

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## In Our Opinion . . .

### Let's Show Equal Interest After the Election

It has always amazed us to see how important it seems to be to politicians to get all the alleged bads and goods of a community's governmental operations aired publicly just two or three weeks before an election.

Those seeking to unseat incumbents and their supporters will go to great lengths to dig up long since past issues or anything at all they can find to try to make the candidates who are in office look as bad as they can in the public's eyes. Of course the incumbents also go to great lengths to paint their opponents as inept, incompetent and poor people to lead public office.

Letters to the editor and stories containing derogatory statements of all kinds come from the candidates, their opponents, or their supporters in almost unbelievable numbers.

Many of the statements made in these stories and letters are so libelous that we would think the writers would be fearful of even putting them down on paper, let alone submitting them to a newspaper for publication. They don't get published by us because, whether most people know it or not, a newspaper can be held equally as libelous as the writer of a letter or one submitting a story, for putting something in his paper that can not be backed up with facts.

But, my, how the situation seems to change after the election is over. The candidates favored by the majority of voters are in office. Interest in bringing to light alleged poor governmental operations or in challenging the actions of the elected officials by the defeated candidates and their supporters dips to a low ebb.

The incumbents, not concerned about

an election date drawing near, often times show great reluctance about making statements to the press clearly spelling out their policies and positions on matters of considerable public interest. They display as much when an occasional letter writer says unkind things about them or actions taken by them as elected officials. But, seldom do they seem to be moved strongly enough to make their actions or positions clear with an answer for the public as they are moved to do right around election time.

We feel somewhat trapped in the middle when political candidates and their supporters deluge us right around election time with a flurry of statements, charges and counter charges. They should be checked out thoroughly and included for our reading public to consider if they have real basis in fact, but we just don't have the time to do so.

Our requests to all political candidates which we would like to make right now is that they show equally as much interest in making their findings, policies and opinions known to the general public after the election is over whether they win or lose.

As candidates, all must have a keen interest in governmental affairs and in seeing that we have the best possible governmental operations. This interest should not diminish greatly after the election is over when though one is an unsuccessful candidate.

Let's get the issues aired fully between elections when there is ample time for study of them rather than bringing them all out right before an election when there is not enough time for a thorough pro and con study.

### Decisions at Local Level Often Best

One thing that has always been of concern to us has been the apparent feeling of necessity demonstrated by our local governing officials to always follow the wishes and recommendations of the state highway department and/or county road commission on road matters.

The Enterprise recognizes the fact that on many road matters the county or state has almost absolute jurisdiction and it must be accepted. We know too that there are well qualified men in road matters at the county and state governmental levels and that their recommendations and suggestions should be considered carefully.

We still feel, however, that on at least some occasions our local officials have not challenged enough or fought hard enough for what they felt to be right and best for the local citizenry on road problems and other matters too, but rather accepted the recommendations and actions of state and county officials without question.

It was pleasing to us, therefore, to see the City Council last week override the state's contention that there is no need for a traffic light at the Grand River-Power Road intersection and decided to "go it alone" with the installation of one there.

Too many traffic lights along any major route of travel are equally as annoying to us as they are to any other motorists. But, we feel as the councilmen and public safety director for the city do, that a break in the traffic flow on Grand River at about this point warrants a light.

Our city and township officials often times have a better grasp of what local traffic problems and other local problems are than do state and county officials who only do spot checking now and then. The Enterprise would like to see our local city and township officials continue to override county and state officials on occasion and take issue with them, not only on road matters, but also on other local problems that might crop up from time to time whenever they are strongly convinced that their positions on the matters of concern are sound ones.

Strength at the local level of government is what we need a lot more of, rather than always turning to the higher-ups in county, state and national offices to get the answers.

## Looking Back in the Files

**5 Years Ago**  
OCTOBER 15, 1959  
Falcons Win 11  
The Farmington High School football team scored a hard-fought victory over their rivals from Southfield last Friday, 6-0.

**Trojan Homecoming**  
The Farmington High School football team gave a Homecoming Day crowd something to cheer about last Friday as they pulled out a 6-0 tie with a heavily favored Bloomfield Hills eleven.

**Old Glidders Win**  
The Our Lady of Sorrows High School football team remained undefeated last week and Paul by the score of 13-6.

**Cville Enrollment**  
The Farmington Public School System announced a 13 per cent increase in the number of students enrolled in the district this year over the 2,378 students enrolled last year. This year's enrollment total is 2,684.

**School Dedication**  
Formal dedication ceremonies have been set for this Sunday at the new Westbrook Elementary School in the Farmington District. The new school is located on Osmus Street in Farmington Township.

**Cville Registration**  
Enrollment at the close of the first month of school in the Farmington District reveals a 2.1 per cent increase over the number of students attending classes at the same time last year. There are 1,928 students now attending classes in Farmington.

**FIS Eleven Bows**  
The Farmington High School football team announced a 39-0 drubbing from Inter-Lakes Conference rival Van Dyke last Friday night on the winners' gridiron. Falcon quarterback Jerry Rice scored the lone Farmington touchdown.

**Homecoming Queen**  
Queen of the Farmington District Homecoming Day activities this Friday.

**FIS Downs CHS**  
The Farmington High School football team racked up their third victory of the season last Friday at the expense of neighborhood rival Clarencville. The Falcons now have a 2-1 record for the season.

**Twp. Road Repairs**  
The local township roads which are not yet under the jurisdiction of the Oakland County Road Commission and cannot be maintained with County funds began receiving attention this week as the result of special action taken by the Township Board. Once the roads are put into good condition, the Township can request the County to assume the maintenance job.

**Police Radio**  
New radio equipment was installed this past week in the Farmington Township Police Department patrol cars.

### PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to this Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

### Says Let's Keep Farmington Township A Gracious Residential Community

To The Editor:

Several years ago we decided to build a new home. This was not our first experience in building, but we hoped it would be our last. This was to be our "dream home, located in the heart of Farmington. None of our previous mistakes in locating or building were to be repeated. This time we wanted the house to take root, grow, mature, and later return to visit with their children.

For over two years we hunted, shopped and compared, not only houses, builders and schools, but also communities. We explored practically all of southwestern Oakland County. Although there are many fine communities in this area, Farmington Township appealed most to us. The lots are large enough to allow fresh air to circulate, yet the homes are close enough together to produce a feeling of neighborhood. No isolation, and it fit our budget. Moreover, it was far removed from business districts and densely populated areas. The white oak, maple and coniferous, regardless of how sedate they may be. In other words, this is a quiet, suburban, residential community—not the big city.

We came, shopped, compared, and were delighted with what we found here. We like it as it is. NOW ZONED. Unlike our Township Zoning Board, we require no "technical consultants" or "legal advisors" to make a recommendation. It is NOT "highly complex" as some of our officials would have us believe.

In view of recent action taken by this Township zoning board, one wonders how long

Planning Board Member Answers Charges

To The Editor:

Over the past several weeks, the democratic candidate for children, Villian Lemah, the Farmington Township supervisor has challenged the zoning board on various matters but particularly the approval of Tom Duke's Village Green Apartments.

He has publicly charged that the apartments would be a tax drain on the community and would yield few economic benefits.

As a member of the zoning board, I voted for Duke's project for one reason—the economic benefits to the community. These economic benefits are summarized as follows:

1. Taxes will be paid in excess of cost to our local government units. (Direct benefit)
2. The residents will spend an estimated \$10 million annually in our community—thus increasing taxes of local business. (Indirect benefit)
3. Employment and construction contracts to local residents.

To illustrate just one point and to dispel Mr. Vagnozzi's charges—let us examine the effect on school taxes if the project was built and occupied now. Estimated cost of project: \$25,000,000; State equalized valuation, 45 per cent, \$11,250,000; School taxes based on \$24.65 mills, \$2,771,223.94; Number of students, 12,661; Taxes per child, \$220.

This is the reason Village Green was approved—to lighten our tax load. Village Green would pay school tax 1,555

students. Tom Duke says that he expects only 160 children age 5 to 17 to attend the school. The planning consultants say that 260 students would be the average for this locality—yet Mr. Vagnozzi must expect over 1,200 in this community. Nevertheless this project would provide approximately 10 per cent of the Township, county, and school taxes.

What would this mean in school tax savings if the apartments were in right now—approximately 8 per cent to each taxpayer in the school district or \$25 on a \$320,000 home.

In conclusion, I might state that I would not want to serve on Mr. Vagnozzi's zoning board. In the newspaper on October 8, he indicates that it is the supervisors position to play a key role in zoning issues and to shape policies. I wouldn't want to play the role of puppet while Aldo pulls the strings. Since I have been on the board, neither Curt Hall or any other Township official has told me how they would like the vote to come out.

Charles H. Williams  
Member  
Farmington Township  
Zoning Board

### West Point Park News

Miss L. A. Ault GR. 4-4294

Honoring his 67th birthday, Shady Side Ave.

Several members of the children and a grandchild gathered at the family home on Shady Side Ave., Wednesday evening, the 7th, and tendered a real celebration to Herman Schult. There was food and gifts and everything to make the occasion one to be remembered.

Wednesday afternoon, the Sunshine Sisters held their regular, every-other-week, session in Neighborhood Sunday School. There was a fair attendance. The usual program was carried out and cake and tea were served. The next meeting will be held in the same place at the same time on Wednesday, the 21st.

The Hobby Club held its usual session at the Reardon home on Shady Side Ave., Tuesday afternoon.

THE FRIENDLY WORKERS' are scheduled to hold their first meeting of the season at the Armstrong home on Mayfield Ave., Tuesday, the 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Slevin of Uniontown, Ohio, were guests' over last weekend of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Emerson Ault of Mayfield Ave.

Mrs. Robert Buch and her baby son, Stephen, from Detroit, were Tuesday afternoon guests of Mrs. Buch's mother, Mrs. Edwin L. Johnson, on Clarita Ave.

Mrs. Mamie Muir, from Detroit, is spending a few weeks with her son, Arthur Muir, and his family on Shady Side Ave.

Stanley Chavey, III, from near Northville, was a Wednesday guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Chavey, Sr., on Mayfield Ave.

JOHN AND PAM Reddy with their daughter, Beth Anne, from Lansing, Michigan, were weekend with John's parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Reddy, on

Shady Side Ave. is ill with a flu attack.

Mrs. and Mrs. Austin Ault of Brentwood Ave., Rev. Lester E. Ault, a visitor from Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Virginia Oman and her daughter, Ruth Ann, of W. Eight Mile Rd., were Thursday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Loren A. Read near South Lyon.

Mrs. M. Emerson Ault, Mayfield Ave., and her house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Slevin from Ohio, were Tuesday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunter in Detroit.

Trucks from Goodwill Industries, Detroit, are collecting household discards in the Farmington and West Point Park areas two or three times every week. The need for useful, repairable material with which to help handicapped men and women employees busy, is

more urgent than ever at this time. Birds in their little nests season of the year. To arrange agree, and this a shameful for a pick-up, call Mrs. L. A. Ault, when children of one family fall out, and child, and fight.

—Isaac Watts

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