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SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR — NO. 31 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1959 FOURTEEN PAGES

Twp. Civic Center Land Maybe Is, Maybe Ain't

Reporting Tuesday night on suggestions that Thompson-Brown Company might donate ten acres for a township civic center at Ten Mile and Power Road, Supervisor Curt Hall read a letter written by the firm March 19 to Frank Stephenson which carefully promised nothing concrete.

The township board after discussion voted to table the matter for future study, and indicated it would be brought up again. Trustee Richard Hug who had asked the report, voted against tabling.

MR. STEPHENSON had asked Thompson-Brown to donate the land, Supervisor Hall indicated. The letter from Ross Campbell said their plans were very indefinite, depending somewhat on when the interceptor sewer would be built, and where the final route of the 11½ Mile expressway would be.

Mr. Campbell wrote his firm had studied its larger tract there and had hoped to develop a New England type village. He said the ten acres could probably be provided until they knew the other factors involved they couldn't come up with any arrangements for such acquisition.

MR. HALL said it was apparent Thompson-Brown was willing to cooperate, but that he couldn't see any hint the land would be donated, and a direct question likewise had failed to give any hint. He said a fire station was needed, but there was no immediate rush for the other facilities.

Other trustees pointed out if money in the budget were used to buy the tract, there would be no fire station.

Mr. Stephenson, who was present again in the audience, asked to be heard but was ignored.

Report on Curriculum

School Libraries Above Average, Board Informed

Better than average school libraries are provided in the Farmington public school system.

This was the indication given by librarians at all levels of education in the system in another report to the School Board on curriculum in the local school district Monday night.

Pleasure was expressed with the fact that all schools in the district have their own library. It was pointed out that many schools throughout Michigan and the nation do not offer such separate facilities in their buildings.

FRANCES FORSYTH, full-time librarian for the elementary schools, explained to the Board the method of book distribution to the various grade schools from the central library office at the Ten Mile school. She also pointed out some of the problems presently existing for her, half-time librarian Wilma Lachmann and her secretary-clerk, Dorothy Clements. Major among these was the considerable amount of time that the librarians must spend in cataloging, filing and other miscellaneous work, thus limiting time that can be spent at the schools performing more important professional librarian services to the teachers and pupils.

STATISTICS compiled by her showed that the number of books in the ten grade school libraries at this time range from 986 at the Cloverdale school to 2,949 at the Ten Mile school. Books-per-pupil in the schools range from 2 to 6.

Library facilities at the two junior high schools were termed "very adequate" by Mrs. Annie Crouter, librarian at Dunckel Junior High.

Heaviest reading activities are at the junior high level, she stated. Approximately 125 books are in circulation daily at each of the schools.

Mrs. Crouter emphasized a real need for clerical help in the libraries at the junior highs to relieve the librarians for more important professional services to the students.

MRS. MARIAN MURPHY also felt that the senior high library was adequate. She commented on the fact that student librarian assistants are a great help at the senior high.

All three librarians were in agreement that the establishment of a central cataloging system for the school district would prove a tremendous saving in time and money.

Approve Terms For Water Main

Terms of a legal agreement between the Farmington School District and the City of Farmington for the laying of a water line along Ten Mile Road from Twin Valley subdivision to the Ten Mile elemehtary school were agreed to by the School Board Monday night.

An eight inch line will be laid with the school district paying the proportionate share computed for a six-inch line and the city paying the remainder.

The main has been determined necessary to provide better fire protection for the grade school. The city has called for the larger line with the intention of extending it at a later date.

Approval to the terms was given subject to the inclusion of a recovery clause when and if future tie-ins are made. No objection in agreement by the city to this is expected.

James Hare to Speak Here on Wednesday

James Hare, Michigan Secretary of State, will be guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 6, at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Savings and Loan Building at Ten Mile and Orchard Lake Road. All residents of the area are invited to attend the meeting.

Refreshments will be served.

City's Budget Hearing May 4

The next public hearing for Farmington city's proposed 1959-60 budget will be held next Monday evening, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the city hall.

Councilmen have been studying the various items prior to the hearing. The budget must be adopted on or before May 18, which is the regular meeting night.

Agenda Plans for Township Settled

How the township agenda for board meetings will be handled was outlined Tuesday night by Supervisor Curt Hall.

Topics for the agenda will be closed Thursday noon prior to the meeting the following week. If any person representing a civic organization, or an individual, wishes to speak on any subject which is listed on the agenda, he may make a request of the township clerk or supervisor up to noon of the meeting day. However, this discussion will be limited to items already placed on the agenda.

If wished, the agenda will be mailed out for $3 a year to anyone, but particularly to subdivision officers or civic leaders.

Commercial Area Plat Is Approved

Final plat for the commercial area of Westbrooke Center was approved Tuesday by the township board.

The 300 by 300 foot tract at Orchard Lake and 13 Mile had earlier been approved by the planning board and planning consultants.

OK Funds for Landscaping At 3 Schools

Plans for landscaping project at the Eagle elementary school and at the Farmington Junior High and Farmington Senior High school sites were approved by the School Board Monday night.

CONSIDERABLE soil redistribution is called for at the Eagle school in order to increase the usable playground area at that site. Including in this project is the re-routing of a creek running across the site. At least 2½ additional acres of playground area will be made useable, it was indicated. Cost of the project was estimated at around $800.

Called for at the junior high site, besides landscaping in front of the newly constructed wing, is the construction of a new drive to run around the back of the site and the laying of some new sidewalk. An expenditure of $1,706 for the landscaping and a sum not to exceed $4,300 for the road and sidewalk construction was authorized.

GENERAL re-leveling, top dressing and seeding of a sizable area along the west side of the senior high site will be done. Similar work will also be done in the school inner-court. The administration was authorized to proceed with plans for getting the work done at a price not to exceed $1,000.

In separate action the Board also approved final plans and specifications submitted by the Smith, Tarapata, MacMahon architectural firm for the rehabilitation of the east unit at the Farmington Junior High site. This approval was given subject to review and final approval by the administration and the building sub-committee of the School Citizens Advisory Committee.

New Burning Rules Adopted By Township

A temporary but strict township ordinance covering burning off of land and setting fires is in effect now. This will continue until June 8 when a new ordinance adopted April 24 takes effect.

The original ordinance was a stop gap measure with teeth to take care of spring grass fires. The new regulations also have teeth.

NO FIRE shall be set in the township for clearing lands, including burning of grass or weeds, without first obtaining a written permit from the township.

The applicant agrees in signing the permit to reimburse the township for all expenses if it is necessary to call out the fire department. The permit is good for only 24 hours, and they may be refused if burning conditions are bad.

Regulations permit people to burn domestic rubbish in enclosed containers without a permit, but if the fire spreads the burner becomes in violation.

Being found guilty of violation is a misdemeanor subject to a fine not to exceed $100 or sentence to prison not exceeding 30 days, or both.

MALICIOUS destruction of property was carried much too far last week at the Berling-McHugh Ford Agency on Grand River Avenue. Culprits went wild in smashing every window in a total of 27 cars parked at the back of the agency and service building on the south side of the highway and the used car lot on the other side of the road. Russ Conway, used car manager, holds a rock with which the back window of one of the cars was smashed out. Two or three windows at the back of the service building were also broken. Total damage was estimated at approximately $2,500.

Dachille Asks Pit Rezoning

Rezoning of the area now occupied by its gravel pit on Halsted north of 12 Mile Road has been asked of the township by Dachille Trucking Co.

Dachille requests rezoning from R-4 to R-3, and in a simultaneous move Thompson-Brown wrote the township board that it might be interested in buying this tract if the lots could be rezoned as requested to 15,000 square feet.

THE REZONING request was turned over to the township planning board for study and recommendation.

Thompson-Brown write they had been concerned about the continuing work at the pit which is adjacent to their new Briar Hill subdivision. They said they might be interested in buying the tract, even if development might be somewhat costly.

If the township would go along on the lot size changes, they indicated it might mean enlargement of Briar Hill.

School Census Begins May 6

The annual census of the Farmington School District will begin Wednesday, May 6, and continue through the remainder of the month.

Calls will be made at every home in the district to determine the number of children from birth through 19 years of age, now living in the District. Besides the regular questions asked by the census takers, a survey will be conducted to determine the number of handicapped children in the area who may be in need of special training which is now available.

Residents are urged to cooperate with these census takers when they call.

Circus to Arrive Early May 6, Two Shows Set

The call of the calliope will herald the arrival early next Wednesday morning, May 6, of the world's largest motorized circus.

Mills Bros. 3-ring circus will come to Farmington for one day only to give two performances under the big top, at 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., at the big lot behind the Farmington Plaza Shopping Center. The Farmington Lions are sponsoring the extravaganza to aid in raising money for its Sight Conservation Fund.

A GAILY painted fleet of nearly 100 motorized units will roll into town soon after dawn bringing a herd of elephants, a troupe of nearly 500 persons from 18 nations, and dancing horses and other trained animals as well as tons of props and all the other traditional spangled wonders that make circus a magic word.

Early morning spectators will have the awsome experience of seeing the large elephants join in hoisting the heavy poles and canvas into position. Workmen will erect grandstands and bleachers, hang aerial rigging and do a thousand other chores to change the grounds into a sawdust fairyland.

THE GRAND entry parade launching the matinee performance will begin sharply at 2:30 p.m. One of the most popular attractions will probably be Miss Burma, GOP mascot, and little Miss Burma, junior mascot, who won the hearts of millions when they appeared in President Eisenhower's last inaugural parade in Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of youngsters who would not normally be able to thrill to a major 3-ring circus will be on hand at the 3:30 p.m. matinee as guests of businessmen and firms having purchased tickets for them.

Among the performers will be Miss Gerta who will defy death in a wire slide by her teeth 120 feet to the ground from the point of the big top. Les Pardotas will present his Spanish double high trapeze act, called the "greatest in the United States" by circus experts.

CONTORTIONISTS, head-to-head balancing acts, dancing and high jumping horses, high pole perch acts, acrobatic roller skating and comedy wire artists are also featured in the all-star circus cast.

And last, but not least, will be the clowns led by Coco of England, Europe's leading funnyman.

Tickets may be purchased now at reduced rates from Bel-Aire Pure Service station, Bel-Aire Drugs, Dickersons Hardware, 12 Mile-Farmington Mobil Gas, Al Jean's Hardware, Hinkle's Dry Goods, Zolkower's Department Store and Willowbrook Market.

Rescind Action On Easement

Previous action by the Farmington School Board agreeing to a walking easement between Westbrooke subdivision No. 1 and the proposed Westbrooke No. 3 subdivision was rescinded at the School Board meeting Monday night.

The walking easement had been agreed to with some reluctance by the School Board at its last previous meeting two weeks ago Monday. James Read, school administrator and school representative to the township planning board, stated that this body was also recommending to the Township Board that continuation of Nottingwood Drive, rather than a walking easement, be required.

Some residents in Westbrooke 1 have stated that continuation of the road will result in extremely hazardous conditions for children walking to and from the Kenbrook School.

Authorize Use of School Ball Diamonds

Use of school buses, playground facilities and multi-purpose rooms on rainy days at several of the elementary schools in the Farmington school system was again granted to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission for another summer by the School Board Monday night.

A request for use of ball diamonds at school sites in the North Farmington area, as requested by North Farmington Baseball for Boys, was also granted.

More Stores At Plaza Are Being Sought

Rezoning of property at the Farmington shopping plaza is sought by the developer, for construction of an additional wing to contain some service stores and a possible medical center.

The changed proposals were presented to the city council Monday night with a recommendation by the city planning commission that they be approved.

A PUBLIC hearing on the rezoning change will be held Monday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the city hall.

Earlier a rectangular tract north of the Kroger store had been rezoned commercial, at the developer's request.

Now the plan would be to revert this tract to parking, and rezone an area northeast of the Kroger store to commercial.

THE PROPOSED plan would be to make the new building the bottom part of an L, with the two areas connected by a covered walk, with some green areas. The building would be 100 by 120 feet in size, facing both south and north.

The through drive running east from the north end of Kroger's would be eliminated.

IN OTHER action Monday the council introduced a new sign ordinance under study some weeks. It will be subject to study and changes found necessary, and will probably be officially adopted later.

It would be effective June 1, 1959, and give exactly one year for non-conforming signs to be changed.

Generally it provides no projecting signs onto the public right-of-way or sidewalk, and that no flush signs will project impre than 15 inches from the front of the building. It also provides for safely of construction and utilities, with permits and inspections.

The council gave preliminary approval to the Farmington Oaks sub plat with certain changes to be made, and asked presentation of the final plat. Approval was given a sign across Grand River for the project to raise money for sending the Falconaires to Texas. A study and report on a drainage problem on Valleyview was asked for the next meeting.

Two Plats Okayed If Changes Made

Approval of the final plat for Westbrooke Manor 3 subdivision was given by the township board Tuesday only if a walkway across a creek was changed to a roadway.

The school board wanted the roadway, some nearby residents wanted the walkway, and the developer was neutral.

The town board also gave tentative aproval to the preliminary plat for Castle Estates sub with specific changes in the wording regarding another easement.

Two City Paving Hearings May 11

Sewer Tap-In Charge Soon

Collection of the $250 tap-in charges for the Farmington interceptor sewer will be discussed at the next meeting of the township board, the group decided Tuesday night.

West Bloomfield township and Keego Harbor are already collecting the charge and putting it into special funds, it was noted by Supervisor Curt Hall.

AS BUILDING takes place now, it would be more difficult to go back later to these places and collect the charge. If collected when the building permit is issued, the developer will simply add it to the mortgage.

The problem is urgent now because the large Villa Capri is ready to be started, and this subdivision will be served by the interceptor sewer and will immediately be served under a temporary arrangement by the city of Farmington.

Mr. Hall said it's hoped to have a proposed ordinance for collections set up for consideration at the next meeting.

9 Yr. Old Spots Fire in House

Nine year old Christine Schaefer was credited this week with helping prevent considerable damage and possible total loss by fire of an old abandoned house at 34285 Thirteen Mile Road last Friday evening.

Traveling along 13 Mile Road in a car with her mother, Margaret G. Schaeffer of 26900 Drake Road, she noticed smoke coming from the upstairs window of the house. It was promptly reported from the home of friends of the Schaeffers nearby.

The fire department arrived to extinguish a smoldering mattress in a bedroom on the second floor of the house.

Christine is a fourth grade student at the Wooddale elementary school.

Sprucing Up Set For Twp. Facilities

Some changes and fixing up were planned Tuesday night by the board for the township hall and Wheeler street fire station.

Cleaning and painting will be done at the fire station. The new supervisor's office, formerly the library room, will be fixed up at the township hall. The clerk-treasurer's office will be enlarged by moving the counter forward, and separated by some partitions formerly used in another part of the township hall.

Shop in Friendly Farmington!

Public hearings will be held at the Farmington city hall Monday evening, May 11, on the only two paving projects likely to come up in the city this summer. The hearings will start at 8 p.m.

The council set up the preliminary actions at the regular meeting last Monday night. After hearing anyone interested in either project, the council will make a final decision as to necessity.

If the councilmen follow past precedent, they are likely to withhold a decision until the meeting following the hearing.

THE TWO PROJECTS set up for hearing are Mooney street between Grand River and Shiawassee, and Hawthorne between Grand River and Shiawassee.

Mooney street is just east of the Farmington shopping plaza. The plaza developers put in and paid for their half of the street abutting their property, and it was understood then the city would pave the remainder before long.

TOTAL COST of the Mooney paving is estimated at $24,135 of which $22,362 would be assessed against abutting property owners. This figures out to $10.17 per front foot.

Not much opposition is expected for the Mooney street special assessment.

HAWTHORNE street paving may not bring unanimous approval at the hearing. For this concrete paving the total cost is estimated at $38,368, with $32,145 to be assessed against property owners. This cost will be $9.00 per front foot.

A number of Hawthorne residents were present at the council meeting and probably more will attend the public hearing.

A VERY HIGH percentage of the residents along the Hawthorne stretch had signed petitions asking pavement. However, on a front foot basis there was somewhat less than the 65 per cent needed to assure a petition project.

This resulted because the Mather trucking interests have been cool to the project, which runs alongside their property. Last summer Shiawassee street was paved from Mather's west to Orchard Lake, and Mathers paid extra for this to get a thicker pavement so their trucks could use Shiawassee.

They feel now they should not be required to pay part of the Hawthorne paving also. City Manager Earl Scherffius said they had indicated they might not oppose the Hawthorne paving if their empty trucks only might be allowed to return on that street from Grand River to Shiawassee.

It is this point which Hawthorne residents are apt to oppose at the hearing May 11.

C'ville School Name Delayed

Naming of the new Clarenceville elementary school, for which bids are being called May 7, has been tabled until after contracts are let. There was some discussion at the board of education meeting last Thursday, but action was put off.

The board made tentative plans to place one section of kindergarten and one class of grades one through six in a portion of the new high school building starting next fall.

Teaching contracts for the next year were approved for: Ann Maitland, senior high art; Mary Tafelski, first grade; and in junior high, Donald J. Scotilla, science-math., and Joyce Phy, language arts.

School census takers were also named by the board Thursday.

Township to Replace Two Police Autos

Twp. Clerk Floyd A. Cairns was ordered Tuesday night by the board to obtain bids to replace the two police cars.

This was provided for in the new budget recently adopted. A request by Commissioner Hugh Owens to buy a third car to keep up with the heavy police load will have to wait until the county allocation board has acted, when it will be known if funds would be available.

FEA Establishes Scholarship Fund for Deserving Seniors

Thanks to the generosity of the Farmington Education Association, at least one graduating senior from Farmington High each year will get the financial aid which may make higher education possible for him or her.

The association, composed of teachers and administrators in the Farmington public school system, voted at a meeting last week to set up a scholarship fund for this purpose. Members' dues will be raised one dollar each year to provide money for the fund.

THERE WAS some discussion on whether the scholarship should be limited to students planning to enter the teaching profession. By a later vote, however, it was decided that any student should be eligible regardless of his college plans. It was also decided that the winner of the scholarship should have his choice of colleges.

Miss Virginia Carley, chairman of the committee which will administer the award, commented on the FEA action thus: "There has long been a need for a scholarship here which has few restrictions. We have had, over the years, some good students who did not quite qualify for some reason or other, for outside scholarships. This should fulfill this need and give some student that little extra push that means the difference between going to college or abandoning such plans."

FILLING OUT Miss Carley's committee are Clayton Timmons, Mrs. Edith Powers, Mrs. Marion Spencer and Byron Oliver.

The scholarship will amount to between $250 and $300 and will be given on the basis of scholarship, citizenship and need. It will be in the form of a single grant.

A 1959 graduate will be the first to obtain the benefits of this newly established scholarship fund. It was emphasized, however, that the scholarship will be given only if the committee finds someone it thinks is really deserving.

THE SCHOLARSHIP to be given this year will be enhanced by donations from Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McCreight, in memory of their son, and by the family of Mrs. Ula Abbott. The McCreights are on the Farmington senior high teaching staff at the present time. Mrs. Abbott was a teacher at the Middlebelt elementary school until her death last fall.

It was pointed out that future association scholarships would also be open to outside donations by individuals or groups.

JUNK CAR bodies, stacked two high, make a huge auto "graveyard" of the valley a short distance south of the Eight Mile-Grand River intersection. The cars cover a wide area extending from a short distance south of Grand River to Eight Mile Road. They are, fortunately, partially blocked from view on Eight Mile by bushy growth. From Grand River can be seen a large number of other old cars, not yet completely stripped, at Bezesky Bros. Auto Parts, 28115 Grand River. The stockpiling of such a large number of junk cars, in our opinion, is not good for the health, safety and welfare of the community. Immediate action should be taken to correct the situation and make Farmington a better community in which to live.