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SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR — NUMBER 48 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 14 PAGES SEVEN CENTS A COPY

Supervisor Announces Appointment Of Tax Assessor For Township

William Gallagher Named To Newly Established Office Of Appraiser Effective October 1

Ernest Blanchard, Township Supervisor, reported this week that William H. Gallagher has been employed as assessor for Farmington Township.

The Supervisor stated that Gallagher will take over his new duties on October 1. At the present time he is chief of the Appraisal Bureau of the Veterans' Administration for this district. Blanchard added that the new assessor has had a great deal of experience in the appraisal field.

The securing of an assessor for the Township was approved by the qualified electors at the Annual Meeting. The Township Board also authorized the Supervisor to proceed with the hiring of an assessor at a salary not to exceed $6,500 per year. Blanchard stated that he interviewed a number of applicants before hiring Gallagher.

THE NEW assessor will work with the Supervisor in the appraisal of property in the Township. It is proposed that a new and complete system of appraisal records be set up. It is expected that this will require a re-examination of existing property as well as the continual addition to the records of new buildings. Blanchard stated that as a result of the tremendous growth and development in the Township, it is necessary that a separate assessor be employed.

The Supervisor also stated that work is continuing in an effort to secure land options for the drilling of test water wells. Only one of three property owners has been contacted thus far. Blanchard stated Tuesday that he has secured the address of the second property owner and that a registered letter has been forwarded to him in regard to the option. Negotiations are continuing with the first property owner.

Township Plans Adoption Of New Building Code

Proposal To Be Filed At Next Board Meeting

A resolution of intention to adopt a new building code for Farmington Township is now being drafted by A. G. Leonard, Township Attorney, and is expected to be ready for Board action at the next regular meeting on September 13.

The Township Board, at its meeting last week, authorized Leonard and Albert Gain, Building Inspector, to study the possible adoption of the abridged edition of the building code as prepared by the Building Officials Conference of America. The code sets up minimum standards for building construction for residential, commercial and industrial structures.

Gain stated Monday that he and Leonard have held several conferences regarding the possible adoption of the code and that a number of minor changes have been suggested. The Inspector added that these changes are now being incorporated into the resolution for presentation to the Board.

THE CODE, which has been adopted by a large number of cities and townships in this area, covers standards for building, plumbing and heating. Gain stated that because of the tremendous increase in building throughout the Township, a more complete and detailed code is necessary. According to the legal procedures, the declaration of intent must be presented first. If approved by the Board, the code will be adopted at the next regular meeting, to become effective within 30 days.

LIST PHONE NUMBER OF BRANCH OFFICE SECRETARY OF STATE

Kenneth Loomis, manager of the Farmington Branch of the Secretary of State Office, reported that due to an error, the Michigan Bell Telephone Company omitted the Branch phone number from the newly-released directory.

Loomis added that every effort is being made to publicize the new number, which is GReenleaf 4-1600. The branch manager suggested that local auto dealers and individual car owners copy the number down in their directories for reference.

Launch Red Cross Flood-Relief Drive

Mayor Robert Lindbert issued a special proclamation this week in connection with the Red Cross Flood Relief Program, urging all Farmington residents to contribute to the aid of flood victims in the eastern section of the United States.

A nation-wide drive is now being conducted by the American Red Cross in an effort to secure funds to help the victims of one of the worst flood disasters in our history. The quota for the entire country has been set at $8,000,000, while Oakland County's share is $13,000.

Mrs. Mel Stevens, chairman of the local Red Cross organization, reported early this week that the first contribution was received from Max J. Walters, 22025 Springbrook. The chairman added that the contribution was made without any solicitation. Mrs. Stevens urged that other residents follow this example and contribute generously to aid the flood victims.

Farmington area residents are requested to mail their contributions to Mrs. Stevens, 30755 Grand River, Box 171; or to Mrs. Joseph DeVriendt, 33501 Grand River. Checks should be made payable to the "American Red Cross Flood Relief."

AROUND THE BLOCK

A LOT OF SPACE . . . is being devoted this week to the anticipated record flow of traffic which is expected to jam the streets and highways in and around Farmington during the long Labor Day week end. The idea is not just to fill up the news and editorial columns with a bunch of words, but rather to impress on each and every reader the dangers that exist around every curve and over every hill. Elsewhere on this page is an outline of the preparations being made by local and state police in an effort to save lives. According to traffic safety experts, this coming week end will be a rough one unless a miracle happens. And only you, the driver, can make that miracle come true. Play it smart and you'll cross home plate safely. . . . It's the only way to win!

* * * *

AN INTERESTING BIT . . . of early Farmington history was uncovered at the Town Hall last week by Harry McCracken, Township Clerk. The history consists of an old and yellowed book containing the minutes of the "first annual meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Farmington held at Robert Wixom's home on the 28th of May, 1827." This is without a doubt the oldest existing official document of Farmington. At the time these minutes were written, Farmington was only three years old and Michigan was still a territory. The principal activity at the first annual meeting consisted of the election of officers and a discussion on the specifications and procedures for fencing of property. McCracken stated that the record book would be turned over to the library for safe keeping.

* * * *

THIS WEEK . . . your home community newspaper is breaking out in a brand new dress for the fall parade. You were given a brief preview of the new fashion last week, but now it is complete. In case you are wondering what we are talking about, we refer to the new body type which is being used throughout The Enterprise this week. The new type is more extended than the old and thus is easier on the eyes. A slightly larger type of the same design has also been added to give emphasis and variety to the general page lay-out. We sincerely hope that these new additions will make your reading of The Enterprise both easier and more enjoyable.

SCHOOLS EXPECT RECORD OPENING DAY ENROLLMENT

Improved Street Lighting Program Begins In City

Plan New Construction In Vicinity Of Schools

Construction was started late last week on the first phase of the City's street lighting program, which is being handled by engineers of the Detroit Edison Company.

New boulevard-type light fixtures have been erected, along Powers Road between Shiawassee and Ten Mile Road. The installation consists of wooden standards with metal cross arms upon which the actual light fixtures are mounted. In addition to the Powers Road installations, poles have been set in the Floral Park section and along Orchard Lake Road north of Grand River. Tennant added that work has also been started in practically all of the new subdivisions where no street lights exist at the present time.

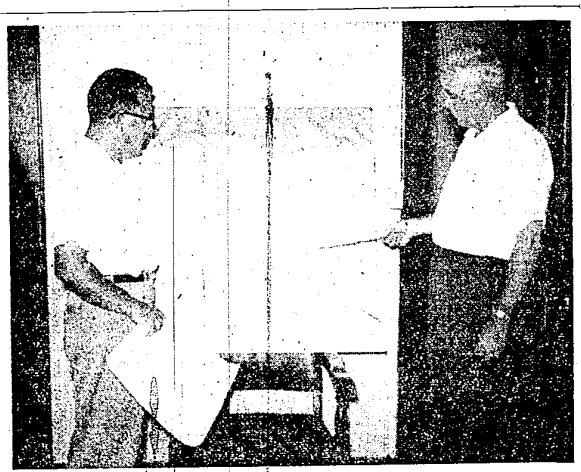
ORDERS have been processed for installations in the southeast section of the Bel-Aire Subdivision as well as along Shiawassee Street near the new Farmington High School. Construction of the new "white way" throughout the main business area is scheduled to begin after the Labor Day week end Tennant added. This is approximately a month ahead of the original schedule set up early last spring.

The City Manager stated that the new light fixtures will range in size from 2,500 lumins in the residential areas to 10,000 lumins in the business district and along main traveled streets. It is expected that the new lights in the business district will increase the present illumination at street level from 14% to 86%. The "white way" phase of the project will cost the city an additional $900 per year while the first phase of the residential lighting program will cost about $4,300.

ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED FOR ST. MARY HOSPITAL

At an open meeting held Thursday evening at the Felician Sisters' Convent, it was announced that Sister Mary Columbine has been appointed as Administrator of the proposed St. Mary Hospital.

Following the announcement, the new administrator gave a financial and statistical report which will be released in the Farmington Enterprise next week. Sister Mary Columbine reassured the group attending the meeting that the hospital shall be built for the exclusive use of the public, regardless of race, color or creed. In her concluding statements, the new administrator announced that a medical staff meeting of, physicians interested in the hospital will be held in the near future. She also reported that plans are being made for the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary.



PLANNING SCHOOL BUS schedules is a mighty detailed operation, especially in a rapidly growing District such as Farmington. This scene has been repeated many times in recent weeks as James Read, Assistant Superintendent, left, and O. E. Dunckel, Superintendent, right, discuss the establishment of the various bus routes. Final revisions of the schedule were completed last week end in accordance with the Board of Education policy and the fleet of school buses are ready to roll with the opening of classes on September 8.

Officials Announce New Revisions In Farmington School Bus Policy

Plan Pick-Up Of Early Elementary Children Within Mile Of School Where Hazards Exist

Final adjustments in the new Farmington school bus policy have been completed and will be put into effect with the opening of classes on Thursday, September 8, O. E. Dunckel, superintendent, reported Monday.

The following principles are to be used by the school administration in organizing the school transportation system. In general, buses will be routed over major highways: provided that routes may be modified in the interest of efficiency and safety of children. By action of the Board of Education, the superintendent of schools has been invested with discretionary powers with which to meet any unusual conditions which may arise relative to the transportation of students.

THE POLICY also provides that elementary students will be expected to walk at least one half mile to a bus route or one mile to school, except under conditions classified by the school as hazardous, provided that children in the kindergarten, first and second grades may be picked up by bus where otherwise they would be required to walk on a highway which presents unusually dangerous conditions. High school students will be required to walk one mile to school or one mile to a bus stop.

Transportation will be provided for physically handicapped children provided the disability is substantiated in writing by a registered physician or surgeon. The complete elementary school bus schedule appears on Page 8A of this week's issue.

Council To Open Sewer Bids Tues.

Sealed bids on the installation of sewer mains, water lines and street paving will be received and opened by the City Council at its next regular meeting, set for Tuesday evening, September 6.

The meeting, regularly scheduled on the first Monday of the month, has been advanced to Tuesday evening because of Labor Day. Bids will be received on 595 feet of 8-inch water main to run along Shiawassee between Powers Road and the existing main which starts at the pump house in the City Park. The purpose of the installation is to supplement the supply of water in the area east of Powers and north of Grand River. The new main will run parallel to an

(Continued on Page 8A)

Building Of New Sidewalks In City To Start At Once

First Installations Made On Powers Road

James Tennant, City Manager, reported Monday that work is scheduled to begin immediately on the construction of sidewalks in the vicinity of the Farmington High School as well as the Ten Mile and Shiawassee Street elementary schools.

The sidewalk program is being developed in cooperation with the School Board, the Detroit Edison Company and civic minded citizens. The City Manager stated that construction is about to begin on sidewalk along the north side of Shiawassee from Powers Road to Orchard Lake Road. The section from the east end of the high school to Orchard Lake Road is owned by the Detroit Edison Company. Work will also begin immediately on the construction of sidewalk along the south side of Shiawassee from Floral Street to the City limits. This will tie in with a sidewalk to be built from the school site west to the boundary of the City.

PLANS are also proceeding on the construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Powers Road from Shiawassee north to the existing sidewalk in front of Our Lady of Sorrows School. It is expected that the sidewalk will be extended north to Ten Mile Road upon completion of the new

(Continued on Page 8A)

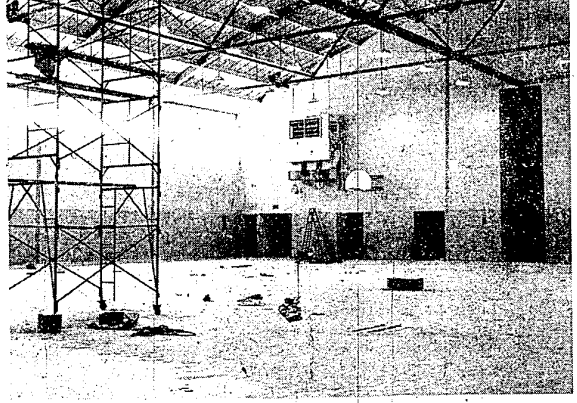
Two Injured In Freak Accidents

Charles Burt of Detroit suffered a broken right knee shortly after 6 p.m. Monday in an automobile accident on US-16 near Jefferson Street.

Burt, who was traveling east on Grand River, collided with the rear of a car parked at the curb and drove it across the highway into the center island of the divided highway. The driver of the vehicle at the curb was not in his auto when the mishap occurred.

In a statement to State Police covering the accident, Burt stated that his attention was taken completely away from his driving by a threatening bee which had gotten inside of his car.

Morraine Williams of Virginia suffered lacerations of the scalp and left arm last week when she fell from the auto in which she was traveling on US-16 one half mile east of Novi Road. She was attempting to close a door which had accidentally swung open when she lost her balance and fell out.



GYMNASIUM AND auditorium facilities in the Farmington Township School District will be greatly enlarged and improved this year. Work is nearing completion on the new gymnasium - auditorium at the high school on Shiawassee Road and should be finished shortly after the opening of school, according to school officials. A special feature is a huge sliding door which divides the gymnasium in the center, permitting both boys' and girls' physical education classes to be conducted at the same time. The pocket for the sliding door can be seen, center-right, in the photo above. The gymnasium can easily be converted into a full-sized auditorium by means of the sliding divider.

(Photo by Lou Geisler)

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Classes To Begin September 8 At Farmington And Clarenceville

Schools of the Farmington and Clarenceville Districts will officially open their doors to a record number of students on Thursday morning, September 8.

Officials of both school districts predict increases in opening day enrollments as the new 1955-56 school year gets under way. O. E. Dunckel, superintendent of the Farmington schools, stated that approximately 4,236 students are expected to enter classrooms Thursday morning as compared to an enrollment of 3,683 last year. Enrollment at Clarenceville is expected to reach 2,000, compared to 1,928 at the opening of classes in September of 1954.

Dunckel stated that a total of 118 seniors graduated from the Farmington High School last year while new kindergarten enrollment is expected to reach the 600 mark by the beginning of classes next Thursday. This, coupled with the anticipated increase throughout the other grades, will bring the total enrollment to a new record high. Classes at Clarenceville will be conducted until noon on opening day, while Farmington students will follow the regular schedule.

TEACHERS' meetings will be held at both Farmington and Clarenceville on Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the beginning of classes. R. H. Adams, Michigan Education Association, will address the Farmington teachers on Tuesday morning at the gymnasium on Thomas Street. He will discuss problems relating to social security. Luncheon will be served in the senior high school cafeteria, under the supervision of the Teachers' Club. Following the luncheon, Raymond Hatch, Director, Bureau of Research Services, Michigan State University, will be the main speaker. Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, separate teachers' meetings will be held in the individual school buildings.

The first general meeting of Clarenceville teachers will be held Tuesday morning at the high school building. Members of the School Board, the Teachers' Club and the administration will participate in the meeting. A luncheon will be served in the high school cafeteria, followed by meetings at the individual school buildings. On Wednesday morning the Teachers' Club will meet at the high

(Continued on Page 6A)

Parochial Schools Enroll Record Number This Year

Two Grades Added At Our Lady Of Sorrows

Classes will be resumed next Thursday, September 8, at both Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic and St. Paul's Lutheran Schools with increased enrollment reported at both schools.

A total of 850 youngsters have been registered in the elementary grades at Our Lady of Sorrows and 115 at St. Paul's Lutheran. In addition to elementary schooling, instruction will be afforded for the first time this year at Our Lady of Sorrows for 125 youngsters in their first two years of high school. Classes will be conducted in a portion of the new high school building, now under construction at the church site. A third high school grade, the eleventh grade, will be afforded next year, Father Thomas Beahan, pastor of the parish, stated.

REGISTRATION of youngsters has already been completed in the Our Lady of Sorrows School. Youngsters who will attend St. Paul's Lutheran School will be registered on Wednesday, September 7. Registration hours will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Classes will start at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows on Thursday. Four buses will each make two runs both mornings and evenings in picking up and returning children attending the parish schools. At St. Paul's Lutheran, the school

(Continued on Page 6A)

Cite Big Increase In Dwelling Units

During the past five years, the number of occupied dwelling units in the City of Farmington has been almost doubled, while the number of dwelling units in Farmington Township has been increased by nearly 50 per cent.

This is based on a report made by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission from figures compiled between April of 1950 and July 1 of this year.

In April of 1950, there were 675 occupied dwelling units in the City of Farmington. As of July this year, 1,330 occupied dwelling units were reported. This is an increase of 655 units, slightly over 97 per cent. The report revealed that there were 2,905 dwelling units in the Township in 1950 as compared to 4,300 occupied units as of July 1, 1955. This is an increase of 1,395 units or a 48 per cent jump for the five-year period.

Expect Heavy Toll

Police Prepare For Holiday Traffic

Once again Farmington City and Township police are preparing to join forces with other law enforcement agencies in an all-out effort to cut the expected heavy toll of auto accidents over the long Labor Day week end.

City Police Chief Joseph DeVriendt stated this week that all members of the department will be subject to call in case of emergency during the holiday. Plans are being made for extra heavy patrolling of city streets in an effort to eliminate any traffic tie-ups and to enforce traffic laws. Although the major attention will be concentrated on Grand River and other main roads, considerable patrolling will be done on residential streets also, DeVriendt stated.

It is expected that manual operation of the traffic light at the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Roads will be necessary at various times during the week end in order to keep traffic flowing. DeVriendt added that periodic checks of the traffic conditions will be made and that the light will be manually operated whenever necessary.

Irving Yakes, Township Police Chief, stated that Russ Conway, auxiliary police officer, will join the regular two-man force during the week end to assist with traffic control and enforcement. Yakes added that every effort will be made to patrol as much of the Township as possible over the holiday.

State Police, reinforced by National Guard personnel, will also patrol the main travelled roads throughout the City and Township and will be available to assist local police in case of emergency. The Oakland County Sheriff's Patrol is also expected to have cars in the area during the week end.

According to safety experts, a record number of automobiles are expected to jam Michigan's highways over the long holiday, with US-16 carrying one of the heaviest loads.

CITY ANNOUNCES NEW RUBBISH PICK-UP SCHEDULE

As a result of the large increase in population in the City, a new schedule of rubbish and garbage collections has been set up, to become effective Thursday, September 1, officials reported this week.

Under the new program, collections will be made in the area south of Grand River every Thursday beginning September 1. Pick-ups will be made on the north side of Grand River every Saturday, with the exception of the Bel-Aire Subdivision, where collections will be made on Mondays. Officials added that collections will be made on Labor Day, Monday, September 5, the same as usual.

CITY AND TOWNSHIP TO CLOSE OFFICES SATURDAY, MONDAY

Farmington City and Township offices will be closed both Saturday, September 3, and Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day week end, officials reported this week.

Both the City and Township Police Departments will maintain a regular schedule during the holiday and an emergency crew of the City Public Works Department will be available on call.