

The Farmington Enterprise
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In Our Opinion

Thorough Explanations Definitely Needed

It was made crystal clear at the polls last week that Farmington Township taxpayers and voters are not going to be willing to accept more and more community-governmental expenditures just because elected governmental officials say they should be made. The real need of the voters is going to have to be clearly demonstrated.

Getting pay raises for officials in any community approved at the polls is no easy task. The work load and pressures involved in holding a community government position never seem to be appreciated by the general citizenry.

But, defeat of a pay raise proposal as soundly as voters defeated the proposition on the township's Feb. 15 ballot sounds a warning that goes beyond just that proposition in our opinion. We governmental bodies in our community that taxpayers are going to have to be more firmly convinced of the need in the future before they approve any more tax levy increases or proposition that might lead to result in higher taxes.

As the result of previously approved additional tax levies which showed up in local taxpayer bills for the first time this year, the bills were substantially higher than last year and for some property owners they are now reaching proportions that hurt the pocketbook pretty badly.

Taxpayers of Farmington have demonstrated over the past several years that they are willing to dig into their pockets to provide funds for schools and other operations and for needed community services when they are shown clearly that a real need exists. It is our feeling that they will continue to do this in the years ahead but that an even harder and more thorough selling job is going to have to be done.

Discussion on proposed pay increases for the township's three top officials should have really been started six months or more before any action was taken by the trustees on granting substantial raises. It is our opinion, in fact, that a special citizens committee should have been appointed to study this matter thoroughly, comparing our pay scale with those of numerous other communities around us of comparable size. Then their recommendation to the township board of trustees should have been made on the basis of their findings.

Had the recommendation come approximately two or three months before actual action by the trustees was necessary, this would have given ample time to make thorough presentations to various citizens groups. With such information citizens would have known clearly all the ways and wherefores on the matter and strong negative reaction followed by petitions for a referendum vote might never have come to pass.

It has been demonstrated time and time again that when citizens are fully informed on the value and need for anything and can get their questions answered, they usually react much more favorably. Anytime citizens feel that something is being forced upon them or put over on them without a clear explanation, the reaction is usually negative.

An Exceptionally Big Chair to Fill

Mayor Robert Lindberth's decision to bow out of public office in the City of Farmington came as no big surprise, yet we announced it with some deep feelings of regret last week.

For more than 12 years, Lindberth has served the city well as the community's top elected official and whoever will be filling his chair after the April 5 election and the reorganization of the council has a large seat to fill.

Operating an expanding business such as Lindberth has been doing during his entire tenure as mayor and still taking on the numerous duties that the mayor of a growing community is expected to perform is not an easy task. The small amount of pay received for the mayor's job could never cover the countless hours of work the office demands.

Mayor Lindberth has demonstrated an exceptional ability to conduct meetings in an orderly and business-like manner. He has shown time and time again that he could set aside his own personal feelings on matters in favor of action that would be in the best interest of the city-at-large and its citizenry.

The opinion of citizens has always been recognized by him as being important to be considered in deliberations on any city matters even though they might be completely contrary to the opinions or feelings held by him or fellow councilmen. Many others who have been members of the city council during Lindberth's long years of service as mayor have not proven to be as fair minded.

While Lindberth will be stepping down as a public official in the city, we are certain that as long as he continues to live and do business in the community he will be one of Farmington's strongest boosters.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago FEBRUARY 25, 1950	10 Years Ago FEBRUARY 24, 1940	15 Years Ago FEBRUARY 23, 1935
McGee Hill Route Several Farmington business men, including Virgil Cornwell and "Curly" Sullivan, have proposed a plan to the City for the re-opening of the Farmington Road route into Farmington since the closing of McGee Hill, at Farmington Road and Shawwassee Avenue, there has been no route into the City from the north via Farmington Road. A engineering study was authorized to check into the feasibility of the proposed re-opening of Farmington Road.	League-Wrestlers Farmington had three wrestlers after first place berths in the Conference meet held last week. The winners for Farmington were Jerry Russell (his second Conference stripe), Bob Cook and Bob Maritz. Three Falcons, Dick Cook, Dick Lam and Len Foxen, earned second place honors.	Appointment Teachers The appointment of 1952 teachers is presently teaching in the Farmington School System to serve for another year was approved by the Farmington School Board this week. The new teachers are: Twp. Sewer Arms Action was taken this week by the Farmington Township Board to set up the necessary special districts to permit the construction of the Haled and Kendallwood Sewer arms which will be connected into the large interceptor sewer along Middlebelt Road.



THE O. E. DUNKEL Junior High School Science Fair features many projects which represent weeks and months of preparation by the students. One of the projects on exhibit during the fair is pictured above by the young lady responsible for it, Pat Tanton, who compiled facts on trees and the various resources obtained from them.

News From Briar Hill

JAN PATTERSON 626-6283
Our sympathy goes to friends over a pizza party. "Herk," Lolo, and Kathy Holmes on the death of "Herk's" father, Mr. Holmes died suddenly in Chicago, February 13. Hazel Young, Frank and "Zeke" Copp went to Chicago to be with the Holmes family and to attend the funeral.

The Vances had a weekend get together. He is Hans Seybold; who comes from near Stuttgart, Germany. Mr. Seybold is an engineering student at the Chrysler Institute.

Kristine Wingle celebrated her birthday by inviting 12 friends over for a pizza party.

BETSY NAUMAN held an ice skating and pizza party. Some of her guests were Theresa Dwyer, Sue Moreen, Barbara MacLeod, Sheryl Moffitt, Chris Nowell and Meredith Ramsey. Bonnie Britton has been chosen to play the part of Helen Keller's mother in "The Miracle Worker." North Farmington High will present the play in April.

El Moreen's mother and brother, Mrs. Carlson and Bill, were visiting for several days. They came from Muskegon, Michigan.

Kristine Wingle celebrated her birthday by inviting 12 friends over for a pizza party.

Franklin Knolls Woman's Club Hears Expert on Home Decor

The Franklin Knolls Woman's Club members held a gala February Thursday, Feb. 4, Miss Diane Love of Silver, Inc. of Highland Park conducted a most informative program on home and their decor. The Chairman of the month, Lorraine Sullivan and her committee, Christine Hentzell, Edna Johnson, Phila Laconis, Lila Krupsky, Virginia Phillips, Tonya Foster, Pauline Hills, Rosemary Green and Lucille Bowles, served a delightful strawberry dessert.

VICE PRESIDENT Dorothy Carlo conducted the meeting for President Judy Sirko who was ill.

Saturday, Feb. 13, the second annual Progressive Dinner was held. Last year's was such a success that this year the group was too large to end the evening in one home. However, they did start at the home of President Mrs. George Sirko for hors d'oeuvres and champagne and were given the evening's agenda. Off to one house for salad, leaving that group to go to another house for the main course. Then all met at the Northwest Lounge for dessert, coffee and dancing.

March 4-Kay Savage of the Detroit Free Press will be the Club's speaker. Bring guests and your culinary problems. Dessert and coffee will be served at 12 noon. St. Coleman's Church, Middlebelt between Northwestern and S. 14th Mile Road, is the scene for the meeting.

March 12-Buffing will be staged on March 10. The day group will meet with Lorraine Sullivan and the evening group with Ann Richards. Sheets are still needed.

Franklin Knolls Woman's Club members all feel very deeply the loss of one of their gayest and most active members, Rhoda Dombrowski who died Feb. 13 after a year of illness.

Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The 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 100 words.

Compiling List of Clubs, Organizations

Dear Sir:
Since the Farmington Information Center on Grand River has been opened, it has been pointed out to us by the many requests we have received, that a listing of all of the Farmington area's clubs and organizations is highly desirable and desperately needed.

As an organization serving the total community, we feel that this office is a logical center for this list and it would serve a two-fold purpose: 1) To give the public a listing of new (or old) residents who would like to affiliate but do not know whom to contact. 2) To the organizations themselves as a loose coordinating effort.

TO EFFECT SUCH an undertaking, we would like to appeal to the public through your media to have their organizations and clubs contact our office—either by mail or phone—with the name of their group, the chairman or membership chairman's name, address and telephone number, and the meeting days and place.

Our office is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is 474-3440. The address is The Farmington Board of Commerce, P.O. Box 15, Farmington, Michigan.

We will indeed be grateful for cooperation.

Very truly yours,
The Farmington Board of Commerce

Wood Creek Village

ANNE M. PHILLIPS MA. 6-4335
Mary and Jo Belian left here right after the holidays and drove to Florida where they had six delightful weeks. They stayed at Largo, which is near Clearwater. They reached home and this cold weather a week ago Monday.

Dick and Pat McGrath had another of their fine family supper parties a recent Saturday night. Dick's parents and two sisters with their husbands make the group of eight that so enjoy getting together as frequently as possible. They all live nearby. The parents in Huntington Woods, one sister in Berkeley and one in Pleasant Ridge.

BUTCH AND BOBBIE Davenport had a company party a week ago Saturday night. Adding husbands and wives of the employees made a group of 75 for cocktails and dinner.

Pamela Pahl had a party Saturday night for 25 of her Junior High School friends. They danced and sang and had the wonderful time a group of young people usually do.

The Board of Directors of the Men's Civic Association has presented the new slate of officers. Conrad Lam is the president; Bill Brown, vice president; Jim O'Brien, secretary; and George Trout, treasurer. George Trout and Jim O'Brien will replace the two retiring members of the Board.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Men's Association will be held on March 25. The regular February meeting has been called off to make it possible for as many as possible to attend the zoning meeting to be held at 8 p.m. at the Farmington Town Hall, 11 Mile Road just west of Orchard Lake Road. The zoning to be discussed is the triangle of Northwestern, 13 Mile Road and Middlebelt, to change that area from single residences to multiple housing. Do plan to attend.

THE GALA EVENING at the John Clappison Sells Insurance Phone GR. 4-3511



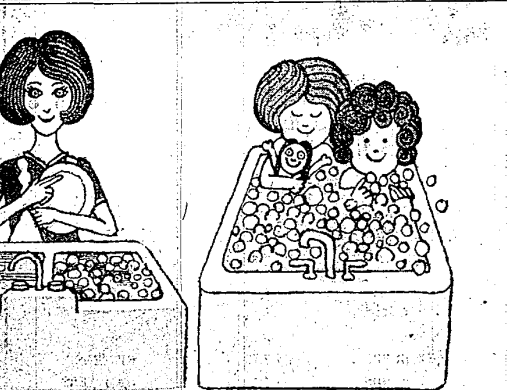
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