

Thanksgiving

In keeping with an American tradition which takes its rise in the history of the Pilgrim fathers, we annually celebrate Thanksgiving Day. The customary remembrance is of a day in the fall of the year when the Pilgrims set aside a time of celebration and thanksgiving for their deliverance and preservation in the midst of the wilderness in which they lived. [Imagination alone can reconstruct their feelings; we cannot possibly know what their feelings were.

That for which they were grateful, we now take for granted. Freedom of religion, a home within the wilderness, enough food to keep them alive, an uneasy peace with their neighbors, the Indians. There are still for too many pockets of poverty among us after these many years. There is still an uneasy peace with our neighbors in our cities' slums. The minority is still oppressed, and still treated inferior. Great material wealth char-

acterizes the land. But is there gratitude?

The basis of gratitude is joy, simple naive joy in life itself. This has been said in so many ways that it has become a cliché. Children know this kind of joy — as Jesus pointed out, The kingdom of heaven, which is a condition of joy, is to be entered into only through the great joy of life. Thanksgiving, in any true form, is not a ritual of ceremony and word. It is rather the spontaneous poem of the deepest feeling man knows — his joy. Therefore does the psalmist cry, "Oh be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands!"

Whatever we possess should make us humble in the sight of God — it is His grace alone which gives it. The true meaning of Thanksgiving is the humble recognition that whatever we are, or possess, we owe to the grace of God, which we are to accept, humbly, and gladly.

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Valuations Are Hiked By County

The biggest point of dispute in the upcoming school district millage election next Monday is whether an assessment mandate from the Oakland County Equalization Board will, or will not, provide the Board of Education enough money to run the schools without boosting the millage limitation.

Oakland County is going to insist on about a 1 1/2 per cent increase in assessments in 1968.

City Manager John D. Dinan already has received official notification of this from William Hoover, assistant director of the County Equalization Board, said Monday that the Township will get similar notice "within a few days."

Rapid calculators at the Board of Education office, who had forecast an increase in the district's equalized valuation only from \$154 million to \$169 million, conceded such a blanket boom would push the mark above \$200 million.

They stated further that the extra tax yield from this would exceed \$1 million, at present rates, but still leave the Board with a deficit of \$1 million to \$1.5 million in equalized valuation—on property within the school district for operating purposes for the next 10 years.

The limitation now is a total of 15 mills, and this would increase it to 20 mills.

Dr. Smith said this same issue has been brought up at a number of the public meetings held in recent weeks to discuss election matters, and that to a man Board members have affirmed their "good faith" policy.



GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT—Candy Huelt and Fred Maier get ready for Thanksgiving as Candy tries to place her corn cob doll into a Pilgrim's

house that the second graders at William Grace School made. Fred holds the musket that the boys made.

Romney Will Run... And You Are There

Gov. George Romney made it official that he's running for the Republican nomination for president in a Detroit press conference Saturday.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer was there to bring Farmington readers a first hand report on the decision and its background. Look for it on page 3A.



But that's not all. This report and pictures become only a part of the expanded news coverage the Enterprise & Observer will bring you during the strike which has closed Detroit's daily newspapers.

You'll find special City prepared news wrap-ups covering international (page 15A), national (page 3A), state and the Detroit area (page 15C), and there's a careful analysis of the devaluation of the British pound—surely one of the year's most important economic events—on 13C.

You'll get a complete listing of local TV programs for your viewing pleasure on page 10C.

A complete sports round-up covering college and professional football, basketball and hockey will be on pages 2-B, and we're planning live coverage of the Detroit Lions' Los Angeles Rams Thanksgiving Day game in your weekend Enterprise & Observer.

It's all there for you in today's Farmington Enterprise & Observer. Enjoy yourself!

Alta Loma Supports City Plan

Repudiating the leadership of their own Home Owners Association, Alta Loma Subdivision residents who support the City's asphalt paving plans on three of their streets turned Monday night's public hearing before the City Council into a one-sided endorsement of that program.

At least two-thirds of the approximately 100 subdivision residents who attended the hearing in the Farmington Council chambers urged the city to get on with the job.

EARLIER in the month officers of the Home Owners Association had sent a letter to owners of property on the streets of Alta Loma, Moore and Cass Court requesting they rescind their signatures to previous petitions in favor of an asphalt paving and drainage program.

The plea fell flat, and in each case the petition still was backed by a majority of frontage

City Buys Land For New Park

It appears from action taken by the Farmington City Council Monday night that residents in the area of Longacre School, south of Grand River on Drake Rd. are at last going to get the neighborhood park they have been promised.

City Manager John D. Dinan told the Council that preliminary approval for proposed land acquisition has been received from the State Conservation Department. It still is subject to the approval of the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation but this go-ahead is expected within 90 days.

The Council authorized Dinan and City Attorney Robert Kelly to start negotiations with present owners of the 10-acre parcel so the City may be in position to move quickly once the federal allocation of funds is sanctioned.

The project is being fostered under the U.S. Open Spaces Act, with the federal government putting up half the estimated land cost of \$20,000.

In another step Monday toward better park and nature facilities, the Council appointed Mrs. John (Shirley) Richardson as its new representative to the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan.

She will succeed Mrs. Hazel Leland, who has moved from the state.

residents.

Monday night, proponents of the project to pave the three streets with seven-inch deep strength asphalt, as recommended by the city instead of cement paving, stole the play from their adversaries and turned what had threatened to be red-hot town hall outburst into a meek recitation of individual gripes.

When the hearing was over, City Manager John H. Dinan said the construction will be scheduled for next spring, following two more required hearings.

PROPERTY owners on the three streets will pay a special assessment of approximately \$5 per front foot for the paving, and another \$3.50 per front foot for curbing. The City will defray between 20 and 25 per cent of the over-all cost.

The plea fell flat, and in each case the petition still was backed by a majority of frontage

critics of the city lapsed on the sub-standard condition of subdivision streets and even Mayor Wilbur Froehbert conceded that the original construction of streets should have been of a better grade.

He added that continuing on a basis of repair without replacement "would just be pouring your money into a hole after ours."

City Manager Dinan told the crowded chamber, in answer to a question about the maintenance of other thoroughfares in the subdivision "that there still is time to bring other streets into the program."

Businessmen?

Maybe someone plans to open a cafeteria.

At any rate, Farmington Township police report that unknown thieves broke into North Farmington High School last week and made off with 475 plastic trays.

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Teens Set Goodfellow Dance Sat.

The Second Farmington Goodfellow Hop will be staged by the area's teens Saturday, Nov. 25 in Farmington High School.

Three bands, "The Up," "The Heavy Metal Kids," and "The Crystal Radio," will provide the music beginning at 8 p.m. Admission to the dance is \$1. All proceeds will go toward the Goodfellow fund.

Disc Jockey Johnny Randall and the team of Martin & Howard will MC the dance which is scheduled to end at 11 p.m. This year, as in the past, Farmington's four high schools will compete to have the highest percentage of enrollment present to win the trophy. In 1966, Farmington High School took the honor.

Prior to the dance students in the high schools will vote for Mr. and Miss Farmington Teen Goodfellow. At the dance, Martin and Howard will crown the winner for the area wide title from among the school's representatives.

School Costs Keep Rising; Income Lags

If the Farmington School District collects no more in the next year from local taxes than it is getting currently, and is just about the same pace, financial aid, then it would fall about \$2 million short of meeting its anticipated 1968-69 budget requirements—and something would have to give.

One of Farmington's greatest problems is simply that its school enrollment and its equalized tax base are growing at just about the same pace, whereas basic costs are rising at an even faster clip.

This has led the Board of Education to request that the district's property owners give approval in a special election Nov. 27 to a 10-year, five-mill increase in the operating tax limitation. The board contends that without such added financial support it will have to make drastic cutbacks in its educational program.

This article will examine four areas of discussion.

SALIENT STATISTICS

The cost of operating the Farmington schools has gone from \$409 per pupil in 1964-65 to \$615 in 1967-68. Next year it is expected to climb to about \$655.

Farmington's state aid per pupil is \$274. The rest must come from local taxes.

The current operating budget of \$9,387,000 is "in the red" by \$1 million and had the board not possessed a cash reserve to offset this the millage request probably would have come earlier.

Now, there's little left in that reserve, but it is expected that the 1968-69 budget will go to at least \$10,600,000. Expenses attendant to the operation of the new Power Junior High School, the hiring of 42 new teachers, an enrollment increase of 1,000 students as a result of the district's natural population growth, and a new teacher wage contract will see to that.

School experts expect the district's total equalized property valuation to rise from its present \$154 million to about \$168 million, although there are others who predict a greater increase.

At \$168 million, and with 16,000-plus students, the equalized valuation per pupil would remain in the \$10,000 to \$11,000 bracket. This means a year's increase in the cost of education per pupil would be \$1,000 to \$1,200.

* Please turn to page 10