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Wayne and Oakland Counties

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TWENTY-TWO PAGES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIRING APPRAISAL FIRM

Seek Quick Action To Aid Township Assessor's Office

The Farmington Township Board, at a special meeting Tuesday evening, approved a motion to investigate the possibility of employing an appraisal firm to assist with the equitable valuation of property in the Township.

The motion followed a detailed discussion of the proposal by members of the Board and William Gallagher, Township Assessor. Frank Stephenson, Township Supervisor, had previously recommended that two additional field men as well as surveyors be added to the assessor's staff. The Supervisor added that even with the additional employees, the re-assessment program would require approximately two years to complete. Gallagher stated that under the law each dwelling in the Township should be measured and examined before being placed on the assessment rolls. He added that some progress has been made but the entire program will take considerable time to complete. The Clerk added that such a firm could do the job in six or seven months where the present plan would require at least two years. Gallagher stated that it would be more equitable to have a firm do the appraising since it could all be accomplished within one assessment year. Fred Westlake added that while the cost of such service is high it probably would not be as expensive as having additional assessors. Westlake also added that the question being held over until the Board meeting of May 21 was to obtain more information and cost figures be obtained on the proposal.



INSTALLATION of new and enlarged culverts across Twelve Mile Road to handle storm water from the new junior high school and Kendallwood 11 subdivision was begun last week by the County Road Commission. The picture above, snapped last Saturday, shows a crane digging out a line across the roadway prior to the laying of a second culvert. The creek crossing the road runs just west of the new school now under construction.

Council Approves \$465,362 Budget, Boosts 1957-58 Tax Rate To 20 Mills

The City Council, Monday evening, formally adopted a record \$465,362 budget for the fiscal year 1957-58 and fixed the annual tax rate at the maximum \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Action on the proposed budget followed the annual public hearing which was held during the course of the regular meeting at the Municipal Building. Only two changes were made in the proposal as submitted by the City Manager on April 8. The general government item was increased to \$43,055 to allow for a \$1,500 boost in the City Manager's salary, while a similar amount was deducted from the Miscellaneous Item.

Principal items in the budget include: Staff Agencies, \$27,817; Public Safety, \$81,375; Public Works, \$172,783; Public Health, \$175; Library, \$4,750; Miscellaneous, \$10,435; and Water and Sewer, \$118,927.

Pre-Kindergarten Registering Dates Set For May 15-16

Pre-registration of youngsters who will be starting kindergarten in the Farmington Public School system in the fall will be conducted next Wednesday and Thursday, May 15 and 16. It was disclosed Tuesday by Miss Minnie Zielke, director of elementary education.

Parents are asked to enroll their youngsters at the office of the school nurse attending. It was pointed out that only children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 1957, will be enrolled. Parents are requested to bring their child's birth certificate with them when registering.

Clarenceville To Vote On School Millage Question At Election Monday

Voters of the Clarenceville School District will go to the polls next Monday, May 13, to decide the question of whether or not an additional four mill tax is to be levied for a period of five years to pay operation expenses of the District.

Officials predict that a comparatively tight vote will be cast at the special election. The prediction is based on the limited number of inquiries which have been received at the Board of Education regarding the election as well as the small number of new registrations which were recorded during the special application period. Officials stated that 110 new registrations were recorded up to the May 3 deadline.

Jaycee Road-E-O Planned May 19

Plans are now being completed for the Third Annual Teen-Age Road-E-O sponsored by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce to be held Sunday, May 19, starting at 2 p.m.

Competition in the annual event is open to all teenagers of the area who hold driving permits and several of the Jaycee committee officials of the Road-E-O said.

Deviating from the procedure used in past years, no pre-registration will be conducted. Teenagers wishing to compete in the Road-E-O will be registered at the contest site at the Food Fair Market parking lot on the same day the Road-E-O is held.

Both written tests and actual tests of the driver's skill behind the wheel of a car will be given. The driving test will consist of a number of events including stopping, parking and the general maneuvering of an automobile.

First place prize in the contest will be a \$25 Savings Bond. Runner-up prizes of trophies will also be given.

The winner in the local contest will be eligible to participate in a similar State contest, sponsored by the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce. Roger Fondt, local winner in the Road-E-O last year, went on to win the State contest earning him a trip to Washington, D. C. to compete in National competition.

All cars used for the local Road-E-O will be 1957 Fords furnished by the Berling-Mellich Ford Agency. Cars with all different types of transmissions will be available.

Two Injured In Auto Accidents

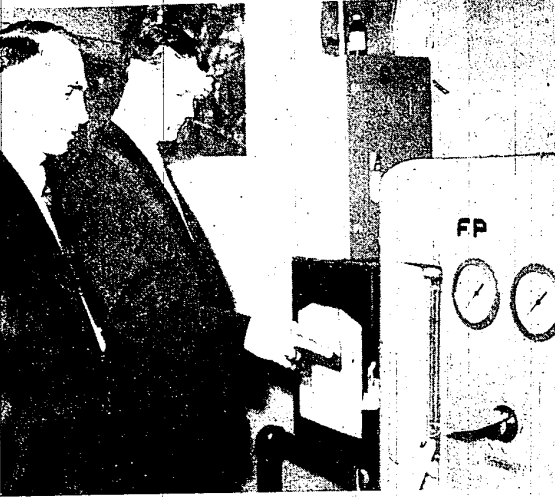
Two persons were injured last week in separate auto accidents at Middlebelt Road.

Einar Haaseth of 2541 Middlebelt Road, Pontiac, suffered minor facial lacerations when he was involved in a rear-end collision at the intersection of the Ten Mile Road intersection late last Wednesday afternoon. He was treated by a local doctor and released.

Haaseth smashed into the rear of a second car operated by Ruth Bayard of Royal Oak which was slowed down for the car in front of her making a right turn. Driver of the third car involved was Elizabeth Mallon of 2650 Springfield Drive, Farmington.

The second crash occurred Thursday morning around 7:35 o'clock at the Twelve Mile Road intersection. James C. Williams of Lake St. Clair, Michigan, a passenger in one of the two cars involved, suffered bruises about the head and shoulder and hospital care was handled by William Beaumont Hospital for treatment.

The crash resulted when the car in which Williams was riding was operated by a local driver who was pulled out from Middlebelt to cross 12 Mile and was struck in the rear by an auto driven by Joseph Pedicino of Farmington. Pedicino was proceeding west on 12 Mile.



CHECKING OVER controls at the city storm water treatment plant for the new Farmington sewer interceptor. City Manager Duane Partain, left, and City Manager Earl Scherffius, right. The controls are housed in a small building at the storm water treatment plant site on Eight Mile Road, a short distance east of Brookfield.

Reject Proposal For Multiple Dwellings In City

Action was taken by the City Council, Monday evening, denying a request for the rezoning of a parcel of land at the southwest corner of Shiswassee and Mooney for multiple dwellings.

After a brief discussion, the Council approved a motion to retain the present R-1 zoning on the property rather than change it to multiple dwellings. Councilman Thomas Barber cast the only negative vote on the motion. Prior to the action on the rezoning question, the Council rejected a second request for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would liberalize lot area sizes for multiple dwellings. The proposed rezoning was discussed in detail at a public hearing held before the City Council on April 8.

A contract for the construction of a 4 inch water main to service the new storm water treatment plant was awarded to the Joseph Girard Company at a bid price of \$2,749.49. A total of five bids were received on the project with the Girard proposal being the lowest. The main which will run from a connection at Shaw and Sherwood streets to the plant will provide necessary water facilities for the cleaning of equipment.

Sewer Interceptor Set For Operation

Final adjustments are now being made on the controls of the new sewer interceptor preparatory to placing the system in operation late this week.

It was originally estimated that the system might be ready for operation last week, however, some temporary delays were encountered. Earl Scherffius, City Manager, stated that all of the necessary equipment has now been installed in both the pump house and the storm water treatment plant. Work on final adjustments of the equipment are expected to take approximately four days. Thus it is anticipated that the full system will be in operation by Friday or Saturday of this week.

Scherffius stated that officials of the City of Detroit have requested that they be advised of the starting operation date as soon as it has been definitely determined. The City is authorized to use the new interceptor system as soon as the final adjustments have been completed.

The system will carry sewage from Farmington through an interceptor line to a connection with the City of Detroit system near Eight Mile and Telegraph Roads.

Completion of the system will bring to a close a long series of negotiations and conferences between the City and the State Water Resources Commission regarding the pollution of the Rouge River. The City was first approached by the State in 1928, however, the situation was not pressed until 1953 when court proceedings were initiated by the State requiring that the City take immediate action to construct sewage disposal facilities. Several types of systems were proposed before the interceptor plan was adopted.

Plan To Impose Water Restriction In City June 1

City officials stated this week that limited restrictions on the use of outside water are expected to be put into effect on June 1 as a means of maintaining adequate water pressure during the summer months.

The Mayor is authorized to impose the restrictions by proclamation on the advice of the City Manager and the water department. It is anticipated that the restrictions will become effective June 1 unless an emergency develops. Officials emphasized that there is an adequate supply of water to service the city's needs. The problem is one of distribution at peak load periods.

Earl Scherffius, City Manager, stated that the two new wells, located south of the Cut-Off and west of Farmington Road have a capacity of 1,000 gallons a minute while the three wells in the city park have a capacity of approximately 900 gallons per minute. This is more than ample to take care of the maximum needs of the city, Scherffius stated. However, because of the limited size of numerous water mains in the city, it is impossible to maintain adequate pressure during high use periods.

RESTRICTIONS are expected to be in effect by June 1.

GOT PIGGIE BANK TROUBLE?

If you're looking for a quick way to get a loan, there's a place for you. The Piggie Bank is here to help you. We'll pay a liberal 75c commission for every new subscriber signed up by a certified solicitor during this month-long drive. We will also provide all the materials you need to make the job easier and more profitable.

So if you want to fatten your piggy bank in a hurry, call The Enterprise today for an appointment.

The phone number is GR. 4-8225

Cancer Crusade Ends Final Week

A total of approximately \$1,200 has been collected to date in the Annual Farmington Cancer Crusade. John Clappison, chairman, announced Monday.

The chairman stated that this represents approximately one-third of the anticipated goal for the 1957 campaign. Clappison added that the progress of the crusade is running according to schedule with more and more reports coming in from both residential and commercial areas. It is estimated that approximately one-third of the volunteer solicitors have submitted their reports thus far.

Clappison stated that the solicitation of the funds is continuing throughout the city and township area. Efforts are being made to complete the campaign this week.

The chairman added that the collections to date do not include any contributions from the commercial areas. A concentrated effort is being made among industrial establishments to register well under way.

Persons who have not been contacted by a solicitor, but wish to make their donations at either the Farmington Branch of the National Bank of Detroit or the Farmington Enterprise.

UF Board Adopts Detroit Affiliation

The Board of Directors of the Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest last week approved and signed a contract to affiliate with the United Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit.

Officials stated that the contract covers a period of one year and will include the 1957 United Fund Campaign. The Farmington organization will retain its present name and will handle all administrative matters affecting the local area. The advisory board composed of representatives will continue to serve and a local campaign chairman will be appointed.

Roger Walker, last year's campaign chairman in Farmington, stated that the local Board will establish its own budget including local community chest agencies. The Farmington budget will then be submitted to the United Foundation of Detroit to be incorporated in the over-all campaign.

Liaison between Farmington and Detroit will be maintained through an advisory board composed of representatives from other affiliated communities in Oakland County. Walker and Robert Clarke were appointed by the Board as Farmington representatives on the advisory group. Mrs. Franklin Cotton was selected as an alternate representative to turn one member of the advisory committee will be appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the United Foundation.

AROUND THE BLOCK

THE QUESTION
The question at the City budget hearing, Monday evening, regarding whether or not funds had been allocated for the promotion of new commerce and industry in the community, brings up an interesting point. Many municipalities are appropriating monies for this specific purpose in order to but a more adequate tax base. In view of the tight financial condition of the city at the present time, any such allocation would be extremely difficult. The Council has indicated that some planning is now underway in an effort to accomplish the objective in the use of funds. It is possible that such an effort could be facilitated and expedited through the formation of a committee of economic development. It is being done every day at a minimum of cost and a maximum of results.

THERE'S A NOTICEABLE...
increase in the flow of traffic on Grand River which means only one thing, summer is not far away. It also means that the installation of the new traffic lights at the intersection of Grand River were completed in the nick-of-time. Workmen from the Oakland County Commission finished the job Tuesday afternoon and the new traffic lights were put in operation immediately. The new signals should make a big help in distributing the traffic flow and thus allowing for easier and safer access onto Grand River from the various side streets. However, officials predict that the situation will continue to be rough until the Cut-Off is re-opened to traffic. So take a hint and take it easy!

WE'VE SAID IT BEFORE...
and we'll say it again. If you live in the Clarenceville School District, don't forget to vote next Monday, May 13. It's your job as a citizen to be there. Don't wait for George to do it, because he's probably waiting for you!

EIGHT MILE LUMBER ENTERED, ROBBED SATURDAY NIGHT

The Eight Mile Lumber and Supply Company located on Eight Mile Road just west of Middlebelt Road was broken into late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. The thieves stole approximately \$22 being taken from the company safe.

Entrance to the building was made by breaking out a side window. The safe was found outside the building where the robbers apparently took it to open. The combination dial on the safe was broken and the door badly battered.

State police detectives investigating the break-in and robbery indicated that the job was probably done by amateurs because of the method used to open the safe.

ZONING BOARD PROPOSES LARGER LOT SIZES IN CITY

The Zoning Board of Appeals have recommended to the City Council that consideration be given to an amendment to the zoning Ordinance providing for increasing minimum lot areas in Residential One zones.

According to officials, the recommendation is prompted by an ever increasing number of requests for variances, particularly for the construction of garages. No specific recommendations on lot sizes have been made by the Board of Appeals. However, they suggested that the Council make a survey of standards in near-by communities.

Rated 4th In County Township Listed Among Leaders In Building Activity

In spite of the sharp decline in home building activity during the first quarter of 1957, Farmington Township is listed among the top five communities in Oakland County according to the latest residential building permit report issued last week by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.

During the first three months of 1957, a total of 89 new home building permits were issued in Farmington Township. This is compared to 192 permits issued during the same period a year ago. Madison Heights is listed as the leading community in building activity followed by Royal Oak and Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Township and Hazel Park. During the same period last year Farmington was the leading community as far as the issuance of new home permits was concerned.

According to the report, there has been a widespread decline in the number of building permits for new residences issued during the period from January through March in the Detroit Region. Oakland County's permits have dropped off the least of the other two counties in the Metropolitan area.

The decline in the first quarter of 1957 as compared to the first quarter of 1956 was 671 permits. Oakland County's total of residential building permits during the period is 23.8 per cent.

In the Metropolitan area of Oakland, Macomb, Wayne and four townships of Washtenaw County, a total of 4,839 permits were issued during the first quarter of 1957 as compared to 8,433 permits issued during the same period in 1956.

DETROIT was classified as a "very slow" moving area among 75 housing areas in the United States, according to a recent publication of Housing Securities, Inc. Fifteen other areas were also placed in this "slow" group. Although, the mortgage market is easing a fraction, the report said, land prices are still going up and houses are becoming more expensive and larger, which in turn has narrowed the consumer market.

As a result, the number of residential home permits issued in the Region during the first quarter of this year is the lowest of any first period total since 1950.

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