

Readers' Forum...

Does Farmington Twp. Supervisor Evade Issues?

Charges Supervisor Sneaky In Remarks

EDITOR: I had the good experience of hearing Farmington Township Supervisor Curtis Hall at the Farmington Road Association meeting last week and it is too bad that many people of this township didn't get to hear all his famous double-talk again. It was made clear that Mr. Hall feels that the township officials are unduly harassed by persons living here, asking for some sort of help in alleviating their bad road conditions. They are forever criticizing the administration for not doing more for them.

Just what do you think the people of the township elected him supervisor for? Just to sit at a desk and keep telling them that he can't do a thing for you? I am certainly aware that there are some things he cannot do, that are out of his jurisdiction; however, what can he do?

Name me something. Like building a township hall? Oh, my yes. I know, he says, we need one and he says there is not going to be sufficient room for the employees that there should be. He also says, very cynically, we could also dispense with the police department, and many other civil services in order to have money for road improvements.

But this is typical of the temper tantrum displays for which Mr. Hall is famous. He is approached and reproached by the citizens asking for some kind of solution, and he throws one of his apoplectic tantrums. There was a time when these displays were a little disconcerting, but not so any more, and it only shows what he is really made of. A lot of noise.

But what really topped the whole thing off, was his vicious and unjust attack on the Farmington Enterprise & Observer. This was the biggest lie I have ever come across yet. How dare he say such a thing! And the most revealing thing was that Mr. Hall did not mention the way he disagreed with the press unit after the reporter had left!

Now how's that for guts? He said the paper does not report the facts accurately and that you cannot believe what is written, that some reporters do up a story and put their own interpretation on it making it untrue.

This tells me one thing -- that Mr. Hall is being found out for what he is and doesn't like it. I just want to say at this time, that of all the meetings and happenings that I have been to, the paper has always covered them accurately and fairly. They have not deliberately misrepresented any news. I feel that we should all be damn grateful that we have had excellent coverage by your paper.

For anyone who might doubt my word, why not attend a couple of these meetings, whether they be township meetings or whatever and see for yourself just who is misrepresenting the real truth. Then judge for yourself. It's a real eye-opener.

Now, Mr. Hall, go ahead and have yourself a real case of apoplexy.

CATHERINE V. VIGNOE Farmington (EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Vignoe attends many of the Farmington Township Board and Planning Commission meetings)

Disgusted With 'Learning' Attacks

EDITOR: I personally am sick and tired of the sort of attacks which have been mounted against the Shared Learning program by various citizens in this community. There may be room for disagreement over any matter of curriculum, but the plain fact is that no one had to allow his children to participate in the program who did not care to do so. To attack the concept of Shared Learning as something forced on the community is both ridiculous and untrue.

As far as I am concerned, the "force" is operating in the other direction. By influencing the rejection of the Shared Learning program, the dissenters forced non-participation on the supporters of this idea. Take a station wagon to Detroit? Many have, but it is hardly an adequate substitute for an organized, well-chaperoned, interpersonal contact. The Shared Learning program as proposed was a very modest attempt to create road

with among children of all races. The reaction of some of the parents demonstrates that a community is badly in need of good will. Like it or not, the world is changing, and in terms of sheer self-preservation, we must better change with it. I take back any mild words I ever uttered about the Livonia City Council. They demonstrated the courage to pass an open housing ordinance in the face of intimidation, and I, for one, am grateful.

Yes, I once lived (happily) in a large city, and yes, I now live in the suburbs. I do not because it is close to my husband's work. I would like to remind those who would suggest I move back to the city that Livonia is my community, too, and that my efforts towards its emotional climate are no more reprehensible than theirs.

DEPRESSED CITIZEN

Salvador Blockade Reopens Old Wounds

EDITOR: The seeds of hate have been sown again. The barricade on Salvador Street will once again rear its ugly head; high above, those who believe in the welfare and harmony of the community, not just the city, but the township--not just a few selfish people--but the community. All of us.

Once again 40 per cent of the children who attend Flannery Elementary School have had the door of immediate access slammed in their faces. (I do believe they are getting used to it by now.) Once again, kids who live within sight of their own school will have to walk in inclement weather or have their parents drive three miles out of their way.

Once again the tremendous flow of traffic from the township that snakes its way through the winding streets of beautiful Farmington Meadows subdivision, threatening our children with death and destruction, will be stopped. We are very concerned with our children's safety.

Hold on there. Go back and read that sentence again, for this was the reason the barricade was erected in the first place. The figures read at the City Council meeting of a traffic survey taken recently on Salvador showed 60 per cent of the traffic flow was from the city to the township. By all rights it is our neighbors in the township who should be demanding the barricade. But all agreed the traffic was minimal and did not justify the barricade.

Now displaying an expedient argument with more holes in it than Snoopy's doghouse after a battle with the Red Baron... the proponents of the barricade shouted loud and strong that the cars coming from the township carried mud and gravel onto the pavement creating an eyesore and dust. Great clouds of Dust!

Well, stop and think right now, citizens of this fair community. Each child who trudges his or her way around, over or under this barricade to and from their school will have clouds of belligerence in their minds and stones of confusion grinding away on their thoughts. In schools and churches kids are taught to treat everybody as equal regardless of race, creed, color, place of origin, or economic differences. They are taught that all people must work together to accomplish the things that make this neighborhood -- this community -- this state -- and this nation the greatest that exists.

How then can we explain that this barricade exemplifies the principles we teach them? Can we rightfully tell them that the public road was closed because of dust and gravel that affects so few, and the sidewalk?

How many could derive good if it were left open?

My own child asked me a question I could not answer. Could you? Daddy, if the school was built on Whitlock Street would we still have the barricade at Salvador? I leave you to arrive at an answer of your own.

As once written by a yet unnamed Farmington-style petitioner who scrawled a message for us to read on the last billboard-barricade across Salvador... "Love Thy Neighbor."

CHARLES "BUD" PELL

Appalled By Delay In Board Action

EDITOR: I have decided to write you only after what I had witnessed what I would term a tremendous waste of time and money, and a shameful loss of time for our citizens, taxpayers and civil servants.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, I attended a Planning Commission hearing at the Farmington Township Hall, and I have never been a witness to seeing 13 people, supposedly well informed on the agenda before them, put off, stall and procrastinate on more petitions that could have been decided at this time for the good of all our people. I have just purchased a home in the Township and, if this is the type of action that can be expected on petitions to our governing elements, I am just a little bit uncertain as to whether the many advantages I have been told about are truly here.

I am heartily in favor of good sound planning, backed by a fair and equally sound zoning ordinance, but I think that those entrusted with zoning hearings for changes should be able to have the necessary information before them prior to these hearings.

There is no excuse for them not having at least a fair idea of what should be done, as there is ample time between filing date and hearing date to at least ride through the area in question and appraise the feasibility for a change as petitioned or a rejection.

I am of the opinion that these delays, in some instances for indeterminate periods, are inexcusable. If those who are on this board are short of time or cannot handle these duties, they should be replaced by someone who can and will perform the duties required of these positions.

As we all know there is much time and expense involved to file petitions, have preliminary plans drawn, and then sit at a hearing only to have a group that hasn't even looked into the situation, table, delay or place roadblocks that are insurmountable to the average man in the way of progress.

If this is not remedied in a comparatively short time, any of our areas will be in a state that may require Urban Renewal.

I am quite certain that there is a much easier method of handling these situations, and if something could be done to speed up these processes, I am sure that we could practically eliminate some of the very depressed parts of our area, and we could also get these sections updated to make a far better use of the lands that we have.

Needless to say, I realize that changes are not wrought overnight, but slow delaying roadblocks, such as those I have mentioned, will only serve to slow our progress and retard our growth, as new citizens will tend to avoid becoming a part of our community, and this tends to deprive all of us of the financial, economic and social development we need to expand with our neighbors.

I would welcome an opportunity for aiding in public service, as I believe that if I don't give a little I will receive nothing in return.

I firmly believe that this type of retardation is worse than war, because in war you kill or maim the enemy, but this type of delay kills the spirit, and thus holds back the progress that we all want and need for our growing community.

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Irked By Lack Of Cooperation

EDITOR: Why is it necessary for citizens and taxpayers to become irate, band together and march on city hall in order to be heard and have help given?

I was faced with a problem this week on which a city official should have been able to give me assistance. I was transferred to various departments, then to Wayne County, back to Livonia and then to the State of Michigan. There I found out the name of a man back in Livonia who was to have knowledge of the situation.

I finally reached him and his remark stopped me... "What damage is being done?" Even the "Observer" from whom I requested assistance is not a crusader and replied, "We can't jump on this kind of matter

without official notification." What's wrong with our city and its officials? What is their purpose? Whom do they represent?

MRS. GEORGE W. CHAPMAN 34160 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia

Just How Low Can A Thief Get?

EDITOR: Just how low can someone stoop? In our recent canister drive for small games for American soldiers in Vietnam, we had several canisters stolen. Some people would not even help their own mother or father if they had abundance, and their parents were starving.

Then there is the other type person who would do without to help others. It was heart-warming as I stood in front of a bank or supermarket to see a small child who would be by himself

or herself who could hardly read my poster or sometimes they would ask what it said. These little children nodoubt will some day grow up and be good American citizens, many of them no doubt in my mind I know it was their last penny and they would drop it in the canister.

I heard one little child say, oh well, we didn't want any candy, anyhow, may God bless them. Check your conscience which one are you?

HARVEY C. SMITH Chairman of the Canister Drive, 28665 Beechnut Inkster

Thanks Observer For Aid To UF

EDITOR: Once again the Torch Drive has gone comfortably over the top and this community has reasserted its leadership in caring for its own. The \$29.25

million result of the campaign is another world record.

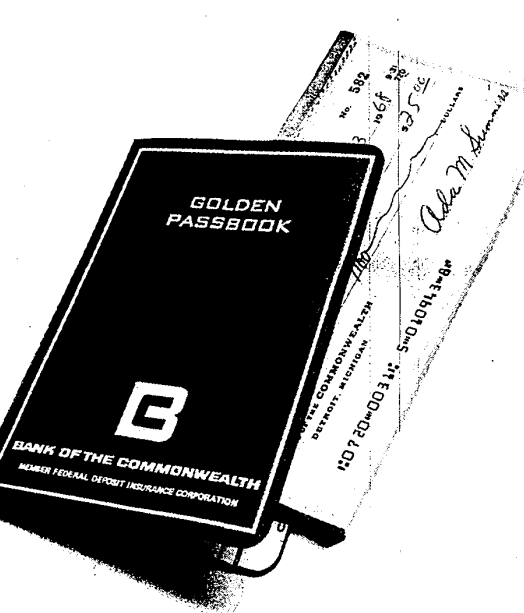
To a great degree, the United Foundation's continuing success and good health are attributable to communication. Workers work for the UF and give to it because they understand its aims and advantages. Communication is the key to this understanding. Your newspaper has contributed greatly to this understanding by bringing the UF

message to your readers. This is most helpful during the critical campaign period and also throughout the year as we attempt to inform people of the services their gifts provide.

We are grateful for your outstanding support and feel that you should be congratulated for assisting so effectively in fashioning another Torch Drive triumph for a great community. JOHN W. FISHER, Associate Director

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