

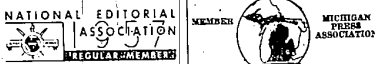
The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

The Announced Intention . . .

of Frank Stephenson, Township Supervisor, to appoint committees from among the Board members for the purpose of facilitating administrative and legislative action makes sense.

We have long felt that such a step would add greatly to the efficiency of Township government. With the continued growth of the Township, it is becoming ever more important that there be some delegation of responsibility. It is impossible to expect the Supervisor or any of the other officials to carry the full load. The variety of complex problems coupled with increased personnel and administrative details makes it imperative that a system of progressive organization be established.

The suggested formation of a finance committee to examine vouchers before formal action by the Board is one step. The activation of a water and sewer committee would be another. Committees to coordinate the activities of the police department, the fire department, the building department and the health department would also serve a very useful purpose. There are undoubtedly other functions and problems which would benefit now and in the future by such organization.

These committees, from among the Board members, would not only aid in the delegation of responsibility, but they would serve to keep the legislative body better informed and thus stimulate constructive ideas and action. With this type of organization in mind and with continued cooperation on the part of all elements of the government and the people, real progress can be made.

The Greatest Problem . . .

facing the City of Farmington in this year 1957 is finances. It boils down to the simple law of economics where the supply of revenues is insufficient to meet the demands for service. At the moment there are two paths open to us . . . cut out services or increase revenues.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year 1957-58 provides for a three mill increase in the tax rate, bringing it to the maximum of 20 mills. According to Earl Scherffius, City Manager, the three mills would be used to provide a needed building for the Public Works Department to house new equipment authorized by the voters on April 1. A majority of the voters also approved the borrowing of funds for the new building, but the proposal lacked the necessary three-fifths plurality.

Frankly, we dislike the idea of the increased tax rate, however we see no other alternative. Certainly it would be the most folly to purchase \$25,000 in new equipment and then leave it in the open to deteriorate. It is too big an investment to make without adequate protection. There are a number of other items of expense proposed in the new budget which could be reduced or eliminated, thus providing funds for the new building. But again, the elimination of these expenses would seriously affect the progress and the welfare of the entire community.

In our opinion, the City Manager has done a careful and conscientious job of preparing the proposed budget based on the amount of revenue that will be available. As we have stated many times before, the only way that the City can provide the necessary services without having to utilize the maximum rate, is to improve its tax base. This does not mean excessive property taxes but rather the encouragement of business and industrial development which will result in a more equitable spread of the tax load. Considerable progress has been made toward this objective in the past two years but there is still much more to be done.

Some citizens may object to such a proposal, but the fact remains that unless this type of development is encouraged by the government and the property owners, we will be continually faced by either high taxes or curtailment of services. The choice is ours!

A Lot Of Arguments . . .

have been kicked around the last few months on the method of nominating Michigan Supreme Court Justices. As a result, a proposed amendment to the State Constitution based on the so-called "Missouri Plan" has been filed in the Senate for study and consideration.

While we think this plan has merit over the present system, it is a recognizable fact that the degree of partisanship in this "non-partisan" branch of the government depends as much on the candidates themselves as it does on the system by which they are nominated and elected.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



SOUTHFIELD — The development and extension of Northwest Highway was brought one step closer to the construction stage Tuesday with approval of bids by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors for the \$39 million project.

The approval by the Oakland County Supervisors ways and means committee, also approved by the State Highway Department, cleared the way for the project. The states share in the project will be \$25 million, the county share to be \$14,000,000 with the remaining amount to be paid by the Federal government.

Plans call for the extension of the highway, which presently terminates at Orchard Lake Road, in the northwesterly direction to another portion of expressway now under construction in the vicinity of Ponton. Plans also call for the widening of the present highway which runs through Southfield and the northeast corner of Farmington Township.

Plans for the proposed "Southfield Expressway," another project which has been highly controversial are very indefinite. Although the road may actually be built within the next three or four years no definite routes have been laid out. The road planned as a northwesterly extension of the run toward Pontiac has been highly contested in regard to route to be followed by residents of Southfield, Farmington and Bloomfield Hills.

—The Four Corners Press.

NOVI — The Wikom Village Charter has now been completed and is scheduled to be sent to Governor G. Mennen Williams for approval in the next few weeks. It was approved by the voters of the charter will then be placed to a public vote around the middle of June. At the same time Wikom voters will also be asked to name a six-man village commission and a village president.

A suit against the election favoring the incorporation which had earlier was dismissed by the Oakland County Circuit Court on the grounds that the election was valid and proper. It was rumored, however, that some effort may still be made to have Wikom's incorporation ruled illegal.

—The Novi News

SOUTH LYONS — Teachers of the Lyons Township School District were granted a \$20 a year raise by the School Board last week. A \$400 raise had been asked for by the salary committee of the Lyons Township Teachers Club.

The \$20 a year raise approved by the Board will give teachers with a bachelor's degree a starting salary of \$4,000 with a maximum reached in 15 years of \$6,000. Teachers with a master's degree will get a starting salary of \$4,250 with their maximum in 15 years to be \$6,250. Those working on a degree above master's level will get a starting salary of \$4,500 which will increase to \$6,500 in 15 years.

The increment for teachers' experience was increased from \$100 per year to \$150 for the first 13 years and \$100 per year after that up to 15 years.

Another change made in the teacher schedule was to permit the accumulation of sick-leave days to 60 days instead of the previous 30 at a rate of one day sick leave per month.

—The South Lyons Herald.

BUCHANAN — About 600 children, two through 12 years of age, are expected to swarm over Memorial Field Sunday afternoon during the fifth annual Jaycee Easter Egg Hunt.

It was pointed out that the children will be divided into three different age groupings and then will be spread out over the field in search of 90 dozen boiled and colored Easter eggs in their own area. One group will be confined to the football field, another to the playground and the third group to the Jaycee park.

If weather prevents the hunt a program of movies and games will be shown instead at the high school gymnasium. Every youngster will receive Easter candy and each child in the youngest age group will also be given a prize.

—Berkshire County Record

LIVONIA — A 44-acre site for a new high school south of Plymouth Road in Section 35 was approved for purchase by the Livonia Board of Education recently at a total cost of \$13,220.

Planning for the second senior high for Livonia will start in the near future, it was indicated, but it is expected to be at least two more years before the Board of Education will ask for funds to complete the project.

The \$7,125 per acre price paid for the senior high site was slightly less than the amount paid for a 25-acre junior high school site at Middlebelt and West Chicago two weeks ago.

Condemnation proceedings, were necessary to obtain the senior high school site.

—The Livonian

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Labor's Choice



AN IMMEDIATE SAVINGS of \$3 to \$4 million will benefit Michigan taxpayers this year if the legislature approves a new financing method for a Michigan State University building program.

This feature is part of a dynamic new plan which could in a single stroke ease the critical college classroom shortage and provide a co-ordinated expansion program for MSU.

Additional advantages provided by the plan were listed by MSU's President John A. Hannah, who heartily endorsed the proposal. Hannah stated that:

1. The buildings will become available now for immediate needs.
2. The bill provides for necessary expansion without placing large demands upon the current income of the State of Michigan.
3. Assuming that building costs will continue to increase, an immediate savings will result by immediate construction.
4. Costs of the new educational buildings will be spread over future generations of students—those that will benefit most.

Heart of the proposal outlined by Senators Frank D. Beadle (R-St. Clair), Robert E. Faulkner (R-Coloma) and Edward Hutchinson (R-Fenton) centers around the use of student fees.

Right now, all student fees are used as part of the operating expenses of MSU. The rest of the income of the State of Michigan is used to pay the bills of the state legislature. Funds for new buildings must be approved separately by the Legislature—and come from taxes. This is done on a year to year basis.

Under the new plan student fees would be earmarked for the construction of new classrooms and laboratories at MSU. The state would contribute no money for new buildings. Future legislatures would be asked only to provide operating expenses for the University.

Effect of the bill would be the

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LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George L. Senn
EDUCATION PROGRAM
BIRMINGHAM

CHALLENGE TO CONGRESS

The President of the United States has sent to Congress a budget which would require a total of \$73.3 billion for Federal spending in the 12 months ending July 1, the biggest peacetime budget in history. The President has not said let directly but he has implied that it ought to be considerably smaller. Many Senators and Representatives in Congress have outspokenly said the same thing. The Director of the Budget agrees, and Treasury Secretary Humphrey says that unless the Federal government quits spending so much the nation is headed for serious trouble.

From all these governmental quarters comes this one question, repeated over and over: "But who will pay specifically where the cuts could and should be made?"

One man in Washington, as has been his custom through 24 years of distinguished service in the U. S. Senate, does not ask the question but replies to it. He is Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia. When the 1958 Budget was submitted, Senator Byrd as usual put his entire staff to work studying it, his recommendations, the funds involved, and the genuine needs behind the recommendations.

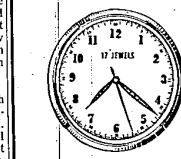
In High Estimate

No one in Washington calls Senator Byrd an obstructionist. The highest officials in government, the leaders of both parties in Congress, and most students and observers of our American government have a respect for his intelligence, his unusual knowledge of government fiscal affairs, and his integrity. One thing has set him apart in Washington over the past 24 years: Year after year, he tells Congress, the President, and the People of America exactly where, and by how much the federal budget can and should be trimmed.

He says the \$73.3 billion Eisenhower Budget can be reduced by \$5.5 billion and our national security and economic strength be much stronger than it would be should the full \$73.3 billion be appropriated and spent. Here are his recommended cuts and his comments:

Specific Reductions
1. National Security Activities, \$1.5 billion reduction. "This reduction is less than 5 per cent. It simply contemplates squeezing out waste. It does not contemplate curtailment of any essential activity or procurement. The reduction would leave \$39.6 billion in new appropriations for these programs. Together with \$30.1 billion in un-

(Continued on Page 3C)



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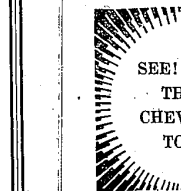
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Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (April 14, 1932)
Potato Patches

"Potato patches for the poor," the famous relief plan developed more than 30 years ago by Mayor Hazen S. Pingree of Detroit before he became governor, may be inaugurated next summer by Farmington Township as a means of providing food for indigent families. Under the plan, male members of those families would work in vegetable patches, if the plan is adopted, raising at least part of their own food for the next winter. The Township would provide the ground, rent one or more suitable places. The Township Board discussed the plan at its last meeting but as yet has not gone into the matter thoroughly enough and there are a number of factors yet to be considered. Supervisor Coe, who suggested the "potato patches" was authorized, however, to investigate the possibility and seek a suitable location if the plan appears feasible. Supervisor Coe pointed out at the meeting that unless present plans are changed, each township will be required to take over its own poor relief program at the beginning of the new year.

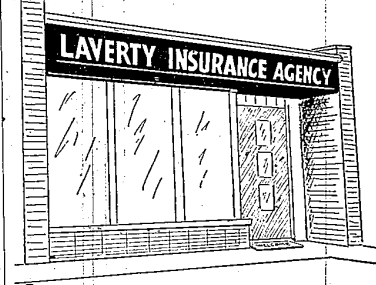
TEN YEARS AGO (April 17, 1947)
Teachers' Salaries

The Board of Education of the Farmington Township School District adopted the proposed salary schedule submitted by Superintendent O. E. Dunckel Monday night. The newly adopted schedule is based on a minimum of \$2,400 for a ten month school year to all teachers holding a bachelor's degree. This is held as a minimum qualification for all regular teachers. Teachers with less than minimum qualifications will be hired on a substitute basis. The salary schedule calls for raises of up to 20 per cent for existing teachers.

FIVE YEARS AGO (April 17, 1952)
School Budget

A near capacity crowd filled the Town Hall Tuesday evening for the second part of the recessed Annual Farmington Township Meeting. A motion made by George Rogers requesting that the Board get representatives of the County Road Commission to appear at an open meeting in the Township to discuss road conditions was approved. It was also stipulated in the motion that the Road Commission officials be requested to outline any long-range program they may have for roads in the area. Another suggestion made but on which no action was taken was that the Township Board give early consideration to the formation of a planning commission in the township to study and make recommendations on present and future problems.

The Farmington Board of Education approved a \$582,870 school operation budget for the 1952-53 fiscal year Monday night. The budget is \$102,010 higher than the 1951-52 budget. Increases in the number of teachers and maintenance personnel as well as salaries for O. E. Dunckel, said.



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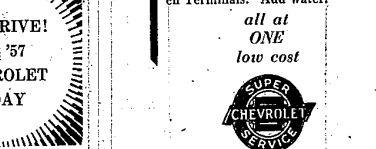
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