

School Land Search Is Never Ending

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Farmington Schools have to be ready for an estimated 50,000 school children by the turn of the century.

That means that in 2000 there will be 34,000 more children eligible to attend the Farmington Schools than there are today.

In 1980 the schools expect an enrollment of 27,000. To educate the enrolled students in 1980, a total of 36 schools will be needed.

That's 12 more than the district operates today.

Average it out and it means a new school a year. That's been the average growth of the district since 1950 when the population growth hit the suburbs.

WHAT'S REQUIRED on the school's part to meet the population explosion? What are the guidelines?

School sites are a constant problem. It would have been cheaper if the district had purchased sites before people discovered Farmington. Hindsight is always better than foresight and this wasn't possible.

The biggest—in terms of funds—purchase of land is just being completed by the school district. That's the fifth junior high school site in Section One—the northeast corner of the district.

Farmington paid \$10,000 an acre for a 20-acre site. That's a total of \$200,000.

By purchasing this site the district estimates that the need of busing 400 to 500 junior high students to school each day has been eliminated. At the cost of \$35 per student for bus transportation, that's a long term saving.

Conversely, when the 20 acres for the present school administration building and the 10 Mile School was purchased in 1945, the total cost to the district was \$10,500.

Two members of the Farmington Board of Education serve on a site committee. This year the members are Leland Clifford and Herbert Neal.

Byron Oliver, administrative assistant to the superintendent, is the staff man who does the leg work.

IN AN INTERVIEW with The Enterprise & Observer, Oliver said that the Board will direct him to find a school site in a particular section of the district.

"I find out what land is available in the area," Oliver said, "and then contact the owners to find out if they are interested in selling it and what the price would be."

Oliver then inspects the possibilities and grades them in the order of preference.

At this point the Board members are called in to look at possible sites.

After the Board decision is made, an offer is made to the owner. Negotiations fol-

low and once agreement has been reached the legal matters are handled.

The purchase of the junior high site in Section One is currently in the hands of the attorney.

Average price of the land is \$3,000 to \$3,500 per acre, according to Oliver. The actual costs have ranged from \$2,500 an acre to \$10,000.

THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR said that the district usually is able to buy the land for the purchase price plus the cost of improvements—sewer and water facilities and roads.

Currently the district owns 10 1/2 school sites which do not have operating schools on them.

The half site is in the 12 Mile-Drake Rd. area in Section 17. Developer William Fultz has promised to deed the remaining necessary property to the schools if his proposed Satellite Village development is approved by the township.

Of these sites, seven and a half sites are for elementary schools. The district owns two junior high sites and two for senior high schools—including the land on 12 Mile Rd. for the new Harrison Senior High which should be open by 1971.

Elementary sites are 10 acres, while the district requires 20 acres for a junior high and 40 acres for a senior high.



A REAL BUY — When the Farmington Schools purchased 20 acres where the 10 Mile School and the administration building stands in 1945 the district paid a total of \$10,500.

From this \$500 per acre cost the land costs for the district have risen to an average of \$3,000 to \$3,500 per acre.

'Implied Consent' Increases Drunk Driving Convictions

By DAVID SARTIN

Farmington area police have been greatly aided in convicting drunk drivers since breathalyzer examinations were made permissible prosecuting evidence.

For the first eight months of 1968, 51 persons have been charged with driving under the influence of liquor. Twenty-five of those have been convicted in Farmington Municipal Court.

For the same period in 1967, 49 persons were arrested by

Farmington Dept. of Public Safety officers and seven were convicted.

The majority of the remaining cases were convicted on reduced charges.

The sharp increase in the percent of convictions is attributed to use of the breathalyzer exam. Prosecuting attorneys could not use the results of the exam before January, 1968, when a new state law became effective.

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP police have had similar success

in convicting persons charged with drunk driving.

Nineteen persons were arrested and 15 convicted during the first eight months of 1968.

"Courts would accept a breathalyzer for defense but not for prosecution," said Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes.

Prosecuting attorneys could not use the results of the exam before January, 1968, when a new state law became effective.

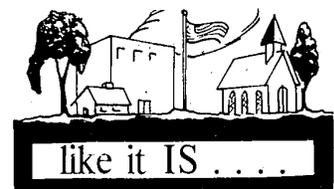
FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP police have had similar success

in convicting persons charged with drunk driving.

"If you refuse the exam during the arrest," Yakes said, "you are subject to having your driver's license revoked."

Yakes explained that persons refusing the exam are called before a Secretary of State review board to determine whether the license should be revoked.

Four such cases are presently pending from refusing to take the exam in Farmington Township police cases, Yakes said.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week The Farmington Enterprise & Observer starts a new feature. The column is designed to help everyone have a better understanding of Farmington. Good and bad will be reflected. We are asking your help. If you have suggestions about what might be included, please call 474-6223.)

HALLOWEEN FRANKSTERS armed with toilet paper are harmless. However, in late September the garage door in the City of Farmington was painted red. A sign in front of the house was painted blue.

Malignous destruction of property costs thousands of dollars each year in Farmington.

During 1968 the City Police have recorded 122 calls about destruction of property. In the township the figure is 550 calls. Many cases are not reported to the police.

Who's responsible?



STEPPING HIGH — Louella Sharpe, first girl drum major in Farmington High's history, leads the band across the field at the homecoming football game last Saturday.

The First Vote Wasn't Official

Sunday's story in The Enterprise & Observer on 92-year-old Jennie Zingelmann and her 72-year voting record neglected to say that Jennie's first ballot cast in 1896 was not an official ballot.

It couldn't have been because women didn't win the right to vote until the Constitution was amended to say they could in 1920.

But there is an interesting sidelight to the story of Jennie's vote for Grover Cleveland in 1896.

It seems that Jennie had a man teacher at old Farmington High, who by today's standards

Can You Drive People?

Volunteer work need not be specialized or complicated. One of the very worthwhile services performed by volunteers in our community is driving the blind, the handicapped, elderly people, or children to appointments with doctors or social welfare agencies.

Most adults take for granted their ability to hop in a car and go wherever they need to

FHS Majorette Is Breaking Traditions

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Louella Sharpe may be the first girl drum major in Farmington High School's history, but she's a gal who breaks with tradition in more ways than this.

When she graduates from FHS, Lou, as she prefers to be called, plans to attend Lawrence Institute of Technology to become a mechanical engineer. Or she might become a CPA.

A very feminine blond, Lou says, "I should have been a boy."

IN HER BOY'S JOB as drum major this year, Lou has had a ball—although she has had her ups and downs.

"The majorette carries and twirls a baton," explains Lou. "And I'm not a very good baton twirler. I just doodle with it."

"And then," she continues,

Now In Progress ...

VOTE!

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A 57-Store Rally Of Birthday Bargains!

GOP RALLY
FRIDAY, OCT. 18 7 p.m.

Hear Congressman Jack McDonald and other Republican candidates discuss local and national issues.

DEM RALLY
SAT., OCT. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Meet Attorney General Frank Kelley and other Democratic campaigners. Learn first-hand of their 1968 platform.

Speaker's platform in the middle of the Wonderland Mall.

It's our 9th Anniversary and we're ready with a platform of spectacular savings on fresh new merchandise. All 57 fine stores offer a host of birthday specials for the family, for the home, for the car!

It's our way of expressing our thanks for your patronage during the past nine years!

BRING THE FAMILY! GALA

★ **FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 9 p.m.

WONDERLAND CENTER
PLYMOUTH ROAD and MIDDLEBELT

OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL 9