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# The Farmington Enterprise

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Wayne and Oakland Counties

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR — NUMBER 2 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1956 EIGHTEEN PAGES

## Farmington School Board Takes Action To Hasten Start Of Construction On New Elementary Schools

Preparatory plans were continued by the Farmington School Board, meeting in regular session Monday night to expedite the start of construction on new elementary schools at the Kendallwood and William Grace School sites. Following discussion, authorization was given by the Board to obtain bids for having trees cleared from the Kendallwood site and the old William Grace School and another small building at that site removed.

Details on the new Kendallwood school were gone over at length with Earl Meyers, architect, present at the Board meeting. It was generally agreed that the Board that a check should be made immediately to determine whether gas can be obtained to heat the school and if so whether or not it would be as economical as fuel oil.

It was further agreed that every effort should be made as rapidly as possible to obtain permission to connect the school sewage line into the Kendallwood Subdivision system. Meyers pointed out that soil at the site is not suitable for a septic tank and field and that a separate system of disposal will be necessary if a tie-in with the Kendallwood system can not be obtained.

Installation of separate wash basins and hot water heaters in storage rooms in each of the units of the school and drainage of storm water into a ditch at the back of the site, as recommended by Meyers, was agreed to by the Board.

It was indicated at the meeting that although a city elementary school site has not definitely been obtained as yet, plans are going forward for construction of a six-classroom unit in the city south of Grand River.

A REQUEST from the Kendallwood Corporation for a drainage easement on the new Junior high school site was studied. It was recommended by Board President Bayard Tupper that the easement be granted but that efforts be made to have the drainage follow along property lines. All members agreed that every effort should be made to work with the subdivision developers in every way possible to provide the best drainage system obtainable for both the school site and the subdivision property.

A breakdown of school population, both present and projected

(Continued on Page 6A)

## Board To Secure Bids On Vault For Town Hall

### Urge Prompt Action To Protect Records

Albert Gain, township supervisor, was authorized by the Board Tuesday evening to proceed with the securing of cost estimates on the construction of a fire-proof vault for the township offices.

The action was taken at the request of Gain, who stated that something should be done immediately to protect existing township records. It was suggested that the new vault be constructed as a small addition to the west side of the town hall building. This would provide walk-in facilities of sufficient size to take care of present and future needs.

Gain added that he had obtained an offer for a vault door at a bid price of $700. The Board authorized the supervisor to make a deposit on the door pending final purchase. Gain stated that he would secure the cost estimates on the vault as soon as possible and submit them to the township for formal action.

THE BOARD also agreed to confer with officers of the Masonic Lodge regarding the possible installation of additional steel beams to support the second floor of the Town Hall. At the same time it was suggested that the township attorney review the court decree to determine the degree of responsibility of each of the owners of the building. Prior to the action, a letter was read from an engineering firm supporting the opinion that additional beams should be installed to insure the safety of the building.

A contract was awarded to the Acton Plumbing company, 15730 Telegraph Road, for the installation of water meters in the Kendallwood Subdivisions at a bid price of $4.10 per meter plus any necessary connection materials. The Acton Company bid was the lowest of two proposals received by the Board.

The Board approved a motion setting November 1 as the date for the transfer of authority from the present Library Board to the newly-created District Library Board. Similar action will be taken by the city in order to coordinate the transfer. Two members of the Library Board

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## Board To Open Bids On New H. S.

Sealed bids on construction work for the first unit of the new Clarenceville high school will be received and opened by the Board of Education on Thursday, October 11.

Officials stated this week that the actual signing of the contracts is expected to be delayed until monies from the $750,000 bond issue have been received. The bond issue was sold last week to the Braum and Bosworth company and steps are now being taken to have the bond certificates printed. It is expected that the funds will be available in about two weeks.

The first unit of the high school will be designed to accommodate between 1,000 and 1,200 students. Present plans call for the admittance of seventh and eighth grade students to the building as soon as it is completed. As additional rooms are constructed, the junior high school students will be transferred back to the present building, leaving the new unit for senior high school students.

## Recommends New Traffic Light On Grand River

### Propose Installation At 9 Mile Intersection

A representative of the State highway department advised city officials Monday that he is recommending the installation of a standard traffic light at the intersection of Grand River and Nine Mile roads.

The announcement was made following a conference between Samuel Levine, representative of the State Highway Department and Earl Scherffius, Farmington city manager. Levine stated that he would submit his recommendation to the Highway Department immediately. If approved, the light is expected to be installed within a few months.

Scherffius requested the meeting with Levine to discuss the possible installation of a traffic light at either the Orchard Lake Road or Nine Mile intersection with Grand River. During the conference it was agreed that the Nine Mile intersection would be the best location for the traffic light.

OFFICIALS stated that the light would permit the proper flow of traffic off from both Orchard Lake Road and Nine Mile. Because of the heavy volume of traffic, it is not uncommon to have vehicles backed up for blocks on both Orchard Lake and Nine Mile waiting to get onto Grand River. Scherffius also pointed out that the light will help to break up traffic along Grand River from Orchard Lake Road west to Farmington Road, thus making turns onto Grand River easier and safer.

## County Reports Delay On Paving Farmington Rd.

### Work Held Up Pending Right-of-way Clearance

The proposed surfacing of Farmington Road from 10 Mile north to 12 Mile may have to be delayed until 1957 because of difficulties in securing necessary right-of-ways, Leon Belknap, chief engineer of the Oakland County Road Commission, reported Tuesday.

Belknap stated that the surfacing project is included in the 1956 road construction program, however, unless an agreement can be reached in a very short time, the project will have to be delayed. It is proposed that a bituminous aggregate surface be laid on Farmington Road from 10 Mile Road to 12 Mile Road. Belknap explained that this type of a surface can not be laid during cold or freezing weather.

IN ADDITION to the surfacing, plans call for the widening and straightening of the curve on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. This particular phase of the project will require additional right-of-way. Belknap stated that one of the parcels of property involved is now being sold which has resulted in some delay.

A number of requests, including several petitions, have been filed with the Road Commission in the past, requesting improving of Farmington Road. This coupled with the development of several large subdivisions in the area and an ever increasing flow of traffic has prompted officials to give the construction project an early priority.

Discussions have also been underway between the City and the County regarding the possible construction of a new bridge on Farmington Road south of 10 Mile Road. The County has agreed to study and review the request and to submit a report to city officials.

Efforts are also being made to work out an agreement between the City, Township and County for the surfacing of Nine Mile Road from Farmington Road west to Gill Road. Property owners along Nine Mile have petitioned the Township Board to take all possible steps to have the road improved.

## P.O. Issues First Christmas Bulletin

Christmas starts early at the Farmington Post Office, according to an announcement released this week by Postmaster Henry Trombley to the effect that gift packages to certain overseas points should be mailed by October 15.

Trombley added that these foreign points include all of the Far East stations. Parcel post packages going to the Near East, Africa, Europe and South and Central America should be mailed by November 1 to insure delivery by Christmas. The Postmaster added that these dates apply for ordinary parcel post delivery.

Postal officials suggest that persons contemplating mailings to overseas and distant foreign points acquaint themselves now with regulations and requirements for such mailings. Since the Post Office expects a very heavy flow of this type of mail prior to the holidays, Trombley suggests that early mailings be made to insure proper delivery by Christmas

## Township Board Seeks Return Of Section 36 Water System

THE GOAL of Farmington's United Fund and Community Chest Drive is the main topic of conversation as Roger Walker, left, campaign chairman, and Omar Sanderson, board chairman, discuss plans for the opening of the 1956 fund raising drive. The annual campaign will officially open on Monday, October 15, with a quota of $28,000. Volunteer solicitors will conduct a house to house campaign throughout the City and Township area during the three-weeks drive. Other volunteers will solicit contributions from commercial, professional and industrial establishments in the area.

## Farmington's 1956 United Fund Drive To Open Monday With $28,000 Goal

### Hold Special Pep Breakfast Wednesday Preparatory To Start Of Annual Campaign

Farmington's 1956 United Fund and Community Chest campaign will officially open next Monday, October 15 with a quota of $28,000, Roger Walker, chairman of the drive, announced this week.

The new 1956 quota is only slightly higher than the 1955 goal of $27,326. United Fund officials stated that in view of the tremendous increase in population during the past year, the actual per capita rate is less than in 1955. While the annual drive will run from October 15 to November 6, Walker expressed hope that the quota will be reached early in the campaign.

With that objective in mind, the United Fund committee held a special "pep breakfast" Wednesday morning at Himmelspach's dining room. In addition to the committee chairmen, coordinators and captains, various city and township officials were invited to the breakfast. The objectives of the campaign were discussed, as well as the importance of reaching the quota as early as possible.

THIS YEAR'S campaign will include five Community Chest agencies as well as 30 county and

(Continued on Page 6A)

## TOWNSHIP ZONING PROPOSAL FILED WITH BOARD

A proposed amendment calling for the rezoning of Brookside Park Subdivision from Residential Two to Residential Three has been forwarded to th Zoning Board for study and public hearing, Floyd A. Cairns, Township Clerk, announced this week.

Brookside Subdivision is located north of Eight Mile Road and west of Middlebelt. The Board declared its intent to amend the zoning ordinance at the regular meeting of September 25.

## Schools Announce Total Enrollment

A total of 5,282 students are now enrolled in the Farmington School District and 2,004 in the Clarenceville School District, according to official figures released this week.

These totals, representing the official enrollment as of September 28, 1956, are used in computing the amount of state aid which the districts will receive. Any future increases in enrollment will have no effect on the state aid revenues.

According to Farmington school officials, a total of 726 youngsters are enrolled in the kindergarten classes. This is compared to 592 at the same time last year. Elementary enrollment, exclusive of kindergarten, is listed at 2,925 and junior-senior high school at 1,631. The total figure of 5,282 is compared to 4,435 for the same period last year. This is an increase of 847 students, or 19.1 per cent over the enrollment as listed at the end of the fourth week of 1955.

In contrast to the Farmington enrollment, Clarenceville reports 2,004 students, a drop of 20 over the same period a year ago. Kindergarten enrollment is listed at 214, while the elementary figures show 1,005 students and the junior-senior high school shows 785 students. Officials emphasized that the drop in enrollment is due to a large extent on the movement of persons from the District due to lay-offs in the auto industry.

## CITY INITIATES DEPARTMENTAL STAFF MEETINGS

A new administrative procedure has been initiated in the city whereby departmental staff meetings are being held once a month for the purpose of discussing policy matters.

According to Earl Scherffius, city manager, several meetings have already been held with considerable success. The discussions include matters of interest to all departments, such as public safety and personnel policies.

## Inside Features


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## Line-Ups Mark Close Of Record Vote Registration

### Final Rush Swamps City, Township Clerks

A last-minute rush of new vote registrations, the heaviest in the history of the Farmington community, kept township and city clerks busy right up to the 8:00 p. m. deadline on Monday.

According to Floyd A. Cairns, township clerk, activity was so heavy during the final hours of registration that a waiting line had to be formed. At one point the line extended around the interior of the Township office and out onto the sidewalk leading to the Town Hall. Cairns added that smaller line-ups were necessary on several occasions late last week. According to officials, this is the first time, to their knowledge, that waiting lines have been formed during a registration period.

Activity in the city was also extremely heavy during the final hours of registration. Kathryn Cotter, city clerk, reported a steady flow of applications, although no lengthy waiting lines resulted. Auxiliary personnel was required in both the city and township to handle the last-minute rush.

DURING the final week of registration a total of 1,299 new registrations were taken in the township, while 331 were recorded in the city. Officials stated that this is the largest single increase in registrations in the history of the community. Based on unofficial figures, this brings the total registration in the township to 9,397 and in the city to 2,944. It is anticipated that the final totals will be somewhat less, since the lists must be brought up to date prior to the November election.

The tremendous increase in registrations has raised hopes for a record turn-out of voters on November 6.

## DISCUSS ANNEXING REQUEST WITH PROPERTY OWNERS

An informal conference was held Wednesday evening between Earl Scherffius, Farmington city manager, and a group of Township property owners regarding the possible annexation of a strip of land along the east side of Farmington Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile Roads.

Scherffius stated that the conference was called after a petition was received from the owners of a parcel of land at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Farmington Roads requesting annexation. Property owners along the east side of Farmington Road between Eight Mile and Nine Mile were invited to participate in the discussion. Scherffius emphasized that the conference was called for the sole purpose of determining the attitude of the property owners to the proposal.

## Ask Legal Opinion On Use Of Funds To Retire Bonds

The Farmington Township board, at a special meeting Friday afternoon directed A. G. Leonard, township attorney, to prepare a legal opinion on the possibility of the Township assuming control of the Section 36 water system.

In separate action the board also went on record as approving the proposal subject to a favorable opinion from the township attorney. The system, which covers Section 36 in the southeast corner of the Township, has been in receivership since 1936. In addition to the members of the board, Leonard and Joseph Lynch, receiver for the water system, were present at the special meeting.

THE BOARD was advised that they would be required to pay off the remaining outstanding bonds before the system could be taken over. According to officials, it would require approximately $35,000 to liquidate the present obligations. The board was also advised that the system has a balance of approximately $14,000 in reserve. It was pointed out, however, that a sizable portion of the reserve should be maintained for operations.

Leonard was specifically requested to submit an opinion on whether or not the Township could legally use monies from the general fund to pay off the outstanding bonds. It was indicated that the Township could not take over the system unless all of the bonds were liquidated.

Since the Township has taken steps to establish a water authority, officials have expressed a desire to assume control of the Section 36 system.

## Schedule Joint Planning Meeting

A joint meeting of the Township Board and the Planning Board will be held Monday evening at the Town Hall for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the proposed commercial land use plan for Farmington Township.

Officials emphasized that the discussion will be confined to the members of the Township Board and Planning Board as well as the Planning Consultants. The meeting will consist entirely of a review and discussion, with no formal action being taken until a regular Township Board meeting.

The proposed commercial land use plan was filed with the Township Board several weeks ago by Harvey Freeman, secretary of the Planning Board. It was suggested that the members of the Township Board study the plan prior to the October 15 meeting so that a full discussion of the proposal could be held. The Planning Board is recommending that the plan be adopted as a part of the over-all master plan for the Township.

The commercial land use plan recommends the establishment of business sites based on various population and location factors. It also recommends specific requirements on the protecting of adjacent residential areas.

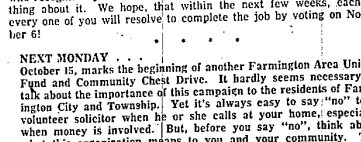
## WORK STARTED ON IMPROVING CITY PARKING LOT

Plans are proceeding on the proposed grading, surfacing and metering of the city-owned parking lot south of Grand River and west of Precise Tool Company, Earl Scherffius, city manager, announced this week.

Work was started last week on the removal of a tree at the southwest corner of the property and final grading operations are expected to begin late this week. Scherffius stated that proposals on the surfacing of the lot are now being received and will be presented to the Council at its regular meeting next Monday.

In the meantime, proposals are also being secured on the purchase of parking meters to be installed on the lot. Scherffius stated that some of the meters will be set to allow for all-day parking, while others will provide for four-hour and two-hour parking.

## AROUND THE BLOCK



IT IS HARD FOR US . . . to contain our enthusiasm over the tremendous vote registration which has just been concluded in the Farmington area. If we seem a bit repetitious, we're sorry, but in our book it's down right wonderful. A lot of credit must go to the Township and City Clerks for the extra effort they put forth in helping to make this record possible. They cooperated wholeheartedly with us in supplying up-to-date information on the progress of the registration campaign. Through this means we were able to keep you informed and maybe encouraged some of you to get your name in the book. A lot of credit too, must go to those of you who recognized your individual responsibility as citizens and did something about it. We hope, that within the next few weeks, each and every one of you will resolve to complete the job by voting on November 6!

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NEXT MONDAY . . . October 15, marks the beginning of another Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest Drive. It hardly seems necessary to talk about the importance of this campaign to the residents of Farmington City and Township. Yet it's always easy to say "no" to a volunteer solicitor when he or she calls at your home, especially when money is involved. But, before you say "no", think about what this organization means to you and your community. The Boy Scouts, the Big Brothers, the Visiting Nurse Committee, the Farmington and Clarenceville Recreation Commissions are doing an important job for you. As Community Chest Agencies they need and deserve your support in this annual campaign. Don't let them down . . . give early and give at home!

• • • • •

PEACE AND QUIET . . . has returned to the Township offices . . . well almost. The noise and confusion that prevailed most of last week during the alterations to the main hall has given away to a more orderly scene. While desks and files are still scattered in temporary locations, the hammering and sawing has ceased. Finishing work on the project, including the decorating of the west end of the hall, is expected to be completed within a few days. From all appearances the brief disruption will be well worth the effort. The newly altered hall is a vast improvement over the previous arrangement and should add greatly to the efficiency of the offices as well as the convenience of the public.

Add New Features

## Kiwanis Travel Series To Open Sunday Afternoon

The first program of the 1956-57 Travel and Adventure series, featuring Frederic B. Christian with "The California Story," will be held this Sunday afternoon, October 14, at the Junior High school auditorium on Thomas street.

The series, sponsored by the Farmington Kiwanis Club, will include six travelogues by outstanding lecturers and photographers. All proceeds from the series will be turned over to the Farmington Community House Fund. Bill Wilson, president of the Kiwanis Club, emphasized that all of the travel programs will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning at 4 p. m. In previous years the programs have been scheduled on Saturday evenings. The change was made as a convenience to residents of the community, Wilson added.

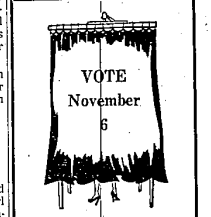
Another new feature of this year's series is the special baby-sitter service. Members of the Farmington Girl Scouts will watch youngsters in a special nursery which will also be equipped with a television set. Wilson stated that he hoped that this would further encourage whole families to attend the series. Children accompanied by their parents will be admitted to the lectures without charge.

Leo Gildemeister, chairman of the underprivileged children's committee, said that every effort is being made to see that crippled children, as well as home-bound elderly persons, receive free transportation to the programs.

FREDERIC CHRISTIAN

Season tickets for the series may be purchased from any member of the Farmington Kiwanis Club, as well as at Bob's Barber Shop, corner of Grand River and Farmington Road, and Bel-Aire Drugs, corner of Ten Mile and Orchard Lake Road. Tickets will be delivered if calls are directed to the following phone numbers: Gr. 4-5364, Gr. 4-2431, Ma. 6-1344 and Ma. 6-3690.

Frederic Christian, who will present the first travelogue Sunday afternoon, is a veteran of both the travel lecture field and the Farmington series. He and Mrs. Christian have presented features on Italy and Ethiopia in past seasons. A resident of Laguna Beach, Mr. Christian brings us a colorful and exciting travelogue of his native state including its magnificent scenery, its tremendous growth and industry, its wildlife and its colorful festivals.



VOTE
November
6

Final Registration Totals

TOWNSHIP
9,397
Increase of 1,299
During Final Week

CITY
2,944
Increase of 331
During Final Week