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The Farmington Enterprise

Official Publication for Farmington City and Township
FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1964

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Twp. & City Holds Steady In 1st Half Building Activity

Building activity in the City and township for the first six months of this year is holding fairly well with the predictions for a good year in residential, commercial and industrial development, according to figures released this week by the building departments in the city and township.

A total of 347 permits were issued by the township for all types of construction during the first six months of 1964. The total valuation on the 347 permits was set at \$13,527,989.

IN THE CITY, a total of 87 building permits were issued for the January 1 to June 30 period, totaling \$1,202,458 in valuation. This compares with just 89 permits issued in the first half of 1963 with a valuation of \$1,479,799.

The new Mercy College put under construction east of Middlebelt Road between 11 Mile and 12 Mile in Farmington Township accounted for \$9,000,000 of the township's total first half building activity.

New home construction in the first half of 1964 accounted for \$2,957,050 of the township's building activity. A total of 161 permits were issued for the construction of one family homes.

THE TOWNSHIP issued three permits for the construction of stores and mercantile buildings at a valuation of \$257,000. One church, the Nardin Park Methodist Church on 11 Mile Road, accounted for another \$500,000 of the township's building activity in this year's first half. A new addition at the Gill Road Elementary School accounted for \$155,000 of the township total.

The break down on other township building activity is as follows:

Industrial buildings (5), \$94,200; Boat display and half-way house for the Farmington Country Club, \$5,500; residential garages (4), \$55,650; service stations and repair garages (3), \$57,500; rain shelter for Farmington Country Club, \$450; swimming pool (10), \$34,993; restaurant and lounge, \$35,000; additions on one family houses (97), \$184,389; and additions on other buildings (14), \$91,467.

THE CITY breakdown on building activity is as follows:

New home construction (24), \$475,207; home additions (29), \$68,859; residential garages (21), \$27,746; commercial buildings (6), \$335,536; commercial additions (8), \$41,820; industrial buildings (2), \$18,750; industrial additions (4), \$78,700; and two swimming pools for apartment houses (2), \$10,000.

City Corrects Sewer Problem, Pays Damages

The Farmington City Council took action Monday night, July 6, approving the claim of damages reported on the property of Edward Smith, south of Valleyview Street in the city. Smith will receive \$100 and have top soil, which was washed from his garden when a sewer overflowed last month, replaced by the city.

Corrective steps have already been taken by the city's Water and Sewer Department, it was reported at the Monday night meeting, which it is hoped will prevent the recurrence of future sewer problems in the line crossing Smith's property.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Department of Public Works has begun checking an alternate sewer line with closed circuit TV equipment to aid in the analysis of the structural condition of the line. The alternate sanitary sewer could be used to serve as an overflow system.

The city's Water and Sewer Dept. used their sewer rodding equipment on the troublesome eight-inch sewer line last week and, reportedly, cleared some of the obstruction in the line which could have caused the blockage. The Dept. expressed confidence that the line is now getting full eight-inch capacity and reported a recurrence of the overflow condition was unlikely. Smith's vegetable garden was washed away by raw sewage last month.

Auction Set By Twp. Police

A public auction on a number of unclaimed items which have been held by the Farmington Township Police Dept. will be held a week from this Saturday morning, July 18, at the Farmington Township Hall on 11 Mile Road just west of Orchard Lake Road.

Most of the items to be auctioned off this time, if still not claimed by anyone, will be numerous bicycles that have been picked up by the police during the past several months. The items include, but are not limited to, bicycles, hub caps, car floor mats and one wooden wheelbarrow.

The auction will begin at 10 a.m. with all items to be sold to the highest bidder.

A complete list of all the bikes and other items to be auctioned appears in a special advertisement elsewhere in this week's issue of The Enterprise.

3 Killed In Twp. Traffic Accident Over 4th Of July

One of the worst traffic accidents in recent years marred the Fourth of July holiday weekend in Farmington and claimed the lives of three persons, as two cars collided at the intersection of Middlebelt Road and 12 Mile Road just past midnight on Saturday, July 4.

The three fatalities boosted the traffic death toll in Farmington to nine so far this year compared with 12 recorded for all of 1963.

KILLED IN THE accident at 12 Mile and Middlebelt were two young men from Livonia, Charles B. Trent, 22, of 18410 Floral Street and Douglas J. Koipio, 22, of 18210 Floral Street. Trent was the driver and Koipio was a passenger in his car. They were headed west on 12 Mile Road.

The driver of the southbound car on Middlebelt which collided with Trent's car, Earl D. Drake, 54, of Greenville, Michigan, was also killed in the crash. Two passengers in Drake's car, his wife, Lillian, 52, and their son, Joseph, 11, were seriously injured and taken to William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

According to witnesses at the scene, Drake's car apparently ran the red flasher at the intersection. The crash impact was so great that the hood on the car driven by Trent was sent flying into the parking lot of Fred's Bar on the northwest corner of the intersection and damaged a car parked there. Trent's car skidded off an Edison pole on the southwest corner of the intersection.

The 12 Mile and Middlebelt Road intersection is controlled by a number and red flasher during the evening and early morning hours and operates as a one-way street.

See THREE KILLED Page 8A, Col. 4

Council Seeks Appraisal for Land Purchase

The Farmington City Council authorized City Manager John Dinan to retain William Grabenlike as appraiser to set a price on the 3 1/2-acre parcel of land owned by Mrs. Helen Whipple on Power Road north of Grand River Avenue, between the city and the Farmington City Park. The action came at the regular council meeting Monday night, July 6.

The city has incorporated the purchase of the Whipple property in its 1964-65 budget to complete the land acquisition for the City Park at Shawwassee and Power Roads.

It was felt that in the event the city is required to enter into condemnation proceedings, the land appraisal by Grabenlike, a veteran of 40 years experience in appraisal and real estate work and former director of the Equalization Committee in Oakland County, would carry extensive weight with the courts.

Requests City Program for Sr. Citizens

The Farmington City Council received a request in behalf of the community's senior citizens to provide more recreational programs for their enjoyment, at the regular council meeting Monday night, July 6.

A letter from Donald J. Niehaus of 3760 Schulte Drive in Farmington, calling for support of a program for senior citizens, was read at the Monday night meeting.

It was the position of the council that a concrete program with a detailed description of the activities proposed and the cost involved would have to be presented for consideration before the city could entertain further any action on the matter of recreation for senior citizens.

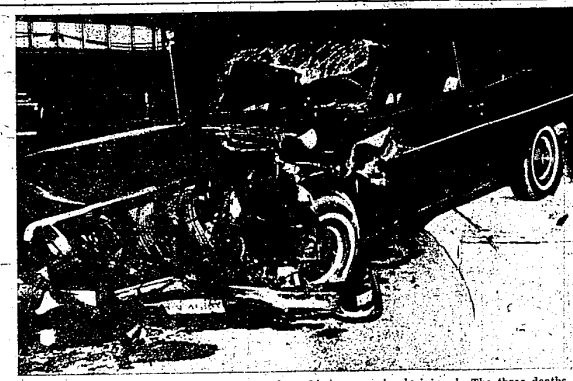
THE COUNCIL position was a token in view of information submitted by City Manager John Dinan, pointing out that organizations for senior citizens already exist in Farmington and are quite active. It was suggested that Mr. Niehaus contact Mrs. Walter Carlin of the Farmington Senior Citizens Social Club or Norma Dowd, secretary of the Pioneer Golden Age Club, to learn of what may be the needs of those who request the program.

See REQUESTS CITY Page 8A, Col. 5

Students' Marks Checked by Bd. of Ed.

Samples of floor tile for the Gill Road School addition were looked at by members of the Farmington Board of Education at their regular meeting last Monday evening.

Test marks, like those made by students, had been made on each sample so that members could decide which color of tile would show the best marks the least. Based on the marks as well as maintenance and looks, a brown tile was selected.



THREE PERSONS DIED in the two-car crash at Middlebelt and 12 Mile roads in Farmington Township shortly after midnight on July 4th. Both the driver and his passenger were killed in the car pictured above while the other car's driver lost his life and two passengers with him were seriously injured. The three deaths brought this year's traffic fatality count in Farmington to a total of nine persons killed. A total of 12 persons were killed during all of 1963 to set an all-time high for traffic deaths in Farmington.

Re-Zoning for Apts. in N' east Sec. Opposed

Lengthy discussion that began at a public hearing before the Township Zoning Board on June 25 on the proposed rezoning of an approximately 25-acre parcel at the southwest corner of 14 Mile and Middlebelt Road will be continued on Friday evening, July 17, at 8 p.m.

The Rouge Building Co. of 16450 W. Nine Mile Road in Oak Park, with Stephen F. Slavik as president, is seeking to have the property rezoned from R-1 (single family residential) to multiple residential and office district classification.

Several homeowners in the vicinity of the "vacant" parcel proposed to be re-zoned appeared at the initial hearing to raise questions and express their concern and disapproval with the change of zoning asked for on the property.

A RESOLUTION signed by 193 members of the Franklin Knolls Subdivision Association, voicing objection to the rezoning, was submitted and several signers were present to voice their objections personally.

William Hultz, past president of the Eagle School PTA, felt that the increased density of population brought about by the development of multiple housing in this area would result in serious safety problems for children going to and from the Eagle School.

At least one or two area residents stated that they didn't feel more apartments were needed in this area and quoted the Kiplinger Index of Washington which indicated that there is felt to be an over building of apartments in the United States today.

OTHERS objected on the grounds that multiple housing would result in increased traffic and parking problems.

See RE-ZONING Page 8A, Col. 4

Want Street Vacated Here

The Farmington City Council approved a request Monday night from two property owners in Farmington to vacate a long alley that extends north and south between Grand River and Shawwassee avenues.

A public hearing was set for July 20 at 8 p.m. for the purpose of airing possible objections to the proposed vacating of the alley.

The council was assured by the two residents, John Cook and Robert Cassell, who are the adjacent property owners, that all costs connected with sodding over the gravel road way and other necessary expenses will be assumed by them.

THE COUNCIL was shown by City Manager John Dinan how the short roadway, which is platted as the northern extension of Wilmarth Avenue, lacks an adequate width for a proper street and does not serve the general public to any great extent.

The city, it was pointed out by Dinan, would retain easements along the right-of-way for any public utilities if the street were vacated.

Boys Stater Gives Report to Council

Brian Dales, the "Wolverine Boys State" candidate approved by the City of Farmington, gave his report to the City Council Monday night, July 6, at the regular council meeting.

Dales reported on the activities of the American Legion sponsored, Wolverine Boys State and expressed his thanks to the council for their support of the children's program. He reported that he was elected "senior" at Farmington High School.

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City Park Name Change Issue Ended by JC's

The request by the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce to change the name of the Farmington City Park to Jaycee Park came before the City Council for consideration at its regular meeting Monday night, July 6, and was quickly resolved when the Jaycees, "in view of opposition," withdrew their request.

Mayor Robert Lindbert summed up the feeling of the Council when he expressed appreciation for all of the efforts extended in the issue by the local service club.

COUNCILMAN Pete Peterson stated the Jaycees' withdrawal of their request to have the City Park named after them relieves the council of having to make a difficult decision and "proves they are real gentlemen."

The Jaycees request was made several weeks ago to the council and excited a mild controversy. Two letters read at the Monday night meeting, prior to the latest communication from the Jaycees, named the controversy somewhat.

A LETTER FROM Imogene Ely Bickling dated into the history of the City Park and registered strong opposition to the proposed name change. The letter, from the Golden Age Club of Farmington, went on record as being strongly in favor of the re-naming in view of the contributions made by the Jaycees to improve the City Park and their many other worthwhile services to the community.

It was pointed out in the letter from the Jaycees, signed by club officers Dr. John Richardson and Ralph Parnin, that the Jaycees felt their request was misrepresented. The withdrawal was pointed out as an effort to keep from jeopardizing the service club's standing in the community.

"This council expressed a desire to study the matter further at a future date and commended the Jaycees for their civic interest and community projects."

City Police Officer To Assume the Duties Of Constable's Office

The Farmington City Council has authorized City Manager John Dinan to appoint a police officer of the Public Safety Department to assume the duties of constable, effective August 15 of this year, to replace the part time fee basis constables presently serving the Farmington Municipal Court. The action was taken at the regular council meeting Monday night, July 6, following a recommendation from the Director of the Public Safety Department, Maurice D. Foltz.

CHIEF POLICE Foltz recently completed a study of the operations of the constable office for the Municipal Court and submitted to the council a detailed report favoring the change.

Five advantages were stressed in the report to make the change, as specified under provisions in the City Charter to a full time police officer as constable. Interest in the study was an estimated savings under the new system of more than \$1,000 per year.

It was pointed out in the report that the constable's office, in excess of \$9,800 was paid out in fees to constables in 1963-64. The new costs entailed under the system of using a regular police officer as constable, by Chief Foltz to total approximately \$8,500 per year.

UNDER THE NEW system the city will hire a new full time police officer and purchase one new patrol car. A veteran police officer will be appointed to handle the duties of the constable's office.

It was pointed out in the report that the office of constable in the city "has not been of continuity" during the past year due to illness which has caused the constable serving the city, Arthur Forgetter and William Hicks.

THE NEW CONSTABLE will be under the supervision of the Director of Public Safety and will be available for call back on major crimes and fires while not on duty. It was further stated that the police officer as constable would be able to provide the Public Safety Department with better liaison with the Municipal Court in criminal matters such as bad checks and warrants.

More efficient service will be possible, it was felt, under the new system which a full time police officer would assume the duties of constable. The present fee basis employees will continue serving as constables until the new system goes into effect on August 15.

Staff Re-Alignment at Enterprise Announced

The re-alignment of administrative responsibility at The Farmington Enterprise with promotions from within for key personnel has now been completed.

Purchase of The Elymouth Mail newspaper and printing firm in neighboring Plymouth, Michigan by Russell S. Strickland, owner and publisher of the Farmington Enterprise, has made advancements possible at both publishing firms.

Michael J. (Mike) Kiley has been named executive assistant to the publisher and will oversee the operations of both newspapers and printing plants, Strickland said.

RILEY, in turn, announced the promotion of personnel under him at The Enterprise.

Mrs. Winona Woods, who was employed by The Enterprise in May of 1961 as a bookkeeper and for over a year now has been serving in the dual position of bookkeeper and assistant manager in charge of business, takes over direct supervision of The Enterprise as general manager. A longtime resident of Farmington Township, Mrs. Woods is married and the mother of two high school age daughters. One attends North Farmington High School and the other will attend Farmington Junior High School.

See RE-ALIGNMENT Page 8A, Col. 5

Ten Citizens Hear Bd. of Ed. Adopt Budget

Before an audience of ten citizens last Monday evening, the board of education conducted its first legally-required public hearing on the Farmington School District's proposed operating budget for the 1964-65 fiscal year, and officially adopted the \$5,475,549 budget.

Of the ten people in attendance, seven were representatives of groups. There were two representatives from the League of Women Voters; and individual representatives for the Farmington PTA Council, Highmeadow PTA, Longacre PTA, and Farmington Meadows subdivision.

Gerald V. Harrison, superintendent of schools, opened the hearing by giving a brief summary of the proposed budget and some comparative figures. Of the expected revenue, he explained that about 43.4 per cent would come from local sources, 54.7 per cent from state sources, and 1.9 per cent from other sources, mostly Federal and county. These figures show an increase of less than 1 per cent from local sources and a corresponding decrease from state revenues.

Estimated expenditures for the coming year (excluding capital outlay), according to the board, are \$5,475,549.

See TEN CITIZENS Page 8A, Col. 1

Get Report on Water, Sewer Study at Bond

J. MacDonald Jacob, architect for the Bond School addition, reported to the Farmington Board of Education at their regular meeting Monday evening, July 6, on the results of a water and sewer feasibility study of the school.

He stated that the cost of extending the sewer on and one half block to Bond Street and vacating the existing septic tank would be approximately \$6,472, which is \$4,872 more than originally planned for sewer work.

Jacob said that he had investigated the possibilities of tapping into the 12-inch water main from this main to Bond Street on the south side of Thirteen Mile Road. In his opinion, there is enough water available from this main to supply the three wells presently operated by the Detroit D.P.W.

Jacob suggested that a request be made to the Detroit D.P.W. for a survey and report of available water. The cost of an extension to this main would be \$1,630, which is \$1,280 more than has been budgeted for this item, he said.

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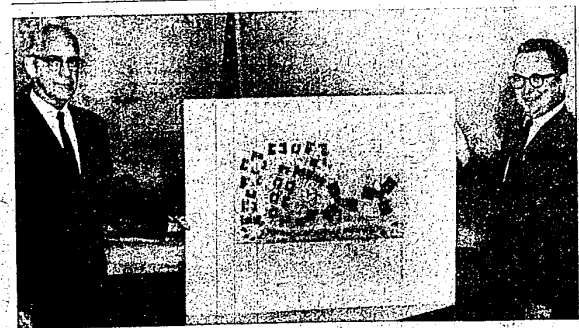
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THE NEW BAPTIST MANOR scheduled to get underway in Farmington, Township will be a complex of buildings situated on a 30-acre site, located on 13 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads. Architect Robert Yokum (right) is pictured above with a rendering of the Baptist Manor development with Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall.