

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—Paul M. Reid, director of the Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission, told businessmen of Novi Township at a meeting last week that two steps are essential if the township is to keep pace with progress and development in southeastern Michigan.



LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Lewis
GENERAL - NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

JOHN LEWIS, BUSINESSMAN

Under American capitalism the employees, the employers and the consuming public all have a stake in the uninterupted production of every manufacturing plant. This point has been repeatedly emphasized in the 20 years in which our National Education Program has been developing educational materials on the American way of life. Wealth is produced by taking a raw material and adding to its value through processing and service. But the production must be a profit-making operation, or else the labor and energy expended will be a national waste.

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (November 25, 1931)

Taxes Lowered

Despite the fact that both Farmington City and Township property valuations were increased by the State recently, taxes to be paid by residents in both the city and township will be less this year. Economies in the budget making more than offset the increase in valuations, it was indicated. Township taxes to be raised this year will be \$38,800.55 or \$22.163 less than in 1930. The tax to be raised in the city will total \$115,563.81, or \$7,474.28 less than last year. A breakdown of taxes to be paid, issued by the city this week, showed a decrease in the tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation of \$3.76. The 1931 tax rate will be \$24.58 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. A breakdown of the 1931 tax rate paid in 1,000 valuation is as follows: State tax, \$3.68; county tax, \$6.14; county road tax, \$1.25; drain, rejected; state highway-at large, \$2.79; school tax plus one mill, \$9.22.

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MEMBER REGULAR MEMBER

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS: Some Pretty Blunt Words

were tossed around at the Township Board meeting last Tuesday evening and we hope they will result in constructive action. It would be unfortunate indeed if the long evening of "plain talk" was just noted in the record books and forgotten.

In connection with the problems of water, subdivision regulations and legal counsel, there is much to be said on both sides of the controversy. The actual words that were kicked around by the Board members and citizens Tuesday evening are not the important thing. It is rather the feeling and purpose behind them. Little can be accomplished by delving into the individual statements of each person who spoke his "piece" at the Board meeting. If a logical and constructive conclusion is to be reached, we must analyze the over-all picture.

It has been obvious for some time that there is an urgent need for more complete organization and more direct action in Township affairs. This is the basic conclusion which can be drawn from last Tuesday's Board meeting. Regardless of all of the arguments, charges and counter-charges which have been expressed in meeting after meeting, this fact stands out in bold relief.

The Enterprise has repeatedly suggested that committees be formed within the framework of the Board to coordinate and follow-through on problems of major importance. This delegation of responsibility is essential in an area which is growing as rapidly as Farmington Township. These committees would serve three very important purposes. They would help to keep the rest of the Board informed, they would greatly speed up the eventual solution to the problem and they would clearly display an interest on the part of the Board in the particular project.

The problems of water, roads, sewers and many other things may be difficult but they are not unmountable if an organized program of action is set up and then followed through by a coordinator or committee. This same conclusion can be applied to the existing citizen committees, such as planning and roads. In our opinion, a great deal more could be accomplished through liaison between the committees and the Board. It was suggested Tuesday evening that public hearings should be held in regard to the Planning Committee's Neighborhood Plan and Commercial Land Use Plan. We can see a definite advantage to this procedure, but it should have been done before this.

The Township is moving into a new phase of development which must be met head on with efficiency and determination. The future of the community is dependent upon it!

The Difficulties . . .

being encountered by the Farmington School Board in locating sites for future classroom buildings is becoming increasingly alarming to many citizens. Too few people realize the tremendous time and effort that is being devoted to this. It is a frustrating experience, which if not solved in the near future, can have a serious effect upon the entire community. While no one has come up with an iron-clad solution as yet, some procedure must be found if the ever increasing needs of the District are to be met.

While the suggestion that large developers of land be required to set aside sites for future schools has been frowned upon, we believe that it has merit even on a voluntary basis. Everyone would gain by such a procedure and it would put an end to the present difficulties. The developer would get just compensation for his land and would make his subdivision more attractive. The School Board would have adequate sites available without undue loss of time and effort. The parent and taxpayer would have sufficient facilities for the education of his youngster without the increased costs of transportation and double sessions.

With such benefits available to all the people, the solution seems easy, and yet it remains unanswered.

On This Thanksgiving Day . . .

in the year 1956, we express our appreciation for the fortune that has been ours to enjoy during the past 365 days. Each of us has our own individual prayer of Thanksgiving.

But as tension mounts throughout the world, as the spirit of freedom clashes with the forces of tyranny, we give thanks that we live in a democracy and ask for divine guidance in keeping it strong and at peace.

Addressing the Board of Commerce and approximately 150 other interested parties in attendance, he stated that the township must: (1) get to work on its water and sewerage problems and (2) begin planning every aspect of the township's growth and development through a township planning board.

"Water and sewage are essential not only to residential development, but also for industrial growth," Reid said. "Even a plant with only 100 employees must have more than a septic tank system. Some answers must be found before Novi Township becomes a patchwork of septic tanks and private wells," he added. "No Novi Township will find itself bypassed as the area develops."

Reid estimated that the township population, now about 5,700, would grow to 9,000 in 1970 and 16,000 by 1980.

BIRMINGHAM—The city commission Tuesday night approved water rates to be set at the next full quarter's billing. More in sewage charges will also be paid since they are based on a percentage of the water rate. The water rates to be set will be again as much. New rates will be a minimum of \$2.50 for 5/8 inch meters and \$3.75 for one inch meters. Each 1,000 gallons of water used now cost 30 cents or 10 cents more than in the past.

Principle reason for the most recent rate increase, the city pointed out, is because the city is now buying water from Detroit through the South Oakland Water Authority.

BUCHANAN—The ears of Buchanan area residents will not suffer from corrosive rust this winter if the city commission — and science — have anything to say about it.

Approved unanimously at a meeting Tuesday night was the purchase of a corrosion inhibitor to be mixed with the salt the city uses on its streets when the snow flies.

SOUTHFIELD — Residents of Southfield will go to the polls on December 12 to vote on the Charter which if passed will give Southfield Township home rule city status and permit greater freedom in writing ordinances and laws.

Comparing the current Charter and the one rejected last year it becomes apparent that the second Charter commission has remembered well the points of controversy that resulted in the defeat of the first draft. Major changes to be found in the new Charter revolve around the ward system, appointment for election of certain officers, tax rates and power of mayor and city administrator.

Under the original Charter, Southfield would have had a single ward, "city manager" and strong mayor type of government. Under the new Charter a "city administrator is called for responsible to a council and without the power to hire and fire. The mayor, or will have no vote and will have the power of veto. Major jobs designated to the mayor are to receive city guests and to supervise the planning commission. The seven-man planning commission will be appointed by the mayor on approval by the council.

The original charter, defeated, called for a 10 mill city tax with an additional 10 mill available by vote of the people. The new charter calls for a 5 mill city tax with an increase allowed only upon a popular vote of the people to amend the Charter.

—The Four Corners Press.

An estimated 18,000 people live in Oakland County each year during the five year period from 1950 through 1954. This fact is shown in a population studies of the Oakland County Planning Commission.

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

A \$50 MILLION HEADACHE confronts state officials and all Michigan taxpayers. This is money the state might be forced to refund to several out-of-state corporations. Furthermore, future revenue may also be reduced by \$20 million a year.

Trouble stems from a recent State Supreme Court decision that Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company cannot be considered to be in the state franchise tax.

Now the United States Supreme Court refuses to review the finding, an action which in effect upholds the State Court decision.

The specific case decided by the Michigan Supreme Court held that Panhandle is not required to pay a franchise tax on gas produced elsewhere and then piped into Michigan. According to the court, such a levy is an "arbitrary and unjust" burden on interstate commerce.

Panhandle is a Delaware corporation and most of its gas is produced in Texas.

Big concern of state officials is that the decision establishes a precedent. It might apply to other firms. Future decisions could cover Michigan's business receipts tax. Estimates of the \$50 million loss are based on this interpretation.

Some capitol spokesmen believe the decision may touch off a rash of claims against the state, requiring considerable litigation.

A Michigan income tax is mentioned as an alternative if considerable revenue is lost by the state through the Supreme Court decision.

State fiscal experts told the United States Supreme Court that if the decision is allowed to stand, it would give impetus to passage of an income tax act to regain

lost revenue.

Michigan officials watched the problem develop slowly, but relentlessly, through the courts. Now they can only wait while time answers the question of what effect the decision will have on the state's finances.

A strong non-unionization resolution faced the annual meeting of the Michigan Milk Producers association held recently in East Lansing. Some 400 delegates representing 62,500 farmers throughout the state, unanimously passed a resolution opposing "all efforts of organized labor to gain control of farm groups for any purpose."

A direct rebuff of the Fair Share Bargaining association which had vigorously attempted to unite farmers in the ranks of labor, the MMPA action declared that many of the goals of union organizations are directly opposed to the interest of the farmer.

In a further purge of FSBA influence group the delegates voted that agitators and men with opinions contrary to the best interests of MMPA, could not serve in any official capacity.

Compared to past years when meetings were torn apart by disension over low milk prices, this year's meeting was relatively peaceful. Howard F. Simmons, secretary-manager of the MMPA, (Continued on Page 4b)

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The more wealth that is produced by our hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and processing plants, the higher will be the living standard of all Americans. Not only is this a theoretical premise; the statistics of our progress show it to be true. Therefore, when production — anywhere or to any degree — is curtailed or halted, the economic welfare of all citizens is affected.

Harmony Helps All

It seems apparent then that every American, whatever his or her occupation or calling, ought to be interested in maintaining harmony between employees and employers so that strikes and work stoppages will not occur and that a spirit of teamwork will continually increase our industry's productivity and, with it, our living standard. There are definite indications that public awareness in this realm of our economic life is spreading, improving. Perhaps the most dramatic instance of this fact is the changing attitude of John L. Lewis, the labor leader who for many years symbolized unrelenting strike-power in action, the power of a union to halt production.

In Washington, D.C., last month, Mr. Lewis presided over a convention of his United Mine Workers Union. He observed that there had not been a strike in the industry in six years. He reported that the union had just reached agreement, through negotiations with coal mine owners, on a new contract calling for wage increases. And he noted the UMW encouraged modernization and mechanization in the coal industry "in contradistinction to miners' unions of other countries which opposed and fought modernization."

Sides With Industry

But the most significant revelation in the new Lewis attitude came when one of the UMW delegates, backed by a few other miners, objected to the new contract, arguing that the workday should be cut without reducing wages. Mr. Lewis said the coal industry could not afford to take that step.

"The question of the six hour day is one of cost," he said. "I think if the convention wants it, it can get it in the next contract—"

(Continued on Page 7B)

Peddling Case

Andrew Watson, truck driver for the Mills Baking Co. of Detroit, was found guilty Wednesday morning in Justice Court of peddling in the City of Farmington without a license as required by a city ordinance. He was fined \$25 or 15 days in jail. The verdict was immediately appealed and Watson released on a \$50 bond. The case will be heard in the next term of court which begins December 7. The defendant and his company contends that the fee of \$2 a day or \$200 a year for peddling is confiscatory, a revenue measure and not regulatory. This ordinance was set up in 1885 by the Village council and was written by the late Governor Fred Warner. This is the first time the ordinance has been contested.

TEN YEARS AGO (November 28, 1946)

Fuel Conservation

In a statement issued Tuesday, Delos Hamlin, Farmington City Mayor, urgently requested all citizens of the City to cooperate in the limiting of electricity and the conserving of fuel in the face of the existing coal strike. It was pointed out that this is a voluntary dim-out as far as the City of Farmington is concerned. He stated, however, that if the strike continues, it may be necessary to take drastic action and enact a city ordinance to force residents to conserve on electrical and fuel use.

FIVE YEARS AGO (November 29, 1951)

Approval has been granted to the Farmington Township School District on its application for priorities of scarce materials needed to construct additions at the Bond and Middlebelt elementary schools, O. E. Danckel, superintendent, stated this week. Approval was granted several months ago on the priority for the new Ten Mile School and construction of that new elementary unit has already begun. Release of priorities on the two additions proposed was not expected until the first quarter of 1952. Action was started at once by the Board of Education for the awarding of contracts on the two additions proposed.

United Fund Drive

Farmington's 1951 United Fund and Community Chest Drive officially closed last Saturday with a total of \$7,346.97 collected in cash or pledges, or approximately 85 per cent of the total campaign goal of \$8,500 set. Late contributions are expected to swell this total, John Hulett, chairman of the campaign, stated. Last year a total of approximately \$5,000 was collected on a quota of \$7,500.

Let School Contracts

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(Continued on Page 7B)

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