



Audited Circulation
12,242
As of June 30, 1967

The Farmington

ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER

This Week's
Press Run
76,600

Fifteen Cents Per Copy

Vol. 80, No. 38

Sunday, February 4, 1968

48 pages this issue

Philip H. Power, Publisher

City Increases All '68 Assessments And Establishes New Review Plan

City of Farmington property owners were given a new line of communication this week for information concerning valuation reassessments when the municipal administration announced establishment of Assessment Week, Feb. 12 through Feb. 16.

Every parcel of land in the city, without exception, has been reassessed at a higher level to

comply with an order from the Oakland County Equalization Board, said City Manager John D. Dinn.

The average increase demanded by the county was 17 per cent, but it varied with the word "average," Dinn said that the reassessment procedure did not mean an identical percentage boost for every parcel.

"There has been a blanket, across the board increase of 10 per cent on buildings for the 1968 tax rolls," said the city manager, "but the reassessment of land values has varied from subdivision to subdivision."

Purpose of Assessor's Review Week, he said, will be to allow property owners an opportunity to learn their individual increase.

Members of the city's assessing staff will be available in City Hall from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., each day of the designated period to answer individual queries, whether in person or by telephone. The amount of each assessment and the reasoning exercised in its determination will be obtainable.

The Board of Review will be in session March 5, 11, 12

and 13 to hear protests from any who object strenuously to their new assessments and seek reconsideration.

It is felt that traffic for board meetings will be reduced through the new procedure of giving owners an explanatory audience in February.

Need for reassessments dates back to Michigan's new constitution requiring that all

property be assessed at 50 per cent of true cash value.

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Futurmill Asks For Injunction

As Farmington Township police continued an around-the-clock vigil at the Futurmill, Inc., manufacturing plant, the company carried its struggle with striking U.A.W. employees to Circuit Court Friday in a bid for an injunction against the union.

The strike by Local 540 was two weeks old Thursday and, although contract negotiations have been resumed, no further talks are planned until after the weekend.

In asking for injunctive relief, the company requested that the number of pickets be limited by court order and that any persons guilty of acts of violence or property damage be held in contempt of court.

A hearing on the matter was scheduled before Circuit Judge Philip Pratt.

Twenty-four-hour vigilance has been maintained by police at the plant on Hastings Rd. at 1160 since Tuesday's picketline outbreak when officers were forced to move some strikers physically from in front of traffic to allow supervisory personnel to enter the factory.

One arrest resulted from Tuesday's skirmishing, with

Edward Gill, 31, of Commerce Township, jailed for disobeying a police order to move out of the company driveway.

Gill was arraigned before Township Justice of the Peace Byron Walter Tuesday night and is now free on \$1,000 bond. His examination was set for Feb. 16.

Local 540 struck the plant Jan. 18 after expiration of a wage contract and rejection of a proposed new three-year pact. A union spokesman said the vote against accepting the company's offer at the time was 92 to 2.

In addition to the arrest of Gill, an investigation also is being conducted into the complaint of a union picket that he was struck by a car driven by a salaried employee.

The company is engaged in the manufacture of machine cutting tools and opened its plant here late in 1965. Some production has gone forward since start of the strike through the use of salaried non-striking employees, and now seriously the walk-out has crippled the company has not been revealed.



City Nature Trail Planned In Spring

The annual January thaw turned Farmington municipal attention to nature trails this week, and City Manager John D. Dinn disclosed that development of the first trail planned for the city park paralleling the Rouge River will start as soon as spring arrives for keeps.

It was the City Planning Commission which originated the nature trail project last year, but weather conditions have forestalled any work until now.

In a meeting of interested groups in City Hall, it was agreed that Boy Scouts of the area will tackle the undertaking as soon as it appears that the snow is gone for good.

Immediate objective will be a trail running 1,500 feet along the northwest side of the river in the park area lying north of Grand River.

The second phase, later in the year, will be development of a second trail, beginning where the first one ends and running north along the river to Silvercreek Rd.

One of the major assignments for the scouts will be clearing the river of debris, and helping with the actual physical chore of marking the trail.

Hartley Thornton, a naturalist with the State Conservation Department, attended the conference in city hall and assured his services as a volunteer in laying the trail out to take best advantage of natural flora and fauna abundant in the area.

Chairman of the planning commission's sub-committee in charge of the project is James Platt. It was given City Council approval last September.

Boy Scouts who help in the program will earn credit toward conservation merit badges and their concentrated effort is planned for a weekend camp-out when the weather permits.

City DPW equipment will be used to haul away any debris collected in the clean-up process.

Thornton has described the locale as one in which there is "a whole variety of things that will tell a total story about nature as the seasons evolve."

He said birds abound in the area, as do small animals such as raccoons and muskrats.

"A nice trail can be used effectively the year around," said Thornton. "There is a constant involvement of the study materials as the seasons shift."



WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS -- Heavy mid-week rains reached a peak Thursday, flooding many roadways and low lying sections in the Farmington area. The top scene shows how it looked along Nine Mile Rd., near Ruth. Below, a motorist fights the water on Orchard Lake Rd., north of 10 Mile Rd.

Day Heads Cub Roundtable

Edward D. Day, 32339 Lee Lane, Farmington, has been appointed Cub Scout Roundtable commissioner for the Ottawa District of the Boy Scouts.

The appointment was announced this week by J. Victor Stockwell, 26345 Middle Belt, Farmington, Ottawa District commissioner.

Day has announced that the first Cub Scout Roundtable will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in West Bloomfield High School, Maple Rd. and Orchard Lake Rd.

Publicity committeeman for the Cub Scouts, Day has been Pack 110 cubmaster for three years, a member of the Troop 110 committee, vice president

of Little League Baseball and chairman of the March of Dimes.

He moved to Farmington in 1965 from Jackson and is senior market researcher for Michigan Blue Shield. An Army veteran, Day holds a master's degree from Michigan State University.

All special assessments to property owners paying off the bond issues will be spread over a period of 15 years except those in District 36, where a 10-year plan has been state approved.

Third item approved was a \$14,000 bond sale applying to Special Assessment District 45, which is the Eastfield area located west of Glen Oaks Golf Club. Here again the purpose is to pay for sewer construction.

School districts are as autonomous as the school boards that run them and no one more autonomous than the individual tax payer who supports the school district.

But where they have taken direction, sometimes unwillingly, in things to do with education, taxpayers may be interested to know that the federal government had indicated readiness to put money into the training of teachers in sex education and has within the last year set up model courses in sex education in Massachusetts and New Orleans.

Education Program, directed by Dr. George Chambliss. Authorities maintain you cannot teach the humanities, literature, biology or the social sciences without touching on some aspect of human sexuality.

Authorities also maintain that sex education should go far beyond the mere teaching of reproduction to elementary school children, such as is done in Farmington schools.

LACKING school-oriented programs, private organizations, such as the Farmington Area YMCA are doing the job in many instances.

The local YMCA program, like those in many Michigan communities, took some of its direction from Flint's highly successful school Family Life

Township Bond Sale Approved

Permission to sell special assessment bonds totaling \$140,000 was granted Farmington Township this week by the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission.

The action was announced by Attorney General Frank Kelley, commission chairman, and to the township represents fruition for three project applications originated in 1967.

The largest issue, one of \$95,000, will be used to defray costs of constructing sewers in Special Assessment District 45, which is in the area of Orchard Lake and 13 Mile Rds.

Bonds of \$31,000 will be sold to meet costs of improving water mains in Special Assessment Districts 36 and 44, involving the Rockdale and Rhonow sections.

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"SAKURA" -- That's the name of the Japanese tune Fairview fourth grader, Danny Goldstein, is playing for an audience of Farmington teachers during last week's music workshop. Held at the Fairview School, the conference was designed to demonstrate the broad variety of uses to which the new Silver-Burdett music texts can be put.

Township Sets Addition Plans

Ground will be broken at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, for the new \$379,000 addition to Farmington Township Hall.

The 11,720 square foot proposed structure will be located just east of the existing town hall at 31555 11 Mile Rd.

Township trustees awarded the contract for the addition just a month ago to the Pinkert Construction Co., Birmingham.

The money for the new facility will come out of township building and site funds.

As plans stand now, the structure is designed to have offices for the Township Supervisor Curtis Hall, Township Treasurer Elise Avery, township clerks and their staffs.

Space has also been allotted in the addition for the building and assessing departments, Township Justice of the Peace Byron Walter and his secretary, a jury room and a trustees' rooms for Township Board and Planning Commission meetings which will see double use as a court room.

As things are now, the entire township administration is housed in the present 7,500 square foot, two-story, structure and is crowding it to overflowing.

Matthew Fusco, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Fusco of 29648 Lochmoor, Farmington, was named to the dean's list for the 1966-1967 academic year at Denison University in Ohio. A sophomore, Fusco was one of 17 students who compiled outstanding academic records as a freshman and was tapped for membership in Phi Society, an affiliate of Denison's Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Fusco Achieves Denison Honors

Claranceville's Charley Morse, whose legs are crippled, is a five-event state champion in gymnastics where he can use his arms. Picture story on Page 1B.

LBJ asks higher limit on home loans for GIs—national news roundup, Page 8B.

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Farmington High's Bill Spence develops theoretical physics formula to place among top 40 in nation in science talent contest, Page 9A.

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