

The Farmington Enterprise

A. C. Tagg Publishers J. M. Tagg

Established in 1888 by Edgar R. Bloomer
as "A Permanent Journal Progress"

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
1 Year \$3.00
6 Months \$1.50
3 Months .75
Single Copy .10

ADVERTISING RATES
Display, per inch .75
Reading Ads .50
Cards of Thanks 4c word

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBER

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
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Published Thursday of each week at City of Farmington and entered at the Post Office in Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second-class matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

Phone: Greenleaf 4-6225

National Advertising Representative:
MICHIGAN PAPER SERVICE, Inc.
East Lansing, Michigan
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING SERVICE, Inc.
155 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

Several Weeks Ago . . .

The Enterprise challenged any five businessmen in the Farmington area, interested in organizing a chamber of commerce, to step forward and be identified. Thus far, at least, the challenge has gone unanswered.

It is not the intention of The Enterprise to force the idea of a merchant's organization on anyone, but it is our desire to serve as a soundingboard for such an idea. We sincerely believe that Farmington needs a chamber of commerce, not only as a community promotion group, but as a clearing house for information and an exchange of ideas. However, if such an organization is to be effective, the majority must believe in it and support it.

In our opinion, the need is very obvious. Hardly a week goes by that we don't hear of a new promotion program which is being successfully carried out by merchant cooperation in other communities. These promotions not only benefit the merchants and their customers but help to build the attractiveness and value of the community as a whole. Through cooperation and understanding, these groups can assist their local governments in coordinating projects designed to make the shopping area more convenient to all the people. By exchanging ideas, the merchants themselves can develop new policies and procedures which could prove extremely beneficial to their respective business.

It is impossible in this modern age to live apart. If we are to meet the forces of competition . . . if we are to continue to build a better community . . . if we are to develop a more attractive and more rounded shopping center, we must work together as a co-operative and progressive group.

The challenge still goes.

The Announced Intention . . .

of the Board of Directors of the Farmington Area United Fund and Community Chest to affiliate with the United Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit is good news to many Farmington citizens.

While The Enterprise is generally opposed to such action in the interest of continued community identity, we believe this affiliation has sufficient merit to outweigh such objections. While no specific contract has been worked out as yet, it has been indicated that Farmington will have a controlling voice in the continued conduct of the local community chest campaign.

Affiliation with the Detroit United Foundation will put an end to much of the duplication of effort which has gone on for a number of years. It will enable Farmington to benefit from contributions made to the United Foundation by residents of the community. It will eliminate the necessity of such residents to split up their contributions between home and place of employment. Probably most important, it should enable Farmington to meet its ever-increasing local obligations, which under the present set-up are most difficult to accomplish.

It should be emphasized, however, that this in itself is not the total answer. Farmington must continue to sow the seeds of effort if it is to reap the rewards of harvest.

Government Spending . . .

is the target of the day in both Lansing and Washington as the annual tug-of-war over millions and billions continues at a feverish pace.

The weapons of battle are a giant pair of scissors matched by a giant jar of rubber cement. Up until now, at least, the rubber cement dabbers are putting up a game fight. It has been obvious from the start that the proposed record budgets submitted by both President Eisenhower and Governor Williams were in for a real ribbon cutting ceremony.

In our opinion, the majority of the taxpayers are in sympathy with the efforts to cut the respective budget proposals. The argument comes on what to trim and how much. Education, particularly on the state level, is already feeling the sharp edge of the scissors. We feel that this is unfortunate in view of the tremendous responsibilities which we must face now and in the future. It is difficult to justify a so-called economy which ignores the rich dividends that education can provide.

A great many studies have been made pointing out ways and means of cutting government spending without crippling progress. For the most part, we have chosen to overlook the results of these studies in the annual tug-of-war to see who can shout the loudest and in the end get the biggest plum.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—Hope for political peace in Novi Township dwindled Monday as building inspector Cameron Lodge was fired and Township Attorney Archie Leonard drew near the same fate.

The action saw a clear split between supervisor Frazier Staman on one hand and three other members—Hedley Bachert, clerk; Ray Harrison, treasurer; and Stan Bulon, trustee—on the other.

Lodge was fired in an hour-long debate marked by confusion and heated exchanges. Leonard was saved from being fired when a motion for his discharge was called out of order by Staman because another motion was still pending. When the Board finally got back to the motion of dismissing Leonard, it decided to table the matter.

Cited as reasons for the firing of Lodge were his "undiplomatic" methods and his disobeying of orders to be more tactful with residents. It was also stated that Lodge was "belligerent" and occasionally performed police duties outside his official capacity.

Attorney Leonard was placed under attack by Bulon. He stated that it was often difficult to understand what Leonard was getting at in rendering legal opinions and said, "Furthermore, he has given the township some questionable legal advice—particularly in regard to the race track question and how many signatures were needed on a petition against it." Staman defended Leonard and praised him as an excellent attorney.

—The Novi News

PLYMOUTH—Plymouth Township's plan to incorporate part of its area as a city and the City of Plymouth's recent annexation of 22 acres of the proposed area have become so legally entangled that not even the Wayne County prosecutor's office has found a precedent upon which to base an opinion.

After being studied by the Ways and Means Committee of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, a petition requesting the setting aside of the election to determine the question of incorporating 8.5 square miles of Plymouth Township into a new City of Plymouth was turned over to the prosecutor.

What complicates the request is action taken a month ago by the Plymouth City Commission to annex 22 acres of the proposed area to its limits. This 22 acres is part of the proposed 8.5-square-mile area to be annexed as the new City of Plymouth Heights.

The Wayne County prosecutor has indicated that the legal situation which exists is most "novel" and has never before been ruled upon in the State of Michigan. What the next step will be has not yet been determined.

—The Plymouth Mail

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield District Board of Education has indicated it will cost an estimated \$500,000 more to run the District public school system during the next school year. The proposed 1957-58 budget of \$2,386,245 was approved by the Board meeting in special session recently.

It was indicated that it appears now that additional millage will be needed for operation of schools in the District next year. This was pointed out, however, that even with an additional amount required for operation next year the total tax levy will remain about the same as present. This is possible because of bonded indebtedness being reduced ahead of schedule and thus requiring less millage, it was emphasized.

—The Four Corners Press

BUCHANAN—Three members of the school system's administrative staff will tour new schools in the area this week to get ideas for a new elementary school in Buchanan. The trio have been asked to study the various school designs and report back to the School Board on the designs which they feel will best meet Buchanan needs.

The school will be built on a site already purchased. Plans call for a six classroom building plus a multi-purpose room which could be converted into a classroom if and when the need should arise.

The new elementary unit proposed would take pressure off junior and senior high school space by transferring elementary students to the new building. Elementary classes are presently being conducted in the high school building.

—Herrin County Record

University of Michigan has many firsts: first major university to admit women (1870), first school of public health, first school of natural resources, only center for Japanese studies in the United States, ranks first among state universities in the West of alumni listed in "Who's Who in America" (1952-53 edition), largest university owned student in the United States, first university to be governed by a board of regents elected by the people.

See Who's Talking



CONTINUED RESISTANCE on the part of Whitmore Lake residents and continued frustration in the Michigan Department of Social Welfare points up an issue which must be soon resolved.

The tangled problem involves a new location for the State Boys Vocational School.

Points of view differ radically. The Social Welfare Department received a legislative appropriation last year to purchase 320 acres of land at Whitmore Lake for a BVS home—a training school for delinquent boys. According to Social Welfare Director W. J. Maxey the land is ideally located, near medical facilities at Ann Arbor and also near Detroit, home of a majority of the boys.

At that time it looked like the department's goal of moving BVS out of cramped quarters in Lansing would be accomplished with out any difficulty.

The violent reaction of Whitmore Lake residents was not expected. Some 85 per cent of them organized to fight the relocation of BVS within their midst. They point out that police protection is inadequate; that building costs would quickly develop at Whitmore Lake; that the population growth in the area is so great that the problems encountered in Lansing would quickly develop at Whitmore Lake. They restate the U-M position that its medical school is already so overtaxed it cannot provide medical care to BVS inmates.

More important—residents took the cause to their legislators. Residents then engaged in a legislative duel with the Social Welfare Department to stop the appropriation of further funds. If successful, this would effectively bar development of the Whitmore Lake site.

A new approach was taken by Whitmore Lake people last week. They proposed that serious consideration be given to the establishment of a new BVS home at Northville.

Several outstate communities have indicated that they would welcome the establishment of BVS in their area. Iowa, Minnesota, County (Big Rapids), Beaver Island and Grayling all contacted the Social Welfare Department with requests for BVS.

(Continued on Page 4B)



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THREE PERILS FOR AMERICA

Senator Harry S. Byrd has just finished a careful detailed study of the \$73.3 billion Federal Budget for 1958 as submitted by the President. And in a major Senate speech he has called for specific reductions totaling \$6.5 billion. Senator Byrd told Congress, the President and the people of America just why the cuts should be made and why. He set forth "three perils" which he said the country would be accepting if the full \$73.3 billion budget were to be approved.

"First," he said, "it is the largest peacetime budget in the history of our country. It is the third largest budget of any kind, considering the war periods—the many wars that we have been in."

"Secondly, it embraces a number of new ventures for spending. It has 14 aids to the States for federal grants. It opens up a Pandora's box in building the public school buildings. We went into foreign aid, the Marshall Plan; we were told that that would last for four years; guaranteed that Mr. Truman said, 'I guarantee to you that we'll not spend it for more than four years—15 billion dollars. We've spent 50 billions of dollars on the Marshall Plan. Whenever you start these things, you can't stop them.'"

"Thirdly, this budget presents the peril—the fact—that it is not soundly based on a balance of revenue, because it has two unpredictable: One is that there must be an increase in postal rates of 700 million dollars, which the Congress has not yet enacted. Very frankly, it is my expectation to vote for some reasonable increase in rates, because I think the Post Office Department should be self-sustaining. But Congress has not enacted that. Yet the budget estimate includes the revenue from this increase of 700 million dollars in order to balance the present budget. Also the budget anticipates an increase in income—that is to say, in the national prosperity—of 6 per cent for the year 1957. This, I, too, will agree with me that that's a very dangerous basic on which to balance the present budget."

Mortgage On Future
"So this budget," continued Senator Byrd, "is not only the largest budget but it mortgages, so to speak, the future prosperity of the country. This budget continues entrenched spending and opens up new federal programs."

(Continued on Page 4B)

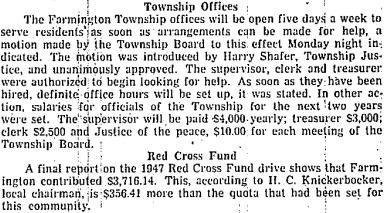
Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Re-Registration
A complete re-registration of all voters in Farmington Township will begin on May 1. The Township Board decided Tuesday evening to have the re-registration and install a new card-index system of registration records. No Township voter who does not make a new registration will be allowed to vote henceforth in elections. All present registrations will be of no effect. The re-registration is in compliance with the law passed by the Legislature in 1931 which provides for the new system. Under the new method, registrations are more likely to be kept up to date. The re-registration which will start May 1 will continue up to and including the twentieth day before the next primary, as provided by law. Voters have up to and including August 10 to record their names with Clerk Willard Campbell. After that date no one not registered under the new system will have an opportunity to cast his ballot at the primary election.

TEN YEARS AGO (April 24, 1947)
Township Offices
The Farmington Township offices will be open five days a week to serve residents as soon as arrangements can be made for help, a motion made by the Township Board to this effect Monday night indicated. The motion was introduced by Harry Shaler, Township Justice, and unanimously approved. The supervisor, clerk and treasurer were authorized to begin looking for help. As soon as they have been hired, definite office hours will be set up, it was stated. In other action, salaries for officials of the Township for the next two years were set. The supervisor will be paid \$4,000 yearly; treasurer \$3,000; clerk \$2,500 and Justice of the peace, \$10.00 for each meeting of the Township Board.

Red Cross Fund
A final report on the 1947 Red Cross Fund drive shows that Farmington contributed \$3,716.14. This, according to H. C. Knickerbocker, local chairman, is \$366.41 more than the quota that had been set for this community.

FIVE YEARS AGO (April 24, 1952)
James Tennant, City Manager, presented a proposed budget of \$137,840 to the City Council at their regular meeting Monday night. The budget is approximately \$16,000 higher than last year's budget. The budget will now be aired at a public hearing after being published, as prescribed by the City Charter. Final action will be taken by the Council on the proposed budget at its meeting in May. The principal source of city revenue outlined in the proposed budget is from property taxes estimated at \$60,000. This is approximately \$5,000 higher than last year. Biggest expenditures proposed are \$55,580 for general government and \$30,650 for the police department.



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