

The Reader "Speaks Up" About Politics, Housing, Taxes

Editor: Every citizen of Livonia with even the sparsest amount of civic responsibility, especially so in this disjunct age of de-personalized living, should become aware, and perhaps is, of the moment of truth which is now approaching this city.

At this moment the city is akin to a tall, gangling youth which conceals, but shouts for all to hear, that manhood is upon him. Behind this nondescript character lies a precariously delinquent past. His attitude had not, like so many juvenile-adults of today, brought him into sharp conflict with the laws of his society, although he carried on a warm, encouraging flirtation by disregarding better judgment in order to pursue his self-interest. During his youth, he has shown every conceivable type of juvenile attitude, an attitude of immaturity. The city wears this same image.

Many examples abound as to Livonia's immaturity, but its political atmosphere is undoubtedly the clearest example. Without attempting to deride the present mayor and council—for past mayors and councils have not been different—Livonia's political climate is farcical when one considers the possible emergence of Livonia into manhood. This manhood can either be as an adult accepting his responsibility or as a stunted child.

What mature city, for example, would permit such an opportune conflict of interest to exist in its chief executive? The chief executive of a city with a real estate business on the side is like giving Adam the reins when total divestiture of this real estate will become a reality, or will the citizens of Livonia find themselves with the Brooklyn Bridge on their hands? It would be a most interesting study to list all the real estate the city of Livonia has ever purchased (and is continuing to purchase) and place beside it the seller, the previous sellers, dates and members of the top political offices at that time.

A second example of the immaturity of Livonia—one hates to call our city a province—lies in the policy of the newspaper to which this letter is addressed. In a one newspaper city of some 80,000 people, no chief executive should be permitted to write as a columnist for that paper for this is almost a tragic type of conflict of interest as it treats upon the area of communications so vital to a freely operating society. To have it so is another adolescent quality of emerging cities, and unless dispensed with by that newspaper, will continue to drag that city toward further juvenile behavior rather than responsible maturity.

There is a third example of Livonia's emerging problem which has come about through political immaturity and immature politicians.

This third example of Livonia's immaturity and an immature behavior to adult emergence is its main street, Plymouth Road. To anyone making an initial visit to the city, that avenue must look like an ulcerous and blotched skin with its sores in various festering stages. Those sores are not healing, and the beauty treatments at interspersed locations by responsible businessmen only give the appearance of a neglected urban renewal project.

In fact, this is the most obvious danger sign, Plymouth Road needs but one more road into its present ugliness to turn the entire city of Livonia into a den of iniquity. Just let some individual open up one so-called strip joint somewhere on Plymouth Road, and the city has the beginning of "The Strip." Perhaps it too could dominate part of its proceeds to worthy cause to assuage the conscience. Perhaps to crippled children or if gambling is also present, the proceeds could be donated to our taxes like the race track.

Perhaps some citizens have missed out on the utter crumminess of Plymouth Road. Perhaps they will venture out on that avenue's beginning-to-end, and count the hideous sandwich boards jutting into the thoroughfare which businessmen use to ply their wares and grab at customers as they pass. Perhaps they will notice the lack of signage, the weeds sprouting from the gravelled and littered case-

ments, the tilted and cracked sidewalks of days gone by, the 40-foot in-store streamers protruding similarity to Detroit's Michigan Avenue between Third and Tenth.

Perhaps they will count the number of 15 cent greasy spoons with their bags of state hamburgers, where the flocks of youth with little hope and nothing better to do gather like despondent ducks honking as they circle the pond. Perhaps they will radiate from the star-spangled lights of the new Livonians, upon the puzzles of the crazy-spaced store fronts, marveled at the luxuriant growth of waving weeds which encroach upon the street.

Livonia is precariously balanced on the threshold of juvenile oblivion or ultimate recognition as a modern, progressive community. It must first grow up and accept adult responsibility. This step requires mature judgment, capable leadership and imaginative vision. It requires the true executive ability of getting things done through people while overcoming the problems caused by the non-human factors with the ease which present day knowledge permits.

Let us hope there is a political change toward maturity in the city of Livonia, and let us hope that it is soon.

Yours truly,
James Boswell,
9810 Dearing Ave.,
Livonia, Michigan.

(Editor's Note: In regard to The Reader's Point 2, no Mayor writes "as a columnist for the paper." He is offered space to report to his constituents. The last two Mayors have chosen to use the space as a vehicle of communication, rather than relying on direct mail or other expensive method. Similar space is offered and used by Livonia schools, the Livonia Council, and other public groups. Communication is a difficult process in a community as large as Livonia and it can be costly. The Observer goes into every home and, in essence, denotes the space as a public service to officials who will use it to keep the local taxpayers in-

formed of their particular problems and views.

Editor: All the things we read about zoning, rezoning, approving apartments; what about approving housing for our Senior Citizens at costs they could pay from their fixed income?

Several sold their large homes and large lots, which they could no longer keep up, moved out of Livonia. They didn't want to leave, but there was nothing within their means available in Livonia.

Many have lived here many long years and don't care to move away from their friends and familiar surroundings.

These Senior Citizens would like to live in Livonia.

WHO WANTS TO LIVE IN LIVONIA

Editor: We are convinced that the best interests of Redford Township and of our political party can be served by conducting our primary campaign on the basis of each candidate's personal appeal and his qualifications to hold office—and not through vilification, inference or innuendo.

We have nothing but the highest regard for Mr. Lawrence and the people who are associated with him.

It is our belief that any candidate who has the courage to step forward and offer himself for Public Service deserves a better lot than to be subjected to public scorn or contempt.

We also believe that the major difference between the Democratic candidates is one of approach, ability and personal appeal.

The group of candidates which are offering for consideration represents the best of these qualities. The important thing is a party united behind Democratic Candidates who are worthy and well qualified to serve the people of Redford Township.

Our campaign will be based on exposing the failures of the Republican Supervisor and his rubber stamp board. The problems and the welfare of the

people of Redford Township have been ignored, and we intend to direct public attention to the present.

- High Water Rates.
- Higher assessments with a resulting tax increase.
- Poor police protection in residential areas.
- Half-hearted garbage and trash pickup.
- Failure to have unpaved roads maintained.
- High cost of Township Government.

While we most certainly consider our opponents in the primary worthy, we are convinced that we can supply the leadership necessary to return effective government to Redford Township—Government that will have a genuine concern for people and their everyday problems.

Harvey J. Beadle, Candidate for State Senator.
John Bennett, Candidate for State Representative.
Nathaniel Banks, Candidate for Township Supervisor.

Editor: Here at election time we feel it important to reiterate the policies of the League of Women Voters with regard to political activity.

The League of Women Voters is a national, non-partisan volunteer organization dedicated to promoting informed citizen participation in government.

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates.

While the general membership of the LWV is encouraged to, and frequently does, take an active part in political activities (precinct delegates, school board members, etc.), members of the governing body, the Board of Directors, are prohibited from partisan participation. They may not seek or hold office or in any way actively to support candidates, e.g. give coffees, circulate petitions, etc.

If a Board Member or her husband wishes to participate in political activity she must resign.

The Board always remains the non-partisan policy making body of the LWV. In recent months Mrs. Sheridan Holman resigned as Membership Chairman of the Livonia LWV to engage in political activity. Mrs. Lyle Shaw resigned as Local Item No. 1 (Education) Chairman to honor her husband's wish to engage in political activity.

We believe by maintaining a non-partisan stance the LWV is more effective in accomplishing its goals of informing itself and the public on local, state and national issues, and encouraging the citizen to take a responsible role in shaping government.

Sincerely,
Mimi Singer (Mrs. Myron) President Livonia LWV

Apartments Wanted

Editor: I, too, think Livonia should have apartments for Senior Citizens.

True, we need golf courses, etc., but older people can't live or sleep on a golf course or ice rink.

Mrs. M. Barrett

Editor: In a recent issue of the Observer, there appeared a comment written by Councilman Pat A. Ventura. In simple words he made clear his fundamental principles stating—"The essential unit in our democracy is the individual, not any group or class, and the preservation of our form of government depends, in the final analysis, on the individual's rights, initiative, judgment, and opportunities, etc."

To often the individuality of the Councilman is completely hidden in formal phrases and stilted opinions so much in vogue today. His comments are refreshingly free from doubtful statements of principle. We know by association that he has the intellectual fortitude to simplify the individual and give sympathetic appreciation of a problem that is pushed aside by others. We think this lifts him far out of the ranks, and gives a mantle of sincere confidence over his duty and ability to serve our community.

A satisfied citizen is our best advertisement and our proudest boast. We haven't been boasting too these last two years after living in Livonia almost twenty. It has hurt our pride to have this speaking of having Livonia and others bypassing us for other communities.

It is comforting to find Mr. Ventura above the frustrating mechanical forces that keep on their horses (or is it their mules) and ride off in all directions.

Yours truly,
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hunter

Editor: I am writing to ask that The Observer recommend to the Democratic voters in Livonia and Plymouth that they vote for me in the September 1st primary.

I think you will agree with me that the position of State Senator requires a person with sound and mature judgment. In my opinion neither of my two opponents in the primary possess these, and also, neither has ever been elected to hold public office. Comparing backgrounds, experience and personalities, I am sure you must honestly admit that I am the most qualified.

From a practical, political standpoint, if you receive the Republican nomination, I am sure you would rather have one of them running against you. However, as publisher of the largest paper in Livonia and Plymouth, you also have the responsibility to the residences of these communities to point out to them which of the Democratic candidates is the most capable and will best represent them and Wayne County in the Senate.

I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
A. Vallier
Plymouth

(Editor's Note: Mr. Vallier's primary opponents are James McCarthy and Joseph McManey, both of Livonia.)

Editor: I'm appealing to you in behalf of the Parents of Wayne County Training School. We have a child of our own out there.

I would like to know if you couldn't give us a write-up in The Observer, as to how important it is for the people of Wayne County to vote for Proposition No. 1.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kuhn

Editor: We are not interfering in the problems of Livonia, because we feel that each city should take care of their own business. Why then are the "Livonia Citizens for Better Relations" concerning themselves about our affairs in Detroit? We represent the fact, that they are seeking help against Thomas L. Poindexter's "Home Owners Rights Ordinance."

Mayor Cavanaugh didn't give the Livonia and other Suburbanites a choice of opinion to pay an income tax to Detroit for the privilege of working in the City of Detroit. We know that it is not fair to impose our burdens on any one.

Detroit people resent it as much as you do. We signed the "Vigilante" Tax petitions against Mayor Cavanaugh's income tax and tried to help you and other suburbs in this fight.

Mayor Cavanaugh with the help of Clergy in Detroit isn't able to brainwash the "Home owners of Detroit" against this ordinance so why are you trying to do it? You may find yourselves in a similar situation some day. Would you like to have us come into Livonia and work against you and meddle in your affairs?

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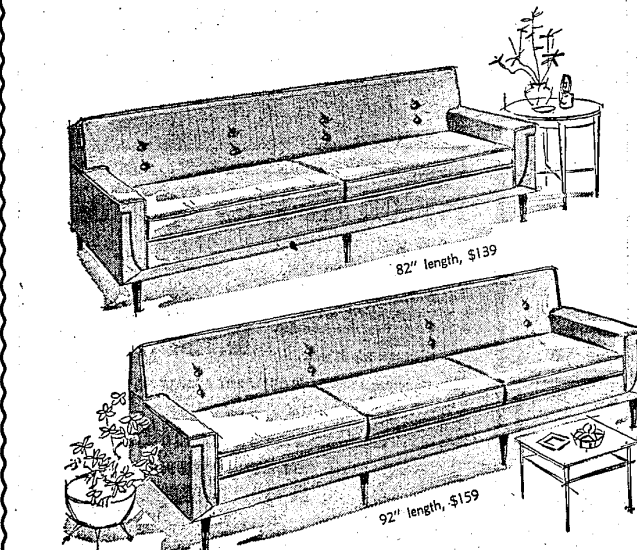
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Air Policeman

Airman Larry R. Oldford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Oldford, 948 Ross St., Plymouth, has been selected for technical training as an air policeman at Lackland AFB, Texas.

THE DRUNKARD

On August 28 and 27, Newburgh Church Hall, Ann Arbor Trail, at 8:30 with show dates to be Sept. 25, 26, 27 at A.A. Hall 182, 33702 Plymouth Road, Livonia—Beer sold during the show—entertainment, singers dancers needed. The Drunkard will be directed by Bob Wald and produced by Pete DeUspoli.