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Dropout Study Committee Working Behind the Scenes

This is the first in a series of articles on the special dropout committee functioning in the Farmington public school system.

Working quietly behind the scenes in Farmington for almost a year now has been a special volunteer citizens committee whose members have been interested in the educational problems and possible ways of broadening upon it to better satisfy the educational needs and desires of all our children.

Specifically, the committee was formed at the request of the Farmington Board of Education for two principal purposes: (1) To conduct a local study and survey in connection with a national program already started in an effort to reduce the alarming number of children who still, not completing high school. (2) To study the local curriculum, carefully and make an attempt to determine the reasons for the extension of the program might be possible to better prepare all youngsters to go out into the work world and obtain jobs after graduation.

THE COMMITTEE which first began meeting in November of last year plans to resume meetings and study projects again the middle of this month. A great deal more remains to be done before any concrete recommendations can be made, a spokesman for this special local study "dropout" committee said.

The first committee meeting of the new school year is scheduled for Monday evening, September 16, at 8 p. m. in the Farmington School District administrative building on Shawassaw Road between Farmington and Power roads.

The committee will have as its theme "DROPOUT STUDY" (Column 4, Page 8A)

Automatic speed watch equipment to assist the City public safety department in cracking down on speeding on main artery roads throughout the community was authorized for purchase by action of the Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

The total cost of the apparatus will be \$512.

In a report to the Council, City Manager John Dinan stated that the purchase of such equipment was considered necessary if the police were to be expected to carry out the speed enforcement crackdown that had been authorized by the Council recently. The public safety department is understaffed to do the job adequately by itself alone, the manager said.

City Purchasing Auto. Speed Watch Device

SOME CONCERN was expressed by councilmen, and particularly by Howard Thayer, when the use of such equipment would brand the City as a speed trap area. Manager Dinan explained that such equipment would be beneficial in making scientific studies with regard to traffic speeds and not just for trapping speeders and issuing tickets.

Councilman Hugo Peterson said that he was in favor of buying the equipment but only if all other means of enforcement were posted with signs specifying that speed was electrically timed in the City.

Two separate motions were passed, one authorizing the purchase of the speed watch equipment and the other specifying that the signs Peterson requested be erected. Only Councilman Thayer voted against the motions.

City Council Follows Township Lead; Introduces Anti-Blight Ordinance

Following Farmington Township officials' lead, the City Council took action Tuesday night introducing an anti-blight ordinance.

The intent of the ordinance is to give the City some legislative teeth in its effort to control residential "homeowners" to clean up and keep cleaned up unsightly conditions around their homes.

The action was prompted by complaints voiced by members of the Council a month or so earlier, about the increasing number of unsightly conditions

which they had been observing around homes in neighborhoods throughout the City. The city manager was instructed at that time to check into the Township anti-blight ordinance and also investigate to learn about the types of legislation other communities in this area might have to force homeowners to do a better job of cleaning up around their homes.

Manager John Dinan stated in a written report to the Council Monday night that he felt the Township's anti-blight ordinance contained all the necessary provisions to accomplish the ends desired by the councilmen and recommended that it be adopted almost verbatim.

The manager suggested only two minor changes in the Township ordinance as it was adopted the early part of August. One was that the time allowed for storing refuse such as cans and garbage outdoors be shortened from 30 to 7 days. The City makes weekly pickups of this material while the Township collects only once a month, he explained. The other change would make the city manager

responsible for designating who would be assigned to enforce the ordinance. It was his feeling that it should be done jointly by the building inspector and public safety department.

THE ONLY request of councilmen prior to taking official action introducing the ordinance was that the manager and city attorney go over the ordinance again and try to clarify the wording a little better in two or three sections.

Councilman Howard Thayer stated that he would like to see the ordinance broadened to include stiffer regulations on clean up around commercial and industrial properties. It was explained to him that the City already has an anti-blight ordinance which should be effective in maintaining clean conditions around business establishments if properly enforced.

The proposed blight ordinance is particularly stiff on the licensing of junk cars outside. Cars unlicensed or inoperative even though licensed will not be allowed to be kept anywhere outside of a person's residential property more than 60 days.

STORING outdoor building materials such as lumber, bricks, concrete, plumbing or electrical materials or any other materials not specifically intended for a building or remodeling project for which a permit has been taken out is also forbidden.

The accumulation of any junk, trash, rubbish or refuse outside of a building is prohibited. In excess will not be allowed and this will include motors and unused stoves or appliances.

Construction Underway On Twp. Sewer Projects

Farmington Township Clerk Floyd Cairns announced this week that construction is under way on the Old Farm Colony sewer project and progress on the Holly Hill sewer project promises completion late within the next six weeks.

The Old Farm Colony sewer construction began on Tuesday. The contractor who submitted the low bid of \$174,424.70 on the work estimated to take four months to complete. Cairns expressed confidence that completion could be completed before the first of the year.

put under way in the Township under the 400 acres of land a new sewer line will serve Old Farm Colony, Noblesbrook Farms and the Miller's Rougemont subdivisions. The construction of the Holly Hill sewer project promises completion late within the next six weeks.

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Nearly All City Tax Bills Paid Before Deadline

An exceptionally good collection of City of Farmington tax bills prior to the deadline for paying without penalty, which was the end of August, was reported this week by Kathryn Cotter, city treasurer.

All but \$34,189.92 of the total billing of \$246,152.86 was paid prior to the August 31 deadline, Mrs. Cotter stated Tuesday.

This figure is up to an approximately 94% per cent collection and a percentage of collection which few cities can equal.

A heavy rush of tax payments from individuals paying their own tax bills, Mrs. Cotter said.

The closest bid to the successful bidder, Wells and Brewer, was submitted by the Gino Jani, who offered \$187,597.35. The highest bid was \$268,291.45.

Public hearings establishing the special assessment sewer districts were conducted by the Township Board earlier this year.

Township Hits Summer Peak In Vandalism

Farmington Township Police answered at least 25 calls this past week on reports of malicious destruction of property while the City of Farmington Police Department investigated a case involving vandalism to the water pumping station in the City Park.

Damage in the numerous Township incidents was confined mainly to school buildings where windows were broken. It was the heaviest period of such reports this year although past months have found a general increase in vandalism over what it has been in past years.



NEW PRINCIPALS assuming posts in Farmington School District this fall are (l. to r.) Weldon Peck, Bond School; Don Hessler, Highland School; and Charles Murray, Farmington Junior High. (seated), Marius VanAmeyde.

School buildings always suffer heavily during the summer months while they are not in regular use, according to the Township Police Department, and they expect the opening of school this week will considerably curtail such incidents.

The pump house damage in the City Park was limited to mostly broken windows.

At Mackinac Island For State Meeting

Mayor Robert Lindberg and City Manager John Dinan left on Wednesday this week for Mackinac Island to attend the annual convention of the Michigan Municipal League.

Stop Sign at Ten Mile Out

The county road commission has voted against allowing a stop sign to be erected on the north side of Ten Mile on Farmington Road, City Manager John Dinan disclosed in a report to the Council Tuesday night.

He added, however, that the county had agreed to reduce the speed limit in the Township a short distance north from this intersection from 40 to 30 miles per hour. A sign a little ways back from the intersection, a "Reduce Speed Ahead - 25 Miles Per Hour" was also agreed by the county, the city manager said in his report.

Wd. Ck. Seeks Traffic Signal At 13 Mile and Middlebelt Rd.

The Wood Creek Farms Village Council resolved at their meeting Tuesday night, September 3, to get an answer from the Oakland County Road Commission as to why a stop and go traffic signal cannot be erected at the dangerous 13 Mile and Middlebelt Road intersection, which forms the northwest boundary of the Village.

COUNCIL ACTION came after it was learned another serious automobile accident had occurred at the intersection early Tuesday afternoon. A Farmington Township woman and her two children were taken to William Beaumont Hospital with serious injuries as a result of the accident, the latest of many which have occurred at the location which presently has only a flashing signal.

Accident Rate Over Labor Day Weekend Light

The City and Township of Farmington maintained an enviable traffic safety record over the Labor Day Holiday weekend with fewer accidents resulting in serious injuries than during the course of an average summer week.

No injury accidents occurred whatsoever in the City while the Township had two injury accidents, both to youths on bicycles.

The youths were injured when the bicycles they were riding were struck by cars in two separate accidents in the Township on Sunday.

Walk Improvement Job to Start Monday

The step elimination and sidewalk improvement project planned on Grand River Avenue in the downtown business district is now slated to get underway this coming Monday, according to word from the contractors awarded the job.

indications had been given earlier that work would be getting underway the first part of this week but the contractor got tied up on another job which he wanted to get completed, City Manager John Dinan said.

Give Go-Ahead On Providing City Car Pound

The City manager's request for funds for necessary fencing material and authorization to have the 40 x 40 foot car pound on the establishment of a City car pound to the rear of the DPW building on Nine Mile Road just west of Farmington Road.

The City Council gave the official go-ahead Tuesday night on the establishment of a City car pound to the rear of the DPW building on Nine Mile Road just west of Farmington Road.

COLLECTIONS this year were the best in the past three years in the City. Last year there was \$18,270 outstanding at deadline time against a billing almost \$9,000 lower than this year's. In 1961 there was \$23,000 in total tax billings delinquent against a \$224,000 tax roll.

City of Farmington tax bills may still continue to be paid at the City Hall through the balance of this year and during January and February of 1964 but a four per cent penalty will now be added.

After the end of February it will be necessary to go to the county treasurer's office in Pontiac to pay tax bills in outstanding and delinquent.

in conjunction with the efforts to lessen traffic problems on Farmington Road north of Grand River in the City, revised parking regulations on Shawassaw Road, have been recommended by the public safety department. They were agreed to by the Council.

Parking will now be prohibited from Warner St. to the school crosswalk but be allowed from the crosswalk westward to Farmington Road.

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Called FOR IN the latest appeal to the Road Commission is information concerning a traffic control sign to be placed on the intersection to determine the necessity for a stop and go traffic signal. The

STEPHEN ROUKE, 9, of 28109 Statley Lane was injured when his bicycle was struck by a car driven by Gregory Buschman, 28, of Royal Oak on September 1, at 10:25 a. m., at the 12 Mile and Farmington Road intersection. The youth was returning home from church with another companion when the accident happened.

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See FEW ACCIDENTS, Column 5, Page 8A

Sign Up Now for Adult Classes

A special evening registration period for adult education classes proposed to be offered by the Farmington public school system this fall will be held on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, Sept. 11 and 12.

Hours for registering in person both nights will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. in Room 110-C at the Farmington Senior High, Director Dick Tyler said.

Enrollments by mail will be processed beginning Tuesday and will continue to be accepted until the start of classes on Monday, Sept. 16.

Classes proposed are: Bridge, Business English, Charn and Poise, Clothing Construction, Drawing and Sketching, Oil Painting, Organ, Sewing, Short Hand, Typing, Upholstery, Drawing and Watercolors and Woodworking.

For more information call Tyler's office at GR. 6-6010.



Senior Citizens To Meet Sept. 13

The next regular meeting of the Senior Citizens Social Club of Farmington will be held on Friday evening, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p. m. in the social room of the First Methodist Church on Grand River at Warner Avenue.

A special program is planned for this meeting but there will be friendly conversation and card playing to be enjoyed. Refreshments will be served.

All senior citizens of the area are invited to this first social gathering of the fall season.

If transportation is needed you are asked to call Mrs. Earl Wasley of the Jaycees Auxiliary to arrange for a free ride, Call GR. 4-7700.

Emergency Medical Course To Start in Township Sept. 12

Farmington Township Civil Defense Director Russ Conway announced this week that another medical emergency course in survival and disaster training will be started on Thursday of next week, September 12.

The course is being offered by Farmington Township in cooperation with the Oakland County Civil Defense Dept. and the County Health Department.

Classes will be held from 8 to 10 p. m. each Thursday at the Alameda School on Power Road at Alameda and will run for 13 weeks. There is no charge for the course for maintenance of the following subject areas will be offered:

1. Casualty Care System
2. First Aid - Treatment of hemorrhages, fractures, trauma, wounds and putting on splints.
3. Shock and Burns.
4. Psychological First Aid.
5. Emergency Birth or Disaster Born Babies.
6. Decontamination of Homes and Persons subjected to Fallout Radiation.
7. Medical and Nursing Aspects of Radiation Sickness.
8. Hygiene and Sanitation - Training in the use of syringes.
9. Blood Pressure - Training in techniques of taking.
10. Intensive Techniques - Parental Therapy.
11. Contagion or Isolation Techniques.
12. Artificial Respiration - First aid for maintenance of the upper airways.
13. Emergency Sanitation.
14. Medical Aspects of the Shelter Program.
15. Field Exercise - Conversion of a school building into an emergency hospital.

See MEDICAL COURSE, Column 7, Page 8A

Burglars Hit Over Labor Day

Farmington City Police uncovered two cases of burglary at business places in the City which were closed over the Labor Day Holiday.

The theft of \$20 was discovered in the east motor vehicle Tuesday at the Nowell's Service Station on Grand River just west of Orchard Lake Road while just to the east on Grand River at Orchard Lake Road, Warren's Gulf Service Station was broken into but nothing was discovered there.