

# In Our Opinion . . .

## Kickoff to A Continued Campaign

This special edition of the Farmington Enterprise marks the kickoff of another year's community clean-up, fix-up, paint-up campaign and we are proud to have a substantial part in this annual community betterment project.

As in previous years, "The Enterprise is making an urgent appeal to you, along with the various organizations sponsoring the clean-up campaign, to not only clean-up and fix-up around your own home and property but also to lend a hand to your neighbors who may need help and to clean up in the vacant land areas around you.

It was The Farmington Enterprise along with officials of the South Farmington Township Civic Association who initiated the organized week to 10 day annual community clean-up campaign locally some years back. We have not only our enthusiasm for the need for such an organized community clean-up program yearly and don't feel that we ever will.

But, we recognize more and more clearly each year that some of our most serious problems in making Farmington a cleaner and more wholesome place, such as in the city and township have very minor uncleanly conditions that get corrected but there are a few rather heavily populated areas where the problems are very serious.

The solution to our most chronic unwholesome and uncleanly community conditions is going to require a year-around effort for the next several years. Many areas in the city and township have very minor uncleanly conditions that get corrected but there are a few rather heavily populated areas where the problems are very serious.

Far too many people living in Kendallwood, Westbrook Manor, Quaker Creek, Holly Hills, Kimberley, Alta Loma, Farmington Meadows and some of the other nice subdivision areas in our community have just not driven around Farmington enough to see some of the

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## No Need for "Planned Unit" Here

The planned unit development concept that Farmington Township is trying to bring in some areas to go on smaller lots than the zoning for that area calls for, provided vacant land area is left to make up the difference in required land area is a concept that has some real merit.

But, as we have pointed out previously by editorially, there are some pitfalls in this concept when the areas where planned unit developments are allowed are not very carefully considered.

The practice of allowing homes to be built slightly closer together with open area left for a subdivision park or recreational site or even just some "open air" space is not bad. But, to allow a developer to build his homes closer together on a parcel of land to avoid having to develop a problem portion of that parcel is bad.

The Franklyn Ravine Subdivision development planned on a parcel between the Middlebelt and East Junior High school sites provides a good case in point.

As was pointed out by Township Board Trustee Byron Waller in objection

serious problem areas that exist, we fear, we can't help but feel that if they were to see and be more cognizant of the unclean and unhealthy conditions that prevail in these problem areas they would, or at least should be, moved to get a drive started to help get some of the worst conditions improved.

Those in any community who measure the value of their property or the status that they hold by living on a nice street or in a nice subdivision just haven't extended their logical thinking far enough.

While you may live on a street or in a subdivision that is well kept, the value and status that this brings along with it is substantially marred if nearby neighborhoods, or sections are run down, poorly kept and have unclean or unhealthy conditions which prevail in them.

All of us as residents of Farmington City or Township have an obligation to see that the whole community is one that we can say justifiably we are proud to live in. From a purely selfish standpoint, all of us should want the entire community clean and tidy so that our property will carry the maximum market value and we will be noted as being a citizen from that very beautiful community called Farmington.

Let's make this annual clean-up campaign the best one yet and after it is all over start action for a year-around effort to clean up the problem spots in our community.

Our city and township officials can't do the job all by themselves and the corrections to the problems don't all lie in spending more tax dollars either. A strong and active citizens effort to help clean up the problem areas is going to be required and we can think of no better time than right now to get the wheels in motion on this project.

ing to approval of this subdivision as a planned unit development last week, the land area being left as open space has a very deep ravine running through it. The property has very little value as a park or recreational site for the subdivision proposed.

Our added thoughts on this would be that there is no real need for added park or recreational area at this particular location in the township anyway. There are large recreational areas on both sides of this proposed development in the form of good sized school playground areas. These school site playground areas also provide plenty of open air space in this section.

We recognize the fact that this is a problem piece of property situated as it is between two school sites and feel it's unfortunate that the school board didn't see fit or couldn't get property for the two schools at this location side by side. Despite the fact that it is a problem piece of property for development, we can't justify the value of a planned unit type of development at this location, however.

## Looking Back in the Files

### 5 YEARS AGO

**MAY 5, 1960**  
Church Groundbreaking  
Ground will be broken May 8 for the new Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church in Farmington on a site at the corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Road.

**FHS Nine Wins**  
The Farmington High School baseball team bowed to the Waterford nine, 4 to 2, to absorb their second loss of the season against one victory.

**Basement Battle**  
The battle over whether basements should be allowed in homes planned in Twin Valley Subdivision in the City has been settled with the City Council rescinding an earlier resolution which barred construction of basements in homes planned along lower lots near the stream which traverses the subdivision. Several stipulations were made by the Council in the new resolution and agreed to by the developer.

### 10 YEARS AGO

**MAY 5, 1950**  
Blakeslee Retires  
Farmington Chevrolet dealer Vic Blakeslee, a businessman in the community for more than twenty years, has sold his agency to Bill Root.

**Little League**  
Over 300 boys turned out for the opening drills of the Farmington Little League Baseball Program last week.

**Proposed Village**  
The petition filed with Oakland County by residents in Wood Creek for incorporation as a village is now under consideration by the County Board of Supervisors. Board approval will pave the way for a special election to decide incorporation.

**Falcon Diamondmen**  
The Farmington High School baseball team took it on the chin from Inter-Lakes Conference rival Van Dyke, losing 11 to 3. Jerry Rice pitched for the Falcons.

### 15 YEARS AGO

**MAY 4, 1935**  
Lighted Field  
The question which will decide whether Farmington gets a lighted athletic field will be held Monday. This week the Farmington High School newspaper, "The Blue and White," went on record as being in favor of the proposal which would cost taxpayers an average of \$3 a year over a two year period while increasing gate receipts an anticipated 400 per cent.

**Business Expands**  
The Blakeslee Motor Sales has moved into its new quarters at 32715 Grand River Avenue. The new building has 12,500 square feet of floor space and an additional 12,000 square feet for a used car lot and parking facilities.

**Falcon Nine Wins**  
The Farmington High School baseball team chalked up their second victory of the young season by taking the measure of Holly, 6-3.

## Players Open 'Little Foxes'

Seats went on sale Monday at the 'box office of the Barn Theatre, where the Farmington Players production of the absorbing and exciting drama "The Little Foxes," begins a run of five performances on May 7.

Lillian Hellman's play, which New York drama critics rated the best of the '30-40 season, is a violent tragedy which ranks with the outstanding theatre achievements of the past decade. Packed with surprises and fresh dramatic devices, the play scored a resounding success in New York, throughout the United States and in many foreign capitals.

**DIRECTOR DON CRAIG**, who has watched the production gather momentum through its rehearsal stage, asserts that the root of its tense and exciting plot lies in the clash of powerful wills. The ever mounting tension and gripping suspense arises as the characters develop. Out of greed and out of respect, Regina, Ben and Oscar, the three "Foxes" fight to destroy each other. Only Horace, Regina's banker-husband, tries to stop them, to fall victim to their murderous will. The arresting role of Birdie shows a fragile well-meaning woman disintegrate under the impact of the insidious scheming by the other characters.

The cold calculating Regina, the cruel and beautiful carpet-bagger's daughter, will be played by Kaye Britton, with Don Craig and Joel Hepler as Ben and Oscar, the brothers with whom she wages her ferocious struggle. Horace and Birdie, who as the two principal decent individuals are destroyed by the others, are portrayed by Stuart Orman and Macy Ann Perry.

**FEATURED** in the play's other main roles are Edwin Budge, Caroline Stutson, Norm Hosking, Bessie and Charles Hansen. As the story unfolds, suspense mounts in the best tradition of true and powerful tragedy. "I wouldn't have left my seat for a 5-alarm fire," wrote one critic, "unless by chance, it had been under me." Lillian Hellman plumbs the depths of the evil in human nature in a relentless battle for wealth. Her victims richly merit her scorn. They represent, as Adams says, the "people in the world who eat the earth and the people on it, while others, who do not, approve, stand about and do nothing to prevent them." This is the tragedy mirrored in the decline of a malignant southern family.

### Arrives in Italy

Gunner's Mate Third Class Robert E. McKibben, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. McKibben of 20950 Cass St., arrived in Naples, Italy March 22, while serving as a crew member of the destroyer USS James C. Owens which operates out of Charleston, S.C.

### LEGAL NOTICES

**4727**  
No. 87,169  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
Estate of HELENA J. BARDWELL, Deceased.

It is Ordered that on June 8, 1965, at 9 a.m. in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan a hearing be held on the petition of Francis John Oakley for the appointment of an administrator of said estate and to determine who are or were at the time of the death of said deceased her heirs at law.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.

Dated: April 22, 1965.  
DONALD E. ADAMS,  
Judge of Probate.

Albert P. Herzog, Attorney  
23200 Farmington Road  
Farmington, Michigan.

**4728**  
No. 86,770  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND  
Estate of GEORGE J. HOUSE, Deceased.

It is Ordered that on July 19, 1965, at nine a.m. in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan a hearing be held at which all creditors of said estate are required to prove their claims and on or before such hearing file their claims, in writing and under oath, with this Court and serve a copy thereof upon Margaret H. House, Administratrix, 28912 Orchardville, Farmington, Michigan prior to said hearing. Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.

Dated: April 23, 1965.  
DONALD E. ADAMS,  
Judge of Probate.

Attorney Edwin R. Gleditsky  
33245 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington, Michigan.

April 28, May 5, 1965

## Public Letter Box

### Schools Council Asks Tax Reform

April 23, 1965  
To the Editor:

There is a growing feeling that the State Aid formula in the elementary and secondary schools is in need of revision. In the past decade, state funds for school aid have dropped from approximately 60 per cent to 40 per cent, so that today the state pays 40 per cent and the local property owner pays 60 per cent. All of us know from personal experience that the property tax has been pushed to its upper limits.

Two somewhat similar bills are being considered by the State Legislature that would change the school aid formula—one submitted by the Department of Public Instruction, and one by the Michigan Education Association. These bills call for an increase in state aid for kindergarten through twelfth grade in the neighborhood of 90 to 110 million dollars.

**IN COMPARISON**, the proposed budget for K-12 leaves the current formula unchanged and requests only 31 million dollars additional. This amounts to an increase of 9 per cent, or only half of the schools' 6 per cent annual cost of living increase.

Because the fate of any education bill is closely tied to the state's need for more revenue to raise the sums required to

finance such a program, fiscal reform is necessary. If you believe as does the Berkley Council for Better Schools that a change in our approach to the State Aid formula is imperative, there is something you can do now.

**WRITE TO YOUR legislators** and/or the chairmen of the Education Committees. In the House, it's Rep. Lucille McCollough; in the Senate, it's Senator Gerald Dunn.

Urge them to hold public hearings on the bills they are now considering.

Urge them to enact legislation in the 1965 session.

Urge them to initiate legislation for fiscal reform. Your letter will count! The Berkley Council for Better Schools is initiating a petition drive throughout the state in support of improved state aid and fiscal reform, and invites other groups and individuals to participate in the drive. It is our hope that this effort will reassure the legislature that there is grass roots support for early enactment of suitable legislation.

Beatrice Sacks, Chairman Berkley Council for Better Schools, 12738 La Salle, Farmington Woods, Mich.  
**Editor's Note:** The Farmington Board of Education earlier took action in support of tax reform.

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