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# It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

### The Instrument . . .

known as a "public meeting" is a necessary tool of our Democracy. It provides the means for open discus-sion on matters of vital concern to all the people. As paying stockhildlers in the corporation of local gov-ernment, citizens have a right to participate in public meetings.

Because of the tremendous increase in business. Because of the tremendous increase in business, our local governmental bodies have been required to establish firmi rules and regulations regarding the extent of public participation at meetings. This has been necessary in order that all of the important matters might be taken care of withinia reasonable length of time. Prior to the establishment of such rules, many of our joublic meetings were running through the night and into the early morning hours.

the night and into the early morning hours.

The most recent governmental organization to formulate such rules is the Township Board. The establishment of an agenda and the setting of a definite order oil business is not only logical but constructive. It is the only way in which all matters of current importance can be properly disposed of! However, it is our opinion that this procedure need not interfere with the processes of public participation and expression. We believe that the public has a right to discuss spullfic matters on the seemed and to preand expression. We believe that the public has a right to discuss spellfic matters on the agenda and to pre-sent new problems for consideration without neces-sarily giving brior notice. It is logical, however, to give precedence to matters which are on the agenda.

give precedence to matters which are on the agenda.

Many governmental units handle this problem by providing an item on the agenda for "visitors' business." They also request, where a large group is involved, that a spokesman be selected to present and discuss the question. In most cases debate is also limited to a specified time and no person can speak on the specific spiblect more than twice. Through this procedure, the public is afforded an opportunity to be heard and it the same time efficiency and order are maintained.

The Entirprise is in supportunity to the control of the con

The Entroprise is in sympathy with the efforts of the Township Board to establish an orderly procedure at its meetings, and we know that it can be accomplished without sacrifice to either the officials or the public.

Several Weeks Ago . .

The Enterprise suggested that citizens investigate stories they hear before passing them on to their friends and peighbors. This suggestion was made following receipt of an unfounded rumor that the Farmington School Board paid \$5,000 per acre for a 20-acre Junify High School site.

Since that time a new and slightly modified rumor regarding this site has come to our attention. The latest talk, which is still unfounded, puts the figure at \$3,500 per aire. The actual price according to the

latest talk, which is still unfounded, buts the figure at \$3,500 per aire. The actual price according to the option, which has been signed by both the property owner and authorized representatives of the School Board, is \$1,50 per acre.

The purpose of this editorial is not to discuss the pros and colis of the option or the designated site Rather it is flessigned to encourage citizens to spread honest facts; not unfounded rumors. This is important whether it concerns the School Board, City Council, Township Board or any other organization in the ant whether it concerns the School Board, City Council, Township Board or any other organization in the
community. We as a people are confronted with a
multitude of problems as a result of the tremendous
growth of tile Farmington area. It is a man-sized
job to keep ip with the rapidly changing events that
are taking place in our community. The spreading of
rumors only confuses the issues and makes the task
of learning the Truth that much more difficult.

It is the presonen fullity of all of we to be discretion.

of learning the truth that much more difficult.

It is the responsibility of all of us to be objective and constructive in our thinking and our actions. This doesn't mean that we have to agree on everything, but it does mean that our opinions should be based on fact and not fiction. A call to one of our public officials or a few hours spent at a Board or Council meeting will usually set the record straight. If nothing else, it will give you a valuable insight into the problems and operations of your local government.

This is the least we can do as citizens.

## A New Session . . .

of the State Legislature is now under way and already observers are referring to the attitude of the members regarding certain recommendations as one of "mixed in is truly "the art preservative motion." We realize that this is an election year, but 12 per cent of the knowledge we hope that the emotion clears long enough to allow a few bits of vital legislation to tumble through.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
West Point Park
Sunday Services 11 am., 7:30
m. Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Warner and Thomas Streets
Sunday Service, 11 a.m. Church
School at same time

KENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Grand River at Warner Ave.
Sunday Service, 8:50, 11:15 a.m.
Church School (nursery through
adult) 10 a.m. Duplicate Church
School, nursery through primary)
11:15 a.m. Youth Fellowships,
p.m. (int.) and 6:30 p.m. (Sr.)
Rev. R. Sursaw GR. 4-8573

BETHEL MISSIONARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD ASSEMBLY OF GOD 8300 Middlebelt Road Sunday Services: 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m.; -7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Satur-day at 7:45 p.m. Sev. J. J. Tranb GA. 1-9140





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