

2nd in County in Home Starts

In new home construction last year, Farmington proved an exception in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. According to a report released by the Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission this week, the number of residential dwelling permits issued in the Detroit region in 1958 was the lowest annual total since 1950. In the entire region, including Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties as well as portions of Monroe and Washtenaw, 12.4 per cent fewer homes were built in 1958 than in the previous year.

Building in communities throughout Oakland County showed the sharpest drop. There was a 20.8 per cent decrease in the number of residential dwelling permits issued in 1958 compared to 1957 in the county as a whole.

Two Rezoning Proposals Are Studied by City

Two important zoning changes for the city were approved Monday night to the council by the city planning commission. A public hearing was set for one, and the other will be studied.

There has been agitation for a rezoning of the city for a number of years on proposals to change residential zoning on Grand River west from Farmington Road, either to commercial or something else. There have been several rezoning proposals in the past. RECENTLY there have been requests for some spot commercial zoning in the west end of the city, on Grand River. City officials are not happy about changes they know are coming, and have been trying to figure some way to lessen the impact of the changes. They know there is some good residential property which must be protected.

The planning commission is formally submitting to the council Monday that it might consider a new Office District zoning for the south side of Grand River from Liberty street to Gill Road. On the west side of Gill, in the township, there has been an office building for some time, and there is a bar beyond.

SUCH AN OFFICE DISTRICT would be strictly controlled, with setback and parking regulations. Regulations would prevent converting residences into office buildings, or building on additions or fronts.

Another type of zoning contemplated would be similar to those in James Couzens in the 8 Mile area, which the planners feel would not deteriorate the area. Residential owners could continue to use their property as long as they wished of course, but any new building would be controlled.

As it is, it is thought that owners now will not be inclined to spend too much money to keep up their property, and it may tend to deteriorate in a few years. No action was taken, but the proposal will be brought up again.

A PROPOSAL to rezone the property on the south side of Orchard street, south of the big downtown redevelopment project, was also made. It would change zoning from commercial to residential. This is one family residential and parking. This does not include the Albert Herzog commercial property, which is being rezoned to residential. The council ordered that a public hearing on the rezoning proposal be held at 7:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting in Monday, Feb. 15. Property owners are being notified.

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Library Needs More Money

The new township city library has proved immensely popular, which is gratifying. Only trouble is, it's going to cost more money to operate it than the money which people demand.

This need became clear recently as library officials started study of the budget. Any way they figure it, the library will need \$5,000 more than is now, city and township effect levy .3 of a mill for operation.

The additional needs will have to be considered by 19th municipal bodies, which are now beginning work on their budgets.

Cville School Board To Get Presentations

For some time the Clarenceville board of education has been receiving presentations by staff members on various phases of the school curriculum, and has expressed appreciation of this.

In order to put this on a more definite basis, and perhaps increase effectiveness of these presentations, the board members decided last week to set aside a portion of the meeting time on the fourth Thursday of each month, to be given over to various phases of the school program.

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City Industry Plans Shaping; 2 Plants Set

The city's new industrial area will come to life this spring, and considerable expansion is indicated.

The tract is located on the north side of 8 Mile Road, extending some distance east of Farmington Road. It's the entire south edge of the city limits. North of the tract a couple of large residential developments are filling up fast.

TWO FACTORIES will be definitely started soon in the industrial area known as Alta.

larger subdivision. Isadore Jerger says there are several other excellent prospects, with a large plant to be announced soon.

Ash Gear & Supply will probably apply for its building permit within a week, says Simon Ash, who is now located on W. McNichols. His firm makes gear, cutting equipment. He is manufacturing and distributing.

A 12,000 square foot building will be a about 6,500 square feet in size, concrete block and steel with brick facing, one story. The firm owns two lots, with a total size 200 by 262 feet. The structure will be placed on one lot, and the other reserved for a future building. There are about 500 feet west of the east city limits on 8 Mile.

LOCKHART Manufacturing Corporation, now at 6350 E. Davidson, has a lot farther west which is 160 by 525 feet, about two acres. Plans are now being drawn for its new plant, which will be completed in the spring of construction anticipated.

The firm manufactures roll type screens, tension screen, mesh, wire, bread racks, welded racks and paint can holders. Employment varies, but might average 20 persons.

Final totals are not yet available but so far the drive has netted \$3,487.45. It was reported yesterday. Canister collections and money placed on school cards are not included in this total. They are now being collected and a count is expected to be completed within two weeks.

A breakdown of the total figure to date shows \$2,151.18 collected in the township and \$1,336.27 in the city.

Two new ordinances were adopted by the Village of Wood Creek Farms at a short regular session Tuesday night. The first is an ordinance requiring licensing of food handlers.

Main change is for x-rays, which have been required annually. City Clerk Tom Quinn, who has been handling local cases strictly under the requirements, says that everyone wanting a food handling permit must get his chest x-ray to get the 1960 certificate. This is effective now.

However, so as not to cause undue hardship, hereafter any one whose x-ray is good will get a card showing he will not have to get another x-ray for two years. If the doctor has any doubts he may get a card showing he has to have an x-ray in a year, or even before. Most, however, will be good for two years. The blood test and examination must continue yearly.

X-rays should be obtained in Oakland County.

Jaycees Start Show Practice

First rehearsal for the community show put on annually by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce was held last Sunday.

This year a new and entirely different type of show will be presented, Jaycees officials announced.

The show title is "Running Wild." It is described as "A roaring Twenties Musical."

This year's show will be staged on Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26.

Tickets will be available soon and may be purchased from any Jaycee member.

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THE FIRE STATION on Wheeler St. was in progress last Sunday afternoon. There was a line of masters and their dogs waiting in line to have their dogs vaccinated at a special clinic held there most of the day. Approximately 200 dogs were handled. Licenses were also issued.



COLLECTIONS were coming in well at March of Dimes headquarters last Thursday night and all were happy. Counting continued well into the night. Handling the money and keeping records, seated left to right, are: Edna Buckner, Martha Humey, Kathryn Cotter and Tren Quinn. Turning over her subdivision contributions, at left behind her, is Mrs. Frances Evert. Others standing behind the table are Mrs. Mattie DeVriendt and Mrs. Florence Yullis.

Local March of Dimes Drive Very Successful

The 1960 New March of Dimes campaign, termed highly successful, drew to a close last weekend.

Final totals are not yet available but so far the drive has netted \$3,487.45. It was reported yesterday. Canister collections and money placed on school cards are not included in this total. They are now being collected and a count is expected to be completed within two weeks.

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contributions from subdivision chairman following the "march."

MRS. HATTIE DeVriendt, township treasurer for the local campaign, reported that her staff of efficient counters (Mrs. Kathryn Cotter and Mrs. Tren Quinn from the city and Mrs. Elsie Avery and Mrs. Edna Buckner from the township) worked until the wee hours of the morning tabulating the Mothers March donations. Mrs. Frances Evert, Mrs. Martha Humey and Mrs. Howard Legg also assisted.

Mrs. Lou Schaepler was kept busy serving coffee and doughnuts to the weary women as they came into headquarters with their collections.

THE LITTLE tots also helped by filling their dime darts. Making pins which they sold to their neighbors. Susan Yullis, the donors, the Mothers March, donated the money they received to the March of Dimes.

A special thank you was extended by Florence Yullis, city chairman, Polly Schaepler and Mary Legg, township co-chairmen, and the police department showing concern over the authorization of persons collecting in the name of the Mothers March. It displayed to the chairman the interest shown in the drive by those who count on the donors, the Mothers March spokesmen concluded.

THE BOARD also passed a resolution at its meeting last week petitioning for installation of a street light on 7 mile at Lathers.

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Council Okay Starts City Development on First Land Purchase

A downtown development plan for Farmington was officially started Monday evening when the city council confirmed the special assessment roll, and voted to exercise options on two parcels and buy them immediately.

The city is acting only as a promoter of this project, and it is not anticipated it will cost the city anything. Actual development will be done by a group of all local business men and property owners, who will build and lease the buildings.

Incorporation of the group is expected to be completed this week. All money is subscribed. A & P store holds an option to lease a portion of the building.

As now set up the district, including several stores, includes for special assessment purposes the property east from Earl Vivier's, because this is part of the property to be acquired for development. The district is an area of 135,000 square feet, fronting on Farmington Road, Orchard street, and Grand River. The total assessment amounts to \$127,682. Property owners will be assessed under the formula explained some months ago. They may pay off equal annual installments, if wished, with six per cent interest on the deferred balance. The plan became due Feb. 1, 1959.

In another action the council authorized City Manager Earl Scherfius to go ahead and buy two tracts of land. The developers have already purchased the Eugene Ruch tract at 2306 Farmington Road, which is at the corner of Orchard and Grand River.

ORIGINALY the property owners had petitioned the city to buy the land.

Star Cutter Land Rezoning Hearing Wed.

The public hearing on rezoning of two tracts of Star Cutter property will be held by the township zoning board next Wednesday evening, Feb. 10, starting at 8 p.m. at the town hall.

Edward Schmid, chairman of the township zoning board, will preside at the hearing.

The proposed changes are for a large tract on Grand River, west of the present plant of Drake Road, which would be changed from residential and commercial to industrial.

Recent plans as outlined by Norman Lawton were accepted by the township board, which then ordered this hearing, as required by law. What is known as an industrial park, in which various light industries are blended under deed restrictions.

The other proposed change affects residential property lying north of the present plant. Requested is a change to residential zoning.

If the change is made Lawton contemplates using the entire north strip, west as far as Drake, for a residential development. It would be separated from the industrial park by a row of hills, and a dense green belt.

At the hearing next Wednesday interested persons will be heard either for or against the proposed rezoning.

THE COUNCIL had been studying the suggestions made earlier by City Manager Earl Scherfius, and gave full approval. Mr. Scherfius was authorized to call for bids immediately.

Two stretches carrying heavy traffic will be improved, both by widening. The third project is paving a single block of State street, between Farmington and Grand River.

FOUR LANES of Farmington Road from Slocum south to 9 Mile Road will become a reality, with the addition of one lane on either side. As last summer the road was widened from State to Slocum.

The other widening will be on Farmington Road where there is a sharp curve north through the valley and up a hill to 10 Mile Road. This will become a four lane road with curb and gutter, concrete all the way.

A year or more ago merchants were complaining that the new route on Farmington road into the city from the north was a detour. It was a way from the downtown area. Mr. Scherfius told the council that recent traffic counts showed the foot needs a new coming in from the north turner, and went up the hill into downtown Farmington.

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