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The Farmington Enterprise

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Wayne and Oakland Counties

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR — NUMBER 49 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1957 SIXTEEN PAGES

Schools Expect Record Opening Day Enrollment

Schools in the Farmington and Clarenceville Districts officially opened their doors to an anticipated record number of students on Thursday.

G. V. Harrison, Farmington School Superintendent, stated that approximately 6,000 students are expected to begin classes this week. This is compared to 5,300 boys and girls who were enrolled during the initial week of school last year. Superintendent Louis Schmidt of Clarenceville stated that the first week's enrollment is expected to be between 6% and 10% higher than last year, and that it may reach an increase of 20% before the close of the 1957-58 year. Enrollment during the first week of school last year was 1,972.

Both Harrison and Schmidt emphasized that these figures are strictly estimates based on the latest school census totals as well as projected enrollments. On the basis of previous years, enrollment is expected to increase throughout the year in proportion to the amount of new home building in the two districts.

According to Harrison a total of 28 new teachers are being added to the regular staff this year in addition to replacements. This will bring the total instructional staff to 247 teachers. Six additional teachers are being added to the Clarenceville staff making a total of 83 instructors and administrators. Schmidt stated that up to 5 more teachers may have to be added to the staff during the year, depending on the degree of increase in enrollment.

Farmington officials stated that the staff is still short one orthopedic teacher and one elementary music instructor, however arrangements have been made to handle these classes until permanent instructors have been obtained. Clarenceville is still short a physical education teacher as well as two elementary teachers, however substitute teachers are available for these classes.

OFFICIALS URGE CITIZENS TO BACK "OUR TOWN" FAIR

Officials of the City and Township have designated September 8 to September 14 as "Our Town Week" and Saturday, September 14 as "Our Town Day" in recognition of the second annual fair being sponsored jointly by the Farmington Area Community House Association and the Farmington Garden Club.

The Our Town Fair will be held on Saturday, September 14 at the McWilliams Farm, Twelve Mile and Powers Road. A total of 19 community organizations in the city and township have already completed arrangements to take part in the fair. Additional organizations are expected to join in the activities.

Proceeds from the fair will be used to help finance a new community house for the city and township area.

NEW TREASURER for Farmington Township, Mrs. Elise Avery, goes over last minute details regarding her new duties with outgoing treasurer Clayton Goers, who is retiring after 15 years of service to the community in this capacity. Mrs. Avery, former trustee on the Township Board beginning her second term of office, was appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy resulting from Goer's recent decision to resign.

School Board Awards Contracts For Junior High School Addition

The Farmington School Board, at a special meeting Saturday afternoon, awarded five separate contracts for construction work on the new addition to the Farmington Junior high school building.

The composite of the five bids totals $634,332, which, according to officials, is somewhat less than the original cost estimates as prepared by the school architect. The general contract was awarded to the Fullerton Construction Company at a bid price of $430,000. A total of 11 proposals were received by the Board on the general construction work, with the Fullerton bid being the lowest.

Work in connection with the mechanical contract was awarded to the Allen Briggs Company at a bid price of $117,678. The Briggs Company bid was the lowest of 12 proposals received by the Board. The Packard Electrical Company was the successful bidder on the electrical contract with a proposal of $54,800. A total of 10 bids were received on this contract with Packard having the lowest proposal.

THE CONTRACT for kitchen equipment was awarded to the Canton China Equipment Company and the locker contract to the Lyon Metal Products Company. The Canton China Company proposal was $24,295 while the Lyon Metal

(See SCHOOL BOARD, Pg. 8A)

City Wins Award For Annual Report

Farmington was one of 22 Michigan municipalities to win awards for the high quality of their annual reports in the special Report Contest sponsored by the Michigan Municipal League.

According to a release, issued this week by the League, Farmington received honorable mention for cities of 5,000 to 10,000 population. First place winner in this class was Negaunee with Plymouth taking second place and Sturgis third place. City Manager Earl Scherffius will receive the honorable mention certificate, in behalf of the City, at the opening session of the Annual Convention of the League on September 5 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island.

Farmington's annual report, which was prepared by Scherffius and Dwayne Partain, assistant Manager, was printed and published in the March 28 issue of the Farmington Enterprise. The contest was judged by Dr. Hugh Elsbree, chairman of the Political Science Department of Wayne State University; Mrs. Chester Cable, immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of Michigan and Mr. Richard Ware, secretary of the Kahart Foundation and Relm Foundation.

Final School Vote Registrations Due This Friday

This Friday, September 6 has been set as the final date of registration for the Special Clarenceville School election to be held on September 16.

Persons who are not already registered in the District must make application at their respective city or township office prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, in order to be eligible to vote in the special election. Only those persons not already registered need to apply, officials emphasized.

The special vote has been called by the Board of Education for the purpose of deciding two questions. The first pertains to the proposed exchange with Practical Home Builders of a parcel of land, approximately 60 foot by 300 foot at the north end of the Botsford School property for a parcel, approximately 50 foot by 330 feet at the west end of the property. Practical Home Builders have agreed to erect a fence along the north side of the school property 300 feet long and six feet high. School officials stated that the parcel on the west side of the property will permit through access from the Botsford School to Brentwood.

The Second proposal involves the proposed transfer of $15,000 from the 1956 Building, Site and Equipment Fund to the 1952 Building, Site and Equipment Fund. Officials emphasized that the $15,000 represents surplus monies which are not needed in the 1956 Fund. However, before any transfer can take place, it must be approved by the voters.

Electors of the District, living in Farmington Township, can register up to 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the Township Hall, Grand River and Farmington Road. Those living in that portion of the District located in the City of Livonia, may register until 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall, 33001 Five Mile Road. Electors of the District, living in Redford Township, can register up to the 5:00 p.m. deadline at the Township Hall, 15145 Beech Road.

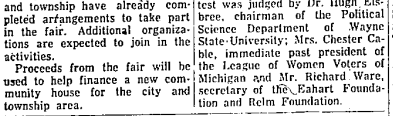
FRANKLIN KNOLLS SEWER HEARING SET FOR FRIDAY

A public hearing on the establishment of a special assessment district in Franklin Knolls Subdivision, for the purpose of constructing sewer improvements, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10 in the Farmington Township Hall.

All property owners in Franklin Knolls Subdivision and Franklin Knolls Subdivision No. 2, affected by the proposed assessment, are invited to attend and participate in the hearing.

Petitions, bearing the signatures of the owners of 51% of the total land area included in the proposed district, have been filed and certified by the Township Clerk. It is proposed that the new subdivision sewer system be connected to the Farmington Interceptor as soon as the latter project has been completed.

AROUND THE BLOCK



A BIG "THANK YOU" . . . is in order to the many news contributors and advertisers who submitted early copy this week in answer to our plea. Your help and cooperation is greatly appreciated by the entire Enterprise staff. Those so-called "short weeks" create a difficult problem in the publishing of a weekly newspaper. They usually mean a lot of extra hours of work before, during and after the holiday. That's why your help is needed and why it is so much appreciated during these difficult weeks. Thanks to your cooperation, we have been able to get this issue to you on schedule and at the same time enjoy a few leisure hours at home. We are grateful for your help and hope that you and your family had a safe and pleasant holiday.

• • •

SCHOOL DAYS . . . are back with us again. This means large groups of boys and girls standing on the corner waiting for school buses. It means youngsters dashing across the street to walk with friends and still others darting about in childish play. It also means danger to every man and woman who slips behind the wheel and steps down on the accelerator. The first few days of school are probably the most dangerous of the year as far as pedestrian accidents are concerned. It is a time for the utmost care and caution. So remember, if you see a group of children standing at a bus stop . . . slow down. If you see a youngster walking along the side of a road . . . slow down. If you see boys and girls playing near the curb . . . slow down. We love our children and we want them to live!

• • •

CONGRATULATIONS . . . to the administrative staff of the City on winning an honorable mention award for its annual report in competition sponsored by the Michigan Municipal League. The award is just recognition for the great amount of time and effort that went into the compiling and preparation of the report. In our opinion, the 5,000 to 10,000 population class in which Farmington is included, presents the keenest competition of all classes in the state. The award is even more coveted when we consider that this is the first such report ever prepared by the city. The citizens of Farmington can be proud not only of the award but of the fund of information which this report provides. Congratulations on a job well done.

J. Dee Ellis Named New Manager Of Farmington Enterprise

New manager of The Farmington Enterprise in the transfer which takes place this week will be J. Dee Ellis of Lapeer.

Mr. Ellis has 30 years of experience in the weekly and daily newspaper fields, in both editorial and business administration.

J. DEE ELLIS

For the last four years he has been associate editor and business manager of The Lapeer County Press. For nine years prior to that he was general manager of The Red Oak (Iowa) Express, a semi-weekly newspaper.

Born in Iowa, he attended the University of Iowa, and has worked on newspapers there, in Minnesota and North Dakota. In Michigan he was associated with The Holland Evening Sentinel, and was at L'Anse, in the upper peninsula.

He has been active in the Chamber of Commerce, service clubs, and other civic and social groups. He has participated in work by state press associations, and designated to membership on several committees of the National Editorial Ass'n.

He married Marjorie Beattie in 1936, and the couple have one son, Bruce, who will soon enter tenth grade at Farmington Senior High. Mrs. Ellis is a home economics teacher at Lapeer High School, has also taught science.

The family will move to Farmington as soon as a home may be obtained.

Sale Of Farmington Enterprise To Russell S. Strickland Announced

WoodCreek Farms Council Proposes Second Ordinance

Matters pertaining to a recent complaint filed against Harry Weinstein for blocking the natural flow of water through a culvert on Wellington Road near Old Colony Road received the major attention of the Wood Creek Village Council meeting in regular session Tuesday night.

A report revealed that a check had been made of existing Farmington Township ordinances relative to such matters and that no specific regulations were found to control such alleged grievances. Don Wells, road administrator, pointed out that since debris dumped by Weinstein on his property blocking the culvert was on road right-of-way it was presently within his power to force him to remove it. He stated that he had already instructed him to do so.

THE COUNCIL agreed in general discussion, however, that some regulating ordinance should be adopted to provide control over drainage, culverts and similar matters in the future. A special meeting was called for Wednesday, September 11, at 8 p.m. at the home of Norman Kreider to study and take action on such a proposed ordinance.

It was disclosed that a joint meeting with the Township Board had been set for this Friday evening for the purpose of discussing the adjustment and allocation of various tax funds to Wood Creek Farms Village. Council members were in general agreement that efforts should also be made to determine on what basis fire protection can be obtained from the township and what provisions can be made to permit the village to handle and issue its own building permits. It was pointed out that previous requests for decisions from township officials on these two matters had not yet been received.

Organization of the newly appointed planning commission for the village was completed with Watson Kinney being named pre-

(See WOOD CREEK, Pg. 8A)

Donors Contribute 94 Pints Of Blood

A total of 94 pints of blood were contributed by Farmington area residents during last Tuesday's visit of the Red Cross Mobile Blood Bank, Mrs. Donald Wingard, chairman, announced this week.

The Blood Bank, held at the Farmington Junior high school, was sponsored by the Town Club. A total of 131 reported as donors with 94 being accepted. Much of the blood was specified as replacement for certain individuals or for specific blood banks. The balance is to be credit to the Farmington bank for use by city and township residents.

Mrs. Wingard and her committee wish to express their appreciation to all those who responded as donors as well as those who contributed their time and effort in recruiting volunteers and helping at the bank. Thanks is also expressed to Guffin's King of Beef who served dinner to the bank personnel at a minimum cost and to Food Fair Market who furnished cream and sugar for the canteen and to others who supplied cookies for the bank.

VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS PLAN MEETING FRIDAY

A joint meeting of the Township Board and the Council of the Village of Wood Creek Farms will be held Friday evening September 6 for the purpose of discussing the adjustment and allocation of various tax funds to the new Village.

The meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. at the Township Hall with the members of the Board and the Council being present along with their respective attorneys.

Township To Pick Trustee Tuesday

Action is expected to be taken by the Township Board next Tuesday on the appointment of a new Trustee to fill the vacancy created when Mrs. Elise Avery was named Township Treasurer.

The Board is expected to meet as a committee of the whole on September 9 to review the various applications and discuss the appointment. A total of seven applications have been received by the Board for the vacancy. They include: Joseph DeMarco, Louis Dorris, William P. Fisher, Thomas Hoult, Miles Johnson, Leo P. Meagher and Robert Schulkins. Since formal applications are not required, additional persons may be proposed for the position.

The new appointee will fill the balance of Mrs. Avery's term, which expires in April of 1959. Mrs. Avery officially took over the Township Treasurer's position Tuesday morning.

Appointment of the new Trustee will be one of the major items on the agenda for the September 10 Board meeting. Possible action may also be taken on a new resolution stipulating which officers are to sign checks for the Township. Supervisor Frank Stephenson raised an objection at the last meeting regarding the present policy which authorizes three officers as legal signers. Stephenson requested that only the Supervisor and Treasurer be so authorized. At the present time the Clerk can sign in the absence of the Supervisor.

The matter was turned over to the Township Atorney for study with the request that he submit an opinion as soon as possible.

Water Petitioning Nears Final Stage

Officials reported this week that approximately two-thirds of the required number of signatures have been obtained thus far in connection with the petitioning for a water system in the southern and southeastern sections of Farmington Township.

Frank Stephenson, Township Supervisor, reported that a concentrated drive will be conducted within the next few weeks in an effort to obtain the necessary signatures of the owners of 51% of the total land area included in the proposed water district. It was pointed out that some of the districts have already been covered while others are now in the final stages of canvassing.

Mrs. Philip Newberg, chairman of the petitioning program, stated that volunteer solicitors are needed to cover the areas between Grand River and 10 Mile Road, west of Middlebelt and east of Orchard Lake Road. Persons interested in volunteering their services are requested to contact Mrs. Norman Celinske at GR 4-6055.

In the meantime Pate and Hirn, engineers, are proceeding with work on detailed plans and specifications for various phases of the system. As soon as the required number of signatures have been obtained on the petition forms they will be submitted to the Township Clerk for checking and certification.

NEW ADULT COURSE TO OPEN SEPT. 25 AT CLARENCEVILLE

The first session of an adult education course in stock market analysis and investments will be held Wednesday, September 25 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Clarenceville High school.

Stanley Irish, assistant superintendent, stated that sufficient registrations have been received to start the course. John Vernier, who has taught similar courses throughout the metropolitan area, will be the instructor. The course will consist of 10 weeks instruction on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Irish stated that persons may still register for the class by calling GR 4-8900.

New Publisher Assumes Control Of Business Effective September 3

Sale of The Farmington Enterprise to Russell S. Strickland of Bloomfield Hills was announced this week by the owners, A. C. Tagg and J. M. Tagg.

Possession of the 69-year-old newspaper was given September 3.

J. Dee Ellis of Lapeer will become general manager. There will be no other changes in the present efficient staff.

The Enterprise has been published by the Taggs since 1941. During that time it has changed from a small town newspaper of six to eight pages, to a modern and progressive newspaper serving a city and township that is growing rapidly and soundly.

Under their leadership, The Enterprise has not only expanded its service, size and circulation, but as a result it has been honored by the Michigan Press Association and others for its newspaper excellence.

RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND

Mr. Strickland intends that The Enterprise will strive even harder to serve this fine, bustling, progressive community--both in service, and in leadership.

"The Taggs--father and son--have done a wonderful job in keeping ahead of and helping to guide the tremendous expansion in this area," said Mr. Strickland.

"As a neighbor who has watched this growth through numerous visits here, I am particularly proud to become 'heir' to the traditions they have established, and to enlarge my friendships in Farmington."

Although Mr. Strickland has had a longtime interest in newspapers, and recently in The Enterprise, he is by training and experience a manufacturing executive.

Born in Detroit, the son of Silas and Jean (McMillan) Strickland, he received his AB degree from the University of Michigan. He married in 1940 to Marcia Connell, and the couple has three children.

Since 1939 he has been with Bower Roller Bearing Co. of Detroit, now expanded into Federal-Mogul - Bower Bearings, Inc. He has been a member of the board of directors, since 1946, and is now Vice President Federal-Mogul-Bower.

He is a director of the Manu-

(See ENTERPRISE, Pg. 8A)

Boast No Accident Holiday Record

Death took a holiday this past week-end in the Farmington area.

According to local and state police, not a single death or personal injury accident was reported during the long Labor Day week-end on the streets and highways of the city and township. This is both a happy and extremely unusual report for the last big holiday of the summer season.

A total of 14 persons were killed on Michigan highways during the week-end while the nation toll hit a record 429 deaths. The nation-wide total exceeded the grim estimate predicted earlier by the National Safety Council. However, the Michigan total was exceedingly light in comparison to the 24 persons killed during the Labor Day holiday of 1956.

Last year three persons were injured in seperate auto accidents in the Farmington area during the four day week-end. City and Township police reported that traffic was only slightly above normal and that no major tie - ups occurred. The rain and threats of rain were partially responsible for holding the volume of traffic down, officials estimated. The fact that the new Farmington Cut-Off was open to traffic throughout the long week-end was also believed responsible for the elimination of any major congestion.

TEEN TOPPERS CLUB DANCES TO RESUME THIS FRIDAY NIGHT

The Farmington Teen Toppers Teen Club will resume weekly dances this Friday evening, September 6, following a summer recess.

The Swing King Dance Band will provide the music for the first dance of the new season to be held from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight at the American Legion Hall on Grand River at Lakeway. All teenagers of the Farmington area are invited to attend.

Teen Club officials stated that chaperons are needed to help supervise at the dances. It was pointed out that volunteers need not be members of the American Legion, sponsoring organization. Interested adults are asked to contact Norman Goers at the dance Friday night or at the Lanza Party Store any day of the week.

A Word Of Appreciation

Thank Residents For Support

For the first time in 16 years, the Farmington Enterprise is under new ownership and management.

Beginning with this week's issue, Russell S. Strickland becomes the publisher of "Farmington's Home Community Newspaper." Mr. Strickland brings to Farmington a keen sense of civic responsibility and to The Enterprise a vast experience in the field of successful business management. We are pleased to introduce him to the citizens of Farmington city and township. It is also a pleasure to introduce J. Dee Ellis, the new manager of The Enterprise. Mr. Ellis has had 30 years' experience on weekly and daily newspapers in both Iowa and Michigan and has received a great deal of recognition for his work.

With this change over, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the many people in the Farmington community who have given us help, guidance and friendship during the past 16 years. Their encouragement and support will never be forgotten. We also wish to publicly acknowledge our appreciation to The Enterprise staff for their cooperation and loyalty, and to those thousands of persons who have continually supported their home community newspaper.

During the past 16 years, The Enterprise has grown from an eight page, 300 circulation newspaper to an 18 page, 4,300 circulation newspaper. Our regular staff is four times larger than it was in 1941 and a complete layout of modern equipment has been installed during this period. It is obvious that this growth and advancement could not have been possible without the cooperation and the support of many people. We have attempted in every way possible to boost and support our home community and at the same time provide the information and the leadership which the people have a right to expect from their newspaper.

Publishing The Enterprise has been a gratifying experience. We are proud to have had a part in the growth and development of this fine community. We will always value the friendships we have made here.

Under its new publisher and manager, The Enterprise will continue to grow and develop in both size and service. Their interest in the welfare of the community and their years of experience in management and newspaper operation is ample assurance of continued progress. We know from example that they can count on the cooperation and the support of the people of Farmington. We know because these are the kind of citizens that we have had the pleasure of working with. These are the people to whom we will be forever grateful.

JAMES M. TAGG — A. C. TAGG

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