 under the city charter. He is a practicing attorney.

Associate Judge Phenev, also a practicing attorney, estimates he spends about two mornings a week on the court bench. The charter puts his pay at \$25 a day.

The township JPs are paid a fee of \$100 a year. Their court fees were recently reduced by the state from \$4.30 to \$3.70 in minor cases.

(See COURT, Page 2)

The Farmington Enterprise COMMUNITY CALENDAR

This calendar is being sponsored as a public service at NO CHARGE by The Farmington Enterprise in cooperation with the JAYCEE AUXILIARY. All copy should be called to the calendar coordinator, Mrs. Roberta Hirtzel, 476-1532, no later than Monday prior to date of publication.

APRIL 1967

- 1 Farmington City Election.
- 2 Farmington City Council meets at the City Hall, 8 p.m.
- 3 Executive Board of the Youth Guidance Committee meets 8:30 p.m.
- 4 V.F.W. Post 4033 meets at 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Farmington District Library Board of Trustees meets at the Library, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals meets at the City Hall, 8 p.m.
- 6-6 Registration for adult education classes 6:30-9 p.m. at Farmington High School.
- 6 Case study Committee of the Youth Guidance Committee meets at 1 p.m.
- 10 Adult education classes begin.
- 10 City Planning Commission meets at the City Hall 8 p.m.
- 10 General Youth Guidance Committee meets at 8 p.m.
- 11 General Membership meeting of the Jaycees, First Farmington Savings and Loan, 8:30 p.m.
- 11 Beautification Committee meets at the City Hall, 8 p.m.
- 12 Blue Star Mothers meeting, 1 p.m., Wheeler Fire Hall.
- 12 Farmington Artists' Association meets, First Farmington Savings and Loan, 8 p.m.
- 13 Veterans of WWI meet at the Legion Hall, Lakeway and Grand River 2 p.m.
- 14 VFW Post 4033 meets at 8 p.m.
- 14 Farmington Community Chorus presents the oratorio "Holy City" at 8:30 p.m. in FHS gym; tickets \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for children.
- 15 Shawassee PTA presents a Magic Show by Eddie Joyce, 2 p.m. multi-purpose room. (Preschoolers admitted only if accompanied by an adult.)
- 17 City Council meets at the City Hall, 8 p.m.
- 17 Business & Professional Women's Club meets at Kosters Restaurant 6:45 p.m. For reservations call 476-6000. Members and guests invited.
- 18 Farmington Jaycee auxiliary dinner meeting.
- 19 A.A.U.W. meets. For more information please call 474-9008.
- 19 Executive Board of the Shawassee PTA meets, 8 p.m. school library.
- 20 Blue Star Mothers Card Party and Luncheon, 12 noon, Mary Jo Brown, 24135 Brookview.
- 21-23 Farmington Artists Association presents an art exhibit. Guest artist, Mrs. Emily Fox. Refreshments served, 4 hours April 21 and 22 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 24 City Planning Commission meets at the City Hall, 8 p.m.
- 25 St. Alexander Church presents a Dinner-Fashion show at Glen Oaks Country Club. Fashions by Demery's. Tickets \$4. For reservation call Mrs. Guidobono, 353-3083.
- 25 Jaycees' general membership meeting, 8:30 p.m., First Farmington Savings and Loan Association.
- 28 V.F.W. Post 4033 meets 8 p.m.