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Philip H. Power, Publisher

Boost Helps Balance School Budget



WILLIAM C. SPESS of 31752 Fendt Rd., Farmington Township, blocks what he calls his driveway to the Oakland County Road Commission. The Road Commission contends that the road is a public right-of-way and that

it has jurisdiction over the passage. Spess, who says that he built and is maintaining the road, terms it "an easement" and says that it is a private road.

City OK's \$2,470 For Alta Loma Rds.

The city will spend \$2,470 on the roads in the Alta Loma Subdivision in a "maintenance" program. Director of Public Services Theodore E. DeBaene termed the end result as a "more or less" gravel road.

City Manager John Dinan compared the finished roads as similar to those in the Woodcroft Subdivision.

The roads affected by the program are Alta Loma from Cass to Gill Rd.; Moore St. 700 feet east of Gill Rd.; Cass to a point 400 feet east of Fleming; and Cass Ct. 300 feet west of Fleming.

Action by the Council came after City Manager John Dinan said that the city had spent \$1,395 to maintain the Alta Loma roads during April and May as compared to \$2,029 in the rest of the city.

The Council agreed to the proposal only after it instructed Dinan to write to each resident on the affected streets proposing alternatives to a "permanent" solution to the road problem in the area and asking the residents' preference.

Representatives of the subdivision association have been emphatic in their view that the residents do not want the roads to be paved.

The city, however, is forced to spend a great deal each year to patch the existing roads after the annual spring snowmelt.

The Alta Loma Association has embarked on a three-year program with the city to help improve the condition of the roads.

Under this program ditching have been deepened in an effort to improve the drainage conditions.

The Council is of the opinion that the only solution to the problem is to pave the roads and thus cut down on the annual maintenance costs.

Councilman John Allen asked for the meeting asserting that perhaps we might hear from the people directly. The Council has heard that residents of the subdivision want paving and that they just aren't being heard.

With this in mind Allen pushed for a public hearing.

(Continued on Page 4A)



JACK McDONALD

McDonald To Speak At Festival

Participation will be the theme of the speeches at the 1967 Farmington Founders Festival.

At least that's what it seems like with the announcement that 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald will join U.S. Senator Philip A. Hart in the speaking parade on Saturday, July 29.

McDonald is the freshman Republican Congressman from the District, while Hart is the state's senior U.S. Senator and a Democrat.

Both men will speak at the conclusion of the Festival Parade.

The parade, one of the highlights of the three-day festival (July 27, 28 and 29), will begin at 10 a.m. at the drive-in theatre. The parade route is west on Grand River to Farmington Rd.

Location of the speakers' stand is the City property on Grand River just east of the Downtown Center.

Preceding the parade will be two days of activities including the crowning of Miss Farmington Founders Festival, a concert by the Franklin Band, and a Friday night dance.

Saturday night the Festival will close at a city sponsored dance in the Downtown Center.

Expect \$195,000 In Coffer

A new state aid boost will help Farmington School District balance its budget this fiscal year.

The increase is part of a new state education money bill that passes the legislature by narrow margins next week and is on its way for Gov. Romney's signature.

Farmington's school budget, as approved by the Board of Education June 26, had been increased by about \$207,000. The new formula, according to Superintendent Rodrick J. Smith, is expected to yield about \$185,000.

Dr. Smith said he would need time to discuss the board and narrow Superintendent C. V. Harrison's proposal to do with the additional revenue.

The chief consideration in his view, are balancing the budget and taking care of the most essential programs in the system.

Here is how the budget and changes are expected to work:

The budget approved by the board outlined expenditures of \$6,422,000 and revenues of \$6,215,000. This is a revenue shortage of \$207,000.

In preparing the budget the board used the then current state aid formula, under which Farmington school could expect about \$4,310,000.

For a school district on Farmington's wealth an enrollment, the new formula is expected to mean another \$13 per child—or \$195,000 more for the Farmington enrollment that is expected to be about 15,000 in fall.

This would bring total state aid to around \$4,500,000.

Dr. Smith said final figures would be available until the official enrollment is determined as of the fourth Friday of the fall semester.

The old formula would have a provision that Farmington's financial class \$407.50 per child minus the (Continued on Page 4A)

One Man Wars With County

By SUE SHAGHNESSY

Editor

Another skirmish in an age-old war between the Oakland County Road Commission and a Farmington Township resident was waged last week when Township Police were called out to re-

move a blockage prohibiting a road grader from passing. Squared off against the road commission is William C. Spess of 31752 Fendt Rd. just north of Eight Mile in Section 33 of the Township.

Spess contends that the 33-

foot-wide road was built and is maintained by him. He calls it his driveway and says that the passageway was built to provide access to his property.

The road lies "right on the quarter line" in Spess' words.

Township maps, however, term the passage as Drake Rd. The road runs from Eight Mile to Woodward and if it continued through it would connect to Drake Rd., which runs north from Nine Mile Rd.

Spess calls the road "an easement" which is not large enough to come under a county jurisdiction. "The usable part of the roadway is only 11 1/2 feet wide," he contends. He points to a state law requiring a road to be 60 feet wide before the county has any jurisdiction to support his claim.

When The Enterprise & Observer called the Oakland County Road Commission for its side of the story the call-

was referred to the Commission's lawyer LeRoy McEntee.

McEntee, however, was not in his office and at press time still could not be reached for comment.

According to Spess the battle has been underway for years.

He says that he purchased the property in the 1930's and was told that he would have to construct his own road in order to gain access into 10 acres of his property.

Pointing to the Township map calling the way Drake Rd., Spess says that the area is fenced in and on the map (Continued on Page 4A)

Civil Engineer Is New City Planner

W. E. Peterson of 23255 Prospect has been named to the City Planning Commission.

The appointment came Monday night after the Farmington City Council "retired" Councilman Hugo E. Peterson from the commission.

The new commissioner, who is no relation to the councilman, will serve the remainder of Peterson's term which expires June 18, 1969.

This leaves Councilman John Allen as the Council's representative on the commission.

The City Council amended the city charter a few weeks ago to provide for one councilman rather than two to sit on the commission.

At that time the council stated that the action was taken to ensure a better representation from throughout the city on the commission.

Peterson, a civil engineer, is employed by the Pettif Civil Engineering Company. In other action the Council adopted a resolution calling upon State Representative Ray Baker to support four Senate bills which would increase the city's share of the state gasoline and weight tax from 18 to 20 per cent.

The bills, which have passed the Senate, were twice voted down in the House. The second time the vote was taken the measures were only four votes short of the needed majority.

Baker voted against the measures the first time they came before the House, but changed his vote the second time around.

City Manager John Dinan said that would probably be voted on again when the Legislature returns to Lansing Aug. 1 to final adjournment.

In its resolution, the city also urged Baker to "urge support of his fellow colleagues in the House" for the bills.

Serves In Da Nang

Marine Corporal Robert J. Baldwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Baldwin, 34430 W. Nine Mile Rd., Farmington, is serving with Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron, a unit of the First Marine Airmobile Wing, at the Da Nang Air Base in South Vietnam.

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Parking Problem Worsens

The problem of parking the car took another turn for the worse Monday night when the City Council voted to restrict parking on four streets in the city.

The order goes into effect immediately.

Hardest hit by the action was Prospect Ave. on the east side from Shawassaw north to Leilane.

Robert F. Deadman, the city's Department of Public Safety Director, told the Council that the parking problem was caused by the use of the facilities at Farmington High School during the school hours and by the adults use of the school's recreational facilities.

Other streets affected by the Council action are Hawthorne, Violet and Floral in the Floral Park Subdivision. On these streets parking was prohibited on one side of the street and a two hour control was placed on the other side of the street.

Deadman said that this regulation change was necessary because of the overflow of off street parking from employees and customers of commercial and industrial users on Orchard Lake Rd. and Grand River.

City Manager John Dinan told the Council that the parking control signs were either posted or would be in the near future.

Headstart Draws 45 To William Grace

Forty-five Farmington youngsters are enrolled in Operation Headstart at William Grace School, preparing to enter kindergarten and first grade next fall.

In operation for three years, enrollment has increased each year in the program. Last year, 30 children were enrolled.

Richard Tyler, summer school director, reports that the hoped-for increase in parental participation is also being realized.

Headstart teachers Stephanie Rutter, Donna Washul and Martha MacMillan are assisted in conducting the

classes by parent-aides Betty Gilme and Jean Luitman, as well as college students Chris McElwey and Alexa Larson. Mrs. MacMillan attributes the increase in enrollment in Headstart to better district

resources for locating in children who would benefit from it.

Parental interest is indicated by a group of Mothers Federation of Farmington formed by all mothers and Headstart mothers with children enrolled at Grace.

The program operates in full cooperation with the facilities of the Oakland County Office of Economic Opportunity staff members.

Available to the children are services of a speech occupationist, psychologist and tests for such things as perceptual handling. All children enrolled are given physical and dental examinations.

The 45 children enrolled are divided into three classrooms. Classroom work geared to giving the children school and social experiences.

Among the many field trips the children have taken have been trips to the library, local groceries, police and fire departments, farm and a ride by train from Plymouth to Detroit.

There has been a ratio three children to one adult on these trips, which is indicative of interest on part of the parents.



PROJECT HEADSTART students visited the Farmington District Library last week. Librarian Mildred Droege conducted a story hour for the 45 youngsters enrolled in the program at the William Grace School. The field trip to the Library was one of many conducted through the program.