

Downtown Parking, Redevelopment Plans Started 10 Years Ago

Work which is now progressing rapidly on redevelopment of the southeast quadrant of the Downtown Farmington business district culminates nearly ten years of study and effort to get a substantial program started to solve problems of inadequate parking and deterioration in the downtown area.

It is far from the total answer but a big step in the right direction.

More than ten years ago progressive businessmen and land owners in the downtown area, as well as the City Council, began to see the need for providing off-street parking and other improvements if a good downtown commercial district was to be maintained.

Since the first plans for downtown redevelopment and adequate parking were set forth more than a decade ago, several different plans have been proposed. Some were suggested by the city planning commission and planning committees and others by the Council itself. Still others came from a once active chamber of commerce and from downtown merchants.

The barrier to fulfillment of nearly all of these plans seemed to be dollars. Where can the city get money to provide adequate parking? How should merchants and land owners be asked to pay for off-street parking and other improvements proposed? Isn't there a developer or a group of individual land owners downtown interested enough to do something about the situation? These were questions that were asked many times during the course of planning over the past ten years.

Prior to 1950, nearly all of the parking provided in Downtown Farmington was that afforded in front of the stores on Grand River and Farmington Road and a little alongside of buildings where there were still vacant lots.

There was a small city parking lot but it was in pretty bad shape. By Council action in January of 1950 funds were allocated to surface it with four inches of crushed stone.

A continually increasing flow of traffic on Grand River Ave. pointed out the need for off-street parking in downtown Farmington. In August of 1951 the Council passed a resolution prohibiting all parking on Grand River. But, the lack of parking space elsewhere resulted in exceptionally strong objections to this resolution and it was rescinded at a special meeting one week later.

It was decided that the installation of parking meters might help at least some by keeping individuals from monopolizing what few parking spaces there were available all day. In September of that same year a contract was signed for installation of the meters.

By the end of 1952 Farmington was really starting to build up rapidly. The need for a planning commission was realized and steps taken to organize such a body. By the early part of 1953 the commission was organized and began working closely with the City Council to try to solve some of the complex problems presenting themselves in this, a formerly very quiet little town growing up rapidly.

One of the major problems, continuing to become more and more prevalent, was that of providing a smooth flow of traffic and sufficient parking in the downtown business district.

In the spring of 1953 the city attorney was authorized to take necessary steps to condemn parcels of five lots in Lapham addition for off-street parking. Fall of the same year, the renting of the William Elliott property at the southwest corner of Farmington Road and State St. for parking was approved. The Council agreed to pay \$56 per month for the property (the land where the Food Fair Market is now located).

Spring of 1954 saw an off-street parking ordinance adopted and action taken prohibiting building in any areas proposed for off-street parking.

Late 1955 blacktopping of the city owned parking lot on the south side of Grand River just west of the business places on the west side of Farmington Road was authorized. It was not until almost a year later, however, that the contract was actually let at a price of \$4,294. The installation of parking meters in this city lot was okayed in October of 1956.

It was in the Spring of 1956 that it was decided to appoint an off-street parking committee. Free parking space which had been available on the rented parcel west of Farmington Road south of State Street was gone. Food Fair Food Store was now located on the site. In September of '56 the committee was instructed to make a study for a proposed large parking lot south of Grand River and east of Farmington Road and also to plan development of other off-street parking sites.

Another problem that was presented shortly after this time was that of providing a suitable route for traffic in and out of the city from the north where rapid residential building was in progress. Hopes of getting a better route built by the county failed. It was learned that the portion of Farmington Road between Ten Mile and Shawnee in the city was not a county road. The old Farmington Road route into the city has since been closed off. It now winds through Twin Valley Subdivision, coming out on Shawnee Road to the south mid-

See DOWNTOWN PARKING—Page 8A

Read Weekly By Over 60% Of the Families In This Area

Halsted-8 Mile Sewer Arm Hearing Mon.

A hearing will be held Monday morning, Sept. 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the Oakland County Court on the suit which has been started in an effort to prevent the Oakland County DPW and Farmington Township from proceeding with the construction of the Halsted-Eight Mile Sewer Arm.

A temporary restraining order is now in effect preventing any further work on the project until a decision by the court is handed down.

Plaintiffs in the case are Harry G. Teschke, A. George Rogers and John Bates, in their own name, and as representatives of others in like circumstances. All are residents in the area to be served by the proposed Halsted-Eight Mile Arm.

"THE RESIDENTS have charged that the special assessment payments they would be required to make are too high and that they have no need for the sewer system in that area at the present time and they are in their opinion that only large landholders in the area planning to develop subdivisions now have an interest in seeing the sewer arm constructed at this time."

After court action had been started by the residents of this area, a cross bill of complaint was filed by the county and township. In the cross-bill it is asked that the court permanently enjoin any person or group from contesting the validity of the setting up of special assessment districts for the sewer system in the manner in which it has been done in this case.

"THIS ACTION is being sought pursuant to provisions of the Public Securities Validation Act of 1961 of the Public Acts of 1959."

Larcenies in City Reported

Three reports of larceny were handled by the City Police during the past week, two of which occurred at Our Lady of Sorrows' new church where construction is in progress.

Both larcenies at Sorrows took place last weekend and involved building materials taken from two different contractors. One contractor reported missing several items of building materials from the job site valued at about \$85. The other involved the theft of a carburetor from a motor used on a power lift which was valued at about \$15.

A third larceny reported to city police concerned eight bags of cement taken from a Chevrolet last Friday at an estimated value of \$65.

At the present time the Osteopathic headquarters are located at 81 Glendale in Highland Park. The Farmington site was selected by the 1,850 member organization because it was considered an ideal location both now and in the future because of the northwest expansion of the population.

AMONG THE BUSINESS activities that will take place in

Farmington Enterprise Leadership—Our Purpose Service—Our Goal

SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR — NO. 52 FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1956



THE USE of safety patrol boys and girls to assist younger children in crossing roads away from the school area proper is a program that was abandoned some years ago in the Farmington public school system. The practice was started up again this year on the recommendation of a special school highway safety committee.

School Enrollment Up To 8,673, Climbing

Total enrollment in the Farmington public school system has now shot somewhat past the estimate made just prior to the opening of the schools earlier this month and is still climbing.

It was set at 8,620 by school administrators a few days before the doors of the district's 13 elementary and three secondary schools were swung open for the start of the 1956-'57 school year.

As of Friday of last week this figure has swollen to 8,673, or 53 students over the pre-school estimate.

This is not the official 60-61 enrollment figure. That figure is set as of the fourth Friday of September as required by state law.

A BREAKDOWN shows the elementary school enrollment to be 5,735. The total junior high enrollment is 1,825 and the senior high enrollment 1,113. These figures include 80 students receiving special education training in the local school system.

The enrollment breakdown by school district is as follows:

Alameda	472
Bond	444
Cloydale	444
Eagle	375
Gib	329
Kenbrook	691
Longfere	404
Middlebelt	421
Shawnee	513
Ten Mile	622
William Grace	473
Wooddale	497

This is the way the secondary school enrollment breaks down: Farmington Jr. High 981; Dunckel Jr. High 840; Senior High 1,113.

No breakdown of enrollment by grades has yet been completed.

The official fourth Friday in September enrollment last year was 7,542. This year's enrollment to date thus represents an increase of 1,078 pupils.

Accept Bond For Grandview

The Clarenceville Board of Education accepted a bond in the name of Lockwood McCutcheon Inc. at its last meeting for an extension of the guarantee period on the Grandview Elementary School to August 5, 1961.

The bond covers material, labor, etc. and is a direct result of the problem relative to the terrace floor, it was announced by school officials.

The Board on several occasions stated it was not willing to accept the terrace floor recently installed at the school.

Special Safety Award Given

A special certificate of achievement will be presented to the City of Farmington public safety department and the Farmington school system's next Wednesday in recognition of their joint progress in accident prevention work.

The presentation will be made by Sgt. Michael Sibral of the state police department's safety and traffic bureau on Wednesday.

Primarily, the award is in recognition of the efforts made in both the public and parochial schools of Farmington to provide good safety education programs and the assistance given by the schools by the city's public safety department. It is also in recognition of the public safety department's record of no high way deaths over an extended period of time.

Guests of honor representing the city at the presentation ceremony will be Mayor Robert Lindbergh, Safety Director Joseph DeVincenti, Attorney Robert Kelly and Judge John J. Schulte. Representing the Farmington public schools will be Supt. G. V. Harrison and Donald Hassler and James Reed, assistant superintendents.

A representative or representatives from Our Lady of Sorrows schools will also be present.

Dr. Anderson to Speak to Cville PTA

Dr. Carl Anderson of Eastern Michigan University will speak on "Financing of Public Education" at a joint meeting of Clarenceville PTA groups Wednesday, September 28 at 8 p.m. All residents of the Clarenceville School are invited to attend this program and hear Dr. Anderson.

Six Adult Ed. Classes Start

Art, bridge, sewing, stocks and bonds, upholstery and women's health classes are now underway through the Farmington School District adult education program. It was disclosed Monday.

Due to a lack of interest shown in the proposed typing and organ classes these courses will not be offered this fall. It was indicated that the physical education for men class might also be dropped due to insufficient registration.

Heaviest registration was for the art course, it was reported. Due to the heavy enrollment two separate classes will be conducted.

OK Playground Work

Approval was given at the last meeting of the Clarenceville Board of Education to continue the improving of the Grandview Elementary School playground area.

City Manager Named; Will Take Over Oct. 3

The appointment of John D. Dinan of Oak Park as new Farmington City Manager was announced Monday by Mayor Robert Lindbergh.

He will take over duties here on October 3. Dinan replaces Earl Scherffius who resigned the later part of August due to poor health. Mayor Lindbergh has been serving as acting manager until a replacement could be found.

Dinan, 34, has had considerable experience in city administration work as an engineer and assistant city manager in Oak Park for a nine year period. A native of the Detroit area, he holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Lawrence Institute of Technology.

During the major portion of his time as assistant manager in Oak Park, Dinan worked directly under Harold K. Scherffius. Following Scherffius' resignation he served as acting manager for about six months until the appointment of Virgil Knowles, under whom he also worked for a short time.

WHILE DINAN was at Oak Park, that community grew from a small town of 5,000 to a bustling city of 36,000 people. He is thus very familiar with the problems of a rapidly growing and changing city.

There were a total of 8,000 new homes put under construction during the nine year period of his time served there. Projects in which he had a big part in planning, engineering and supervising were the laying of miles of sewer mains, 62 miles of water mains and 70 miles of paving.

Dinan was in charge of personnel administration at Oak Park and served as a liaison between the city manager and the various department heads. He was responsible for the setting up of special assessment districts and the handling of all bond issues for numerous projects in this rapidly growing city. During the last three years he handled all public relations work in the city including the answering of inquiries on city matters, the compiling of complaints, the taking of bids and the preparing of various other reports for public consumption.

LACK OF opportunity for advancement was cited by Dinan as one of the reasons for leaving his assistant manager's position at Oak Park.

Married and the father of five children, Dinan presently resides at 25240 Berkley Street in Farmington.

A total of 22 applications were received for the city manager's job here, Mayor Lindbergh stated. Dinan was selected from the group. He was considered seriously and interviewed at some length, the mayor concluded.

Each of the school districts had four members on the committee. Representing Clarenceville were Melvin Kuehn, Bernard Oles, Charles L. Pierce and Naomi Stevens.

Greeting the citizens forming the Citizens' Study Committee was Dr. Albert M. Ammerman, executive committee and coordinating officer.

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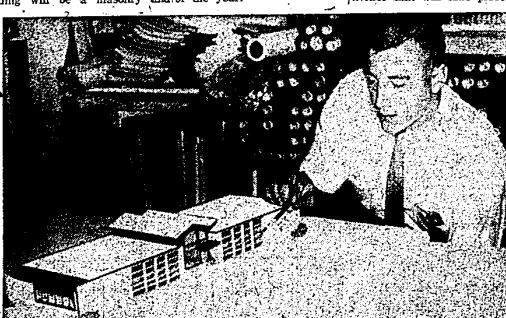
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Osteopathic Headquarters B'ldg. In F'ton To Be Erected Soon

Within a very few days concrete structure featuring the use of steel reinforcement will begin on the 3,000 sq. ft. masonry on the roof, walls and floors and will be completed by the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. at its new headquarters building on the north side of Freedom Road between Maple and Farmington Roads.

The structure will contain 12 rooms including a lounge and conference rooms as well as the Association's business offices. Completion is set for the first of the year.



STUDENT ARCHITECT Charles Gorman points out some of the features in the model of the proposed state headquarters building of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. The building was designed by John A. Allen, AIA, Farmington architect.

At the present time the Osteopathic headquarters are located at 81 Glendale in Highland Park. The Farmington site was selected by the 1,850 member organization because it was considered an ideal location both now and in the future because of the northwest expansion of the population.

AMONG THE BUSINESS activities that will take place in

the new Association headquarters will be the preparation for publication of the organization's monthly magazine, preparation and distribution of public health information, information bulletins for members and various routine office procedures in connection with the functions of the Association.

Dr. Joseph Walker of Royal Oak is president of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. According to recent reports the state D. O. is now serving 22 percent of the total population.

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A SPECIAL evening registration period for Farmington Township voters not yet listed in the poll books to vote Nov. 8 was held last Wednesday evening at the Dunckel Junior High School. Over 140 new voters were signed up. Township Clerk Floyd Cairns reported. Cairns, center, is shown here registering Mrs. Nancy Davis of 32251 Chesterbrook in Westbrook No. 2 subdivision. Looking on, at the left, is Daniel T. Murphy, Jr., Oakland County Clerk-Register of Deeds. New residents are urged to register to vote as reminded that Monday, October 10, at 8 p.m. is the final time for so doing to qualify as a voter in the important November 8 election.

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Satisfactory substitutes are given first consideration when regular driving positions become available. It was pointed out by school officials.

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