

EDITORIALS

23 THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE

January 17, 1963

Observations on 1962 Building Activities

Most citizens probably didn't note much of great significance in the 1962 building activity figures which were released last week by the city and township. There were, however, at least a couple of interesting observations to be made.

One is in the fact that the steady decline in building activities in the townships from the peak period of six and seven years ago seems to have reached the bottom and is now starting back up again. We vision another building boom starting in the township perhaps this year or in 1964 for sure. How fast water and sewer facilities can be extended to undeveloped areas will be a big factor in when the boom starts.

Our only hope is that when this new building boom we are expecting comes, enough ground work shall have been done so that it will be more of a balanced type of boom with a substantial amount of commercial and industrial development coming along with additional residential growth.

A second observation we made was the fact that building in the city is now shifting over to the type of construction that should prove beneficial to the community in improving its tax base.

Of the more than \$3.8 million dollars worth of valuation behind the total number of building permits issued by the

city in 1962, over \$2 million of it was for construction of new or remodeling of older commercial buildings and for the construction of apartment buildings. It will provide additional tax dollars for the community without the accompanying additional heavy expenses which new residential developments cause.

The commercial buildings and even the apartments now being built are not adding any children in our community who will have to be educated and we all know that the bulk of our local tax dollar has been and will continue to go for school taxes.

While the trend in the city has shifted to a heavier amount of commercial and apartment-type of building activity, the township figures still show an imbalance of commercial and industrial construction compared with one-family residential building activity.

Excluding schools and churches, the township's commercial and industrial development in 1962 accounted for less than a half million dollars worth of increased valuation. Schools and churches added in, the community accounted for a total increased valuation of about \$1.6 million. The total valuation on new home permits was over \$5 million, however.

From these township figures it is easy to see why the bulk of the tax bill must be borne by residential homeowners.

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Business Growth Good But Could Be Better

In

numbers at least in dollar volume, Farmington has been ranked as one of the fastest growing communities business-wise. Oakland County during the past 16 years.

Figures

released last week by Dun & Bradstreet revealed that the number of wholesalers, manufacturers and retailers listed in their reference book from 1947 and the current year climbed from 167 to 396. This means that just over 230 new business operations are here today over the number here 16 years ago. It represents an average yearly increase of over 14 businesses.

At the same time this was going on Detroit was losing ground, having dropped in the total number of businesses listed by over 3,000 from 28,026 to 24,871.

Compared with the whole of Oakland County which had an 81 percent increase, Farmington's showing is very favorable. But, it's nowhere near as good as the showing made by our neighbors immediately to the east and south of us. Livonia skyrocketed in business development from no listings at all in 1947 to

507 in 1963. Southfield and Oak Park did nearly as good with listings of 479 and 450, respectively. Neither had any firms listed in the Dun & Bradstreet reference book in 1947.

While our increase in number of businesses was good, it could have been better and it is important that it does continually keep pace with the increase in residential development.

A healthy community is one where business is good and a major portion of the dollar being spent by its residents is being spent locally. Getting and keeping good business in Farmington, both industrial and commercial, has been a long standing objective of this newspaper and it will continue to be in the years ahead. It should be a community-wide objective with every governmental body, shopping center and even every individual citizen doing his part. One local shopping center putting itself against another local shopping center or one section of the community vying against the other is not the answer for healthy and growing community.

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Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago

JANUARY 15, 1948

New City Policeman

The Farmington City Commission

commission appointed a permanent

position in the City Police De-

partment when action was tak-

en to retain the temporary re-

placement hired some time

ago. He will be paid \$155 per

month as a full-time patrol-

man.

The City Veterans

The Farmington High School

basketball team scored two

wins to resume their 1947-48

schedule this week. The Fal-

cons came back from their

long Christmas recess by troun-

ghing Millford 25-28. The two victori-

es put Farmington a first

place tie in the Inter-Lakes

Conference with a modest .500

record in league play.

Ice Skating

Ice skating conditions

are said to be perfect at the rink

on Shiawassee north of the

Farmington. The School athletic

team has this week

Succesful Campaign

The Farmington Junior

Chamber of Commerce report-

ed this week that more than a

ton of canned food goods were

collected in their drive sup-

porting the Friendship Food Pan-

try in which they are helping

feed hungry families in

France.

Youth Center Plans

The Farmington Lions Club

moved one step closer to realiz-

ing their plans for establishing

a youth center in the city. The

club has appointed

Charles Culley as their repre-

sentative on the City Council to

organize plans for develop-

ing a Farmington Youth Cen-

ter. Much work remains to be

done, however, before the idea

can become a reality.

10 Years Ago

JANUARY 15, 1953

To Borrow \$50,000

The Farmington Board of Ed-

ucation unanimously approved

a resolution unanimously ap-

proved by the Northwest High

School on Middlefield Road just

north of Northwest Highway.

The resolution authorizes Sup-

erintendent of Schools G. E. C. to

close his doors for the last

points.

The old one-room school

on Middlefield Road just

north of Northwest Highway

is closed. Its doors for the last

points.

Save 10¢ and travel 10 miles

... where's the fun?

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