

The Farmington Enterprise

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
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Phones: 3000 - 3001

EDITORIALS: It's Our Opinion

A Ray Of Hope . . .

broke through the clouds last Monday to throw encouraging light on the possibility of a planning commission for the City of Farmington.

Paul Pare, City Attorney, deserves a lot of credit for drafting what appears to be an excellent planning commission ordinance. The tentative proposal was read and discussed at the regular November meeting of the Council, and the reaction of the Council seemed to be very encouraging. The final draft is expected to be presented at the December Council meeting.

We sincerely hope that the Council will take swift and positive action on the proposed ordinance. In our opinion nothing at the present time is more vital to the progress and future of our community. It is the all-important tool we must have in order to build constructively and efficiently.

But as important as this is, a planning commission can perform one other equally vital service to the community. It should prove to all elements of the Farmington area that planning and foresight are essential to progress. The establishment of a planning commission is just the beginning, not the end. As it develops more and more persons will see the necessity for action. The merchants should be stimulated and thus might form a promotion group which, though not a part of the city group, could coordinate its activities with them. The same could be true of the township, of service groups and community organizations.

Then a real master plan would develop, built on community-wide cooperation and backed by constructive, enthusiastic support. Then and only then will we be prepared to aggressively meet the challenge that now faces the Farmington community. It can be done . . . it is being done where there is the determination and the desire to build.

The Plight . . .

of Michigan's schools doesn't seem to be improving a bit in spite of repeated warnings by various state officials and leading educators.

During the past few months, many school districts, including the Farmington Township School District, have been forced to borrow money in order to meet current operating expenses. This has been due to a shortage of funds in the State Treasury. In the meantime, many of these same districts have approved bond issues for needed school buildings in order to provide necessary facilities. In other words, they are fulfilling an important community obligation which, in most cases, requires considerable sacrifice.

As a result they feel free to ask the state what they are going to do to meet their obligations. Having the necessary facilities is important but keeping them in operation is equally important. School Districts can not continue to borrow money and pay interest in order to meet state obligations. Immediate consideration should be given to this problem by both the state administration and the legislature.

More efficient handling and distribution of funds for educational purposes should be considered. Some system of financial adjustment to the more rapidly growing school districts is another vital point. Funds are distributed to schools on the basis of their last year's per capita. In cases of rapid growth this procedure leaves many districts short of funds year in and year out. Larger appropriations of funds should be granted for public school education. This can be accomplished, we believe, by more efficient use of the moneys available.

The future of our state and nation is wrapped up in our boys and girls. It is our obligation to see that they have the opportunities they deserve.

It Takes A Team . . .

to win a ball game . . . and it takes a team to successfully lead a nation.

President-elect Eisenhower has had a lot of experience in building winning teams and from all indications he is well on his way to building another. As we have stated before, Eisenhower knows men and he knows how to inspire them. This has been very evident in his various cabinet appointments. Not only are these appointees men and women of character and practical know-how, but they are willing and anxious to serve under Eisenhower's leadership.

This kind of spirit and determination, coupled with genuine ability, are the ingredients of progress and success.

GO TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2550 Grand River Avenue
Early Service, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Late Service, 11 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Middlebelt at Eight Mile Road
Sunday School 9:40 a.m., nursery to senior departments.
Divine services at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
Lutheran Hour broadcast at 8:30 p.m. Sunday over CKLW and at 3:30 p.m. on WXYZ.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Grand River and Warner Avenues
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Morning worship, 11:15 a.m.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.

LIVONIA METHODIST CHURCH
W. 7 Mile, E. of Farmington Rd.
9:30 a.m., Church School.
10:45 a.m., Morning Worship.
10:45 a.m., Nursery, kindergarten and primary Sunday School.
W. S. C. S. on second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

FARMINGTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Grand River at Middlebelt
Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.
Friday Prayer Service, 7:45 p.m.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Young People's meeting.

CLARENCEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH
Cambridge and Grand River
11:15 a.m., Morning Worship.
6:30 p.m., The Living Church Youth Fellowship, the Wesley Adult Fellowship.
7:45 p.m., the Evening Service.
7:45 p.m., every Wednesday evening, the Prayer Service.

FIRST BAPTIST
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 11:00 a.m.
Youth Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.
Evening Service at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Midweek Services at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Senior choir rehearsal at 8:30 p.m.

WEST POINT CHURCH OF CHRIST
Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting, 8 p.m.

SALEM EVANGELICAL CHURCH
A nursery department is maintained during the Morning worship.
Morning Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Church School, 11:15 a.m.
Youth Fellowship, Sunday evenings.

FOREST HILLS UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH
Stanbury and 12 Mile Roads
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service, at 8 p.m.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Sunday Masses: 7:00, 8:10, 9:45, 11:15 and 12:30.
Holy Day Masses: 5:30, 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00.
Daily Masses: 6:30 and 8:00.

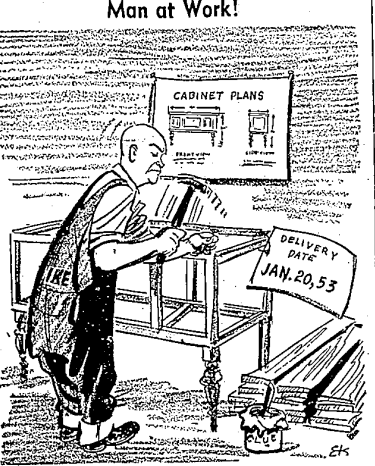
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Grand River at Oxford
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Saturday.
Church 11:00 a.m. Saturday.
8 p.m. Wednesday, prayer meeting.
"Faith for Today" telecast 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Channel 7.
"Voice of Prophecy" WXYZ Sunday 9:30 a.m., CKLW Sunday 10:30 a.m.

SOUTHFIELD COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2122 Indian Road
10:00 a.m. Bible School.
11:15 a.m. Worship.
Nursery provided.
7:30 p.m. Evening Praise.
Wednesday, 7:45 p.m., Prayer Fellowship.
Five Youth Clubs weekly. For free transportation phone 80, 5372.

CHURCH OF GOD
29341 Shilohsawee at Middlebelt
10 a.m. Sunday School.
11 a.m. Morning Worship.
8 p.m. Evangelistic Service.
8 p.m. Wednesday, Hour of Prayer.
8 p.m. Saturday, Young People's Service.

ORCHARD METHODIST CHURCH
13 Mile Road at Greening
10:00 a.m. Church School.
11:00 a.m. Worship.
Sermon theme: "Fishing in Rice Fields".
6:00 p.m. Junior and Intermediate Youth Fellowship.
Wednesday, choir rehearsal at church, 7 p.m.
Thursday, W.S.C.S. at church, 8:00 p.m.

NOVI BAPTIST CHURCH
10:30, Morning Worship Service.
Special music by the choir, illustrated children's message.
11:30, Sunday School: Bible study in classes; classes for all ages. During the Sunday School hour the Junior Choir will practice.
7:30, Evening Worship service.



Postmaster Offers Answers To Mail Problems For More Efficient Service

"It's the little things that count," says Postmaster Charles A. Habermehl, who is deeply concerned that the days with ways and means to hasten delivery of your Christmas cards and gifts.

"Some people," the Postmaster observed, "will wait until they are jolly well ready to mail everything. Then, too, there are those who intend to start a week earlier, but don't get around to it."

"It's human nature, I guess. But most of the time everything works out okay. Nevertheless, we're busy training new mail clerks, and getting the post office equipment in shape to handle more Christmas mail than we've ever seen before."

Last-minute mailing, however, is only one problem. There are loosely-wrapped packages which burst open en route. Hastily-scribbled addresses the mailmen can't decipher. And in some cases, a misunderstanding of postal regulations.

To correct these perennial problems, and improve postal service around Farmington, Postmaster Habermehl has devised a set of questions and answers. Read them carefully, for they are worth remembering.

CHRISTMAS CARDS
Q — Why should Christmas cards be sent by first-class mail?
A — Because a three-cent stamp entitles each Christmas card to be forwarded if the addressee has moved or returned to the sender if the addressee cannot be located. Also, they may carry very short messages in addition to the signature of the sender.

Q — When should Christmas cards be mailed?
A — For out-of-state delivery, not later than December 15 and for local delivery, at least a week before Christmas.

Q — How can I help speed delivery of my Christmas cards?
A — By using them in two bundles. Your post office will supply special labels that will read "ALL FOR LOCAL DELIVERY" and "ALL FOR OUT-OF-TOWN DELIVERY". Separate your cards into the two groups with the addresses facing one way and all stamps in the upper right hand corner.

PARCEL POST
Q — When should Christmas gift packages be mailed?
A — Out-of-state parcels should be mailed by December 5th; those for distant states somewhat earlier, and for local delivery by December 10. Last minute gifts should be dispatched by air parcel post to distant points.

Q — What are the size and weight limits for parcel post packages?
A — There are several size and weight limits, depending on the destination of your Christmas gift package:

1. Between First Class Post Offices:
 - Not over 72 inches — length and girth combined. (Length plus twice the width, plus twice the thickness.)
 - Not over 40 pounds if shipped to First or Second Zone.
 - Not over 20 pounds if shipped beyond Zone 2.
2. Between Post Offices, at least one of which is not First Class:
 - Not over 100 inches — length and girth combined.
 - Not over 70 pounds in weight.
 - 3. Exceptions: The 100-inch, seventy-pound limit applies to matter mailed between First Class Post Offices if:
 - (a) the parcel is mailed from, or addressed to a Rural or Star Route.
 - (b) Addressed for delivery to any Territory or Possession of the United States, or to any Army or Fleet Post Office.
 - (c) The parcel contains books, baby food, live plants, trees, shrubs or agricultural commodities.
- Q — May the "Do Not Open Until Christmas" stickers be used?
A — Yes, they may be placed on the address side.



The cold dank wind of debt is fluttering up the bed clothes of Michigan schools.

It's an uncomfortable bed the schools have made for themselves but, as the saying goes, they'll have to sleep in it.

In 1946 the sales tax diversion amendment was pushed through by the school lobby. Every teacher or became a one-man pressure group flooding the mails with beseechings to vote for the amendment and "save our schools".

The amendment was passed.

Now John B. Martin, Jr., auditor general, predicts that Michigan schools will have to close in the next month unless they can borrow money to stay open.

What has happened.

There just isn't enough cash in the general fund to make this mandatory quarterly payment to the schools — \$25,000,000 too little cash.

Before the sales tax amendment was passed the legislature appropriated money for the schools in accordance with the amount expected to be on hand. Now it is bound by law to appropriate from the general fund an amount equal to 41 per cent of the total sales tax collection of the previous year. This year it must come up with \$94,000,000.

It is found by the constitution to do this — but the general fund of the state is as empty as a copy boy's pocket.

Four years ago the general fund boasted a \$34,000,000 surplus. Now it is \$65,000,000 in the red.

Sponsors of the sales tax diversion amendment, of course, had no way of knowing such a situation would prevail. But it does.

In addition to the general fund appropriation, the state also kicks back one-half cent of the three-cent sales tax to the schools. This, of course, will be done — the state acts only as a collection agent for the schools in this.

Attempts to divert some of the township money into the general fund by renaming the earmarked funds have been stymied by Governor Williams' veto.

The state deficit is old hat in Michigan these days. Mr. Martin resignedly suggests that the schools be authorized to borrow money to keep open until such a time as the state's long-range program can be affected.

Long-range program. That boils down to: The state can share and save and cut operating expenses and/or the state can collect more taxes.

This could mean the corporation profits tax, nuisance taxes on soft drinks, tourist accommodations, etc. There even are whispers of a state income tax.

Why not a constitutional convention? (Continued on Page Six)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (December 1, 1927)
New Ford
In accordance with the official introduction of the new Ford car all over the United States, Otis Russell, Farmington Ford dealer, is planning a big opening all day Friday, with an old-time dance at the Ford Sales and Service in the evening as a climax. Prices of the new Ford car were announced Thursday, the feature being that the Tudor sedan is to sell at \$495 and the Fordor sedan will be \$570. The models are powered with 40 horsepower engines and are capable of making 55 to 60 miles per hour.

Bulletin
Farmington's hopes for a wider Grand River shot skyward Thursday when word was received that the three-cent gas tax was upheld by the Supreme Court of the state. The decision means that the state will have sufficient funds to carry out its highway program, and, according to Governor Fred W. Green's recent statement to The Farmington Enterprise, Grand River is "among the first on the list". The decision decided the act constitutional was unanimous.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 3, 1942)
Paper Sales
The annual Goodfellow paper sale is set for Friday, December 11, 1942. The sale this year is under the supervision of Judge John J. Schulte, and once again the Goodfellows of Farmington will sling paper-bags over their shoulders and spend the day "calling the news" and asking your support in their annual drive.

Christmas Party
The Christmas Party planned by the Exchange Club, American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Parent - Teacher Association will be held on Tuesday, December 15. The tentative program is as follows: carol singing and the trimming of the tree, grand march, a few games followed by dancing and refreshments.

FIVE YEARS AGO (December 4, 1947)
Legal Suit
Holders of bonds of the Farmington Township Water System brought action this week in the Federal Courts to secure payment of past-due principal and interest on the bonds. Service on Farmington Township officials was made early this week and a return will be filed on or before December 22, 1947.

Record Vote?
A heavy vote is anticipated in the special Farmington Township School District election to be held this Saturday, December 6, at the Farmington High School gymnasium. These questions are to be answered by qualified voters. (1) Shall the Farmington Township School District borrow the sum of \$450,000 and issue bonds for the purpose of constructing and equipping new school buildings, additions and the purchasing of school sites within the District? and (2) Shall the total tax rate limitation on the total amount of taxes within the District be increased by one per cent of the assessed valuation or ten mills for the period of five years for the purpose of raising additional funds for construction and equipping new school buildings, additions and purchasing of school sites?

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AMERICAN BANKING IN ACTION

1 FOR EVERY 5

That's here in America, where our free enterprise system brings more benefits to more people than any other system ever devised. In Great Britain, for instance, it's one car for 24 people. In Russia, it's one car for 249 people. American banks help finance American car purchases, as well as American car production. If you need a low-cost bank auto loan, come in and see us.

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