

# Old Stick-Out Signs to Stay; New Ones Out

Having wrestled with the problem of stick-out signs for the past several months and most diligently during the past couple, the Farmington City Council took action Monday night which it hopes will end the wrangling.

The unanimous decision reached was that the city sign ordinance should be enforced, effective immediately, but that retroactive provisions should be eliminated.

An amendment to the section of the ordinance relative to non-conforming signs was required because of this Council action.

## Oppose Making Sign Ordinance Retroactive

Members of the Downtown Business District Association went on record at a luncheon meeting last Thursday as being in favor of the ordinance controlling stick-out signs in the City of Farmington. It was their feeling that retroactive provisions should be eliminated.

The general feeling was that it would be unfair and in some cases, if retroactive provisions were permitted, it would be to the detriment of businesses that had already gone to considerable expense to take them down at this time.

Conrad Sullivan, manager of the Farmington Lumber Company, stated that a non-conforming sign is one that is not permitted by the ordinance.

Some decision on the part of individual councilmen began to show.

Requests from a number of newer businesses for permission to put up new stick-out signs tended to further complicate the matter.

When told that they would not be permitted under terms of a city ordinance they immediately began pointing out the fact that many buildings nearby they own such signs.

DELAYS in acting on these requests started to be called for and as these delays lingered on, irritation on the part of the business community was indicated.

It was expressed that the ordinance Monday night would end the decision on the matter for the future.

The amendment to the present ordinance states: "Signs existing as of June 1, 1959, non-conforming shall be permitted to stay up as non-conforming signs until such time as they are removed or it is necessary that major changes be made. In the event a question arises as to whether a change is major or not, it shall be submitted to the board of appeals for a ruling."

THIS AMENDING action pretty much conforms with the action recommended by the Farmington Downtown Business District Assn. as stipulated in a letter filed with the Council.

As a result of the action, a request from Bel-Aire Lanes for such a stick-out sign, which was made about a month or more ago, and a half ago, was denied. A new request from Dyer Moving and Storage, a recently opened new moving establishment at 23100 Maple, was also rejected.

Table Workshop  
The Clarenceville Board of Education tabled a plan to have a workshop in elementary schools to be conducted by members of the Wayne State University.

He asked the Council to appoint someone to oversee on this property to the extent of the amount of back taxes due and the amount of back taxes paid, then bid for the amount of back taxes due and the amount of back taxes paid.

Scherffius made it clear that this was not a widespread practice but that it might be tried by one or two property owners this year.

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There are a few parcels of land in the city up for sale because of delinquent taxes, the manager commented during discussion on this matter.

Robert Janis and Ronald Cody, both 17, were each fined \$100 and charged \$100 costs in a simple larceny trial before Judge Schutte. In action, Janis was placed on one year probation.

The youths were caught Monday by city police in the act of stealing a car from the parking lot of the Farmington Dodge and Ford, 32411 Grand River. They also admitted stealing a carburetor and spotlight from the same lot.

Janis, according to city police, had been in previous trouble as a juvenile.

Okay Tag Sale  
A request by Ralph Hunt of 22nd Street, chairman of the Cystic Fibrosis Society, Inc. to conduct a two day fund-raising tag sale in the City of Farmington during May was granted by the City Council Monday night.

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FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1960

## Resolution for Sale of Water Bonds Adopted

A formal bond resolution setting out terms and conditions for the sale of \$250,000 worth of general obligation bonds which will finance the project to bring Detroit water to the City of Farmington was unanimously approved by the Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

AS THE DATE for compliance drew, however, several complaints began to be voiced by business establishments with such signs that it would cost them a considerable amount of money to have them taken down. Many others expressed the view that the taking down of these signs would hurt their businesses substantially.

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THIS OLD BUILDING which has served the community well for numerous years but is now beginning to show its long years of continual use badly will be coming down soon. Commonly known to most residents as the old band house, it stands on a knoll fronting onto Grand River at the corner of School St. and is almost directly in front of the new school building. A portion of which can be seen in the background. After being used as a private residential dwelling for a number of years, it was sold to the public school system. For many more it was the quarters for band classes and was still being used for this purpose less than seven years ago. During the past few years it has been used for equipment storage. But now that additional storage space has been provided in the new service and administration building on Shiawassee, the Board of Education has ordered the building razed. Wrecking of the building and landscaping of the property should do much to improve the beauty of this area in the city.

## Work to Start On City Paving Within Week

Within the next week work will be getting underway on over \$170,000 worth of paving construction in the City of Farmington.

Official action was taken by the City Council Monday night awarding the bids for all work to the Thomas E. Currie Co., low bidder, at a total bid price of \$171,273.73. City Manager Earl Scherffius was authorized to sign the necessary contracts.

The construction company has indicated that it would like to have the entire project completed before the end of June so work will really be moving along rapidly once it gets underway, the city manager commented.

ALTHOUGH THE city has handled all arrangements, a substantial portion of the cost will be borne by a developer, private individuals and Oakland County.

Widening of Farmington Road from Slocum to Nine Mile and from Shiawassee Road to Ten Mile are the two major projects to be done. Oakland County will pay approximately 50 percent of the cost for the Slocum to Nine Mile widening and part of the cost for work at the intersections on the Shiawassee to Ten Mile project.

The rest of the cost will be borne by the city-at-large. Paving of State St. from Liberty to Farmington Road, in Section 5 — Page 8A

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## Detroit Water in Twp. Likely Soon

An adequate water supply, long awaited by residents in many of the so-called "dry areas" of Farmington Township, appears to be not too far away now, according to word given by Township Supervisor Curt Hall this week.

Preliminary plans and specifications for distribution lines from the Detroit main running along Eight Mile Road have now been completed by the township's consulting engineers and reviewed by the Oakland County Department of Public Works, the supervisor said. Cost estimates and details regarding the number of homes which it will be possible to serve presently and ultimately have also been worked out, it was indicated.

THREE DISTRIBUTION lines have been called for from the Eight Mile main which will extend northward into the township far enough to provide Detroit water in some sections as far as 11 Mile Road, the supervisor said.

It is the opinion of both the consulting engineers and County Department of Public Works officials that the proposed distribution plan is a sound one for financing. All financing arrangements will be handled through the County DPW and 10,000 development bonds would probably be sold to defray the cost of this distributing system.

The preliminary plans and details relative to financing a proposed have now been submitted to Louis Schimmel, director of the Municipal Advisory Council, for his opinion on whether the proposed project would be acceptable for a bond issue. If he feels it would be then he will make recommendations which he feels will make the bonds most readily saleable, Supervisor Hall said.

A report is expected from him within the next two weeks. THE INTERNAL city system which will bring water to the subdivisions and make it available to individual users will be financed on a special assessment basis during the construction phase of the project is being handled separately.

Considerable work in setting up these special assessment districts has already been completed. Necessary signature on petitions to set up such water districts have already been obtained from the area, according to Township Clerk Floyd Cairns. Petitions have also been taken out for some other areas, it was disclosed.

## Bedson Hearing Set for Tuesday

John Bedson, 68, of 23358 Springbrook, Farmington, will appear before Judge James P. Lawson Tuesday, April 26 in a preliminary hearing on the hit-run accident of March 17 that resulted in the death of William Bedson.

Bedson was freed on bond following an arraignment. He had turned himself in to township police and made a statement. It was in the party of the accident about the time it occurred and also admitted hitting something. He denied knowledge of hitting a pedestrian.

Dr. E. W. Kivela of the Michigan Department of Health has made tests on the accident at the scene. Police lab in Lansing and will report on the hearing. Two other state police lab officers will accompany Dr. Kivela.

## S. Farmington Civic Assn. to Meet Tonight

A special invitation is being extended to homeowners of the south Farmington Township area to attend a meeting of the South Farmington Township Civic Assn., Inc. tonight, Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. J. H. Kivela, 23358 Springbrook, Farmington.

All homeowners in the district between Eight Mile and Ten Mile roads bounded on Inkerster Road to the east and Hagerty Road to the west are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at the township fire hall on Wheeler Street (one block east of Middlebelt) and just north of Grand River.

Three subjects of special interest to residents in the south Farmington area are on the agenda. They are: (1) The Eaton Water System. (2) Water for the "dry area". (3) Zoning in the area with a panel discussion.

The meeting will be conducted by recently newly elected officers who are: Norman Peterson, president; Miss Jacqueline Jones, vice-president; Clarence Van Arman, secretary; and Ralph Stiller, vice president; a full list of names and addresses of the officers will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Tennis Courts, Picnic Facilities A JC Gift

Due to the efforts and generosity of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, tennis courts and picnic facilities in the southeast corner of the park. The picnic area is slated a short distance to the west near the stadium's edge.

SPECIFIC conditions and other details will be worked out by the city manager and engineer. The representatives of the organization indicated that they had \$4,500 earmarked for the project.

The council not only gave its unanimous approval to the project but commended the Jaycee representatives highly for the fine community spirit shown by them. They were asked to give their commendation to other members of the organization.

Fires Dampened  
The rash of grass fires in the township that broke out after the spring rains has subsided somewhat during the past week thanks to the rainy Easter weekend.

## Star Cutter Participates in 1960 Engineering Conference, Exhibit

Star Cutter Company has been in Farmington Township for over 33 years ago in Detroit with only two employees.

The business got underway on E. 27th Avenue in 1927 in a 1,000 square foot building. Today the company employs 170 people and conducts its operations in a 25,000 square foot plant situated on a picturesque 44 acre site at 34500 Grand River in Farmington Township.

Before making the move to Farmington in 1951, the company had made one other move. In 1923 it had moved to Grand Avenue in Detroit, as it had already outgrown the original building. Considerable thought was given to various suburban plant sites before the decision was reached to select the Farmington location.

Star Cutter can well be termed the industrial show place of the northwest suburban area with its beautiful landscaped grounds and gleaming 2 1/2 acre lake situated between the road and the plant. Anyone who has ever driven through Farmington and out Grand River can't help but notice the scenic beauty of the plant site.

HEADING UP operations of the metal tool cutting firm is Norman A. Lawton, president. Leonard Lawton, secretary-treasurer, and Glen Johnson, vice president in charge of many departments, round out the top management team. The company employs seven engineers and among its total personnel are many Farmington residents.

Light area at the bottom of the picture is the edge of the 2 1/2 acre lake fronting the company grounds.

Shown above is the Star Cutter Company office building with the employee and visitor parking area to the left.

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