

Editorial Page

City Project Needed

Publicity about a fairly well developed plan to convert Royal Oak's main business district into a shopping mall to compete with other suburban retail areas brings to mind again the proposals advanced by the planners hired by the city recently.

With the new city council holding its first meeting last Monday night, we'd like to venture the hope this plan will again receive full study and advancement as the council gets into the swing of things.

Royal Oak's Chamber of Commerce set out two years ago to find a plan to halt the growing trend of people leaving that area to shop elsewhere. By private donations they hired an architectural firm to develop plans. These were presented to the city.

Among the suggestions were an increase in off-street parking facilities and have these free instead of metered, creation of a four-block shopping mall with auto traffic eliminated and other features. They proposed that the total cost—land acquisition, construction, and retirement of outstanding parking revenue bonds—be borne by special assessments on the property in the central business area.

This is essentially what has been proposed for the downtown area here, except for the mall.

There have been some attempts made to get other businesses into the downtown area. A&P Stores has been very interested, and an attempt is being made by one of our more public-spirited private citizens to work out a deal so that A&P could locate a store east and a little south of the new Bradley Drug and Hinkle stores. This would involve purchase of the land owned by our mayor, Robert Lindbert, who has set a price on the tract used in the manufacture of wood pallets. If such a plan could be worked out, it would likely involve a street running from A&P out to Grand River, along which would be built other stores.

Whether or not the city officials and citizens will work out anything here is problematical.

The point is, some such plan is badly needed for the downtown area, and soon, or it will be too late. Property values will decline (and will take over) and undesirable tenants will taxes.

Some of the heavier property owners in this area are willing to take part in any reasonable plan which will assure rejuvenation. We're sure the new city council realizes this, and will take what steps it can.

Recreation Ahead

Michigan's 23 state forests not only produce timber and pulpwood for a variety of uses, but they also serve a greater use as recreation land. The time of year is almost on us when public use of this land will involve thousands and thousands of visits to these lands.

We still can see no logical reason why the state legislature does not allow a camping fee to be charged, so that these facilities can be improved and expanded immediately.

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI — Voters may be returning to the polls much sooner than they expected as a result of action taken in the village last week. Ten petitions asking that Novi be incorporated as a city will be submitted to the council at its next meeting. It was learned.

Leo Harrowood, Novi businessman, said that enough signatures had already been obtained to compel the city to hold incorporation elections. Only 100 names are necessary before a petition can be submitted to the council. Harrowood said the petitions would continue to be collected until just before the next meeting on April 20.

Plans for the incorporation move grew out of the annual township meeting which was held as a solution to village-township differences. Councilman Russell Blanton said, "For all practical purposes, we have a city now. We are incorporated in fact, but not in name. We are governed by two boards. By the simple process of becoming a city we can incorporate under one head, we have also secured the township board members, say they do not want to give up ownership of this equipment even though the village is paying salaries and maintenance costs for it. They can't give up ownership anyway because the city of Wilcox owns part of this equipment."

—The Novi News

LATHRUP — The city council held last Monday night to retrace steps it hopes will eventually lead to a separate storm water sewer system for the city.

After five months of study and investigation, the council approved a resolution to authorize the engineering firm of Tate & Hirt to proceed with preliminary designs for such a sewer system.

Council plans to spend \$8,500 on the design.

A like sewer proposal was defeated a year ago, mainly because the plans are incomplete. The plans were not complete enough. This time the council is going to great pains to make sure the plans are complete.

—The Southfield News

BIRMINGHAM — For the first time in the history of the city, the school board will have to cut down on teachers and possibly eliminate some classes.

These predictions were made by Supt. of Schools Dwight D. Ireland.

Dr. Ireland said he was preparing the budget with both moderate and major cutbacks in mind. He said he hoped to use only the moderate cutback plan would be necessary. Under this plan the most significant item would be a reduction in the replacement of the approximately 18 percent of teaching staff which leaves each year. If the major cutback plan is found to be needed, then there would be a definite reduction in the teaching staff plus the elimination of some classes, Ireland said.

He indicated that the reduction in music, art, and auto mechanics might have to go.

Uncertainty about how much state aid will be received and what the final allocation will be for the district will be given as the reasons why the extent of the cutbacks, which will be needed, cannot be determined at this time.

—The Birmingham Post-Herald

LIVONIA — The Board of Education has proposed a series of major new policies aimed at improving the quality of high school education being received in the Livonia school system.

Policy requirements call for: (1) At least three years of English instead of the present two. (2) Another year of social studies, bringing the total requirements to 2 1/2 years. (3) At least one year of mathematics. (4) At least one year of science. (5) Greater emphasis on health education. (6) A tentative course of specialized study in one field of at least six semester hours. (7) Lengthening of the school day from 6 1/2 to 7 hours.

—The Livonian

FRANKLIN — A public hearing on the proposed \$240,000 budget for Franklin Village will be held Monday night, April 20.

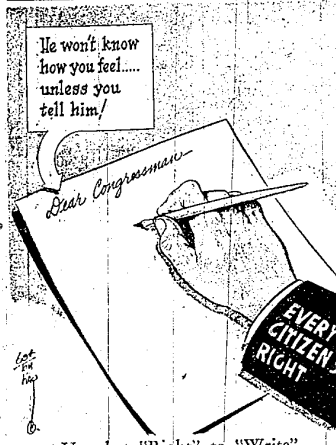
Included is a \$66,000 proposed road and \$18,000 for proposed general budget.

—The Village Crier

The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine presence.

—Michael Angelo

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Chambers of Commerce to Work On Local Mich. Week Projects

OFFICIALS who have been boosting their cities every day for years will get a special unit this spring.

They will help organize local programs to dovetail with the general celebration of Michigan Week.

Robert H. Albert, secretary-manager of the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, will head up the special board to coordinate the activities of all chambers.

Albert immediately appointed nine members of his special board in cities where regional chairmen of Michigan Week reside, a further effort toward coordination.

Members of Albert's committee are Harvey Campbell, of the Detroit Board of Commerce; Tom Cordell, of Port Huron; Merle Lutz, of Traverse City; Clem Bennett, of Mt. Pleasant; Albert Boyd, of Lansing; E. J. Penny, of Flint; John Hay, of Muskegon; Ben Knauss, of Marquette; and Rex Potter, of Battle Creek.

Chambers of commerce will start the ball rolling with a special meeting in Lansing in April.

MINERALS are still being sought in the Upper Peninsula by the Bear Creek Mining Company.

The company's attempt to get authority to explore for low-grade copper in the Porcupine Mountains State Park in Ontonagon County was discouraged last fall.

In the fact of almost certain disapproval by the state conservation commission, the company withdrew its application. Conservationists won a battle to keep the park as a wilderness.

Bear Creek now has asked the commission for an all-mineral lease in the western Upper Peninsula, with the state retaining an interest in any valuable find.

STANLEY YANKUS, the Dowagiac farmer, has sold his land and belongings for \$26,000 to obtain money to move to Australia rather than continuing a losing fight against Federal controls.

Yankus has become a famous, if pathetic, figure in the fight. He exceeded Federal wheat allotments on his 100-acre farm, insisting his crop was not for market but to feed his chickens, the major source of income on the farm.

Yankus became a controversial figure, even among farmers who agreed with him.

At the farm auction, he disclosed that more than 600 had written letters to him, agreeing Federal controls are unfair but disagreeing that Yankus is doing the right thing by leaving.

"The law as it is interpreted deprives me of my right to own property," he said.

Some farmers contended that disagreement with the law is common, but to break it is illegal.

LEGISLATORS anticipate that the 1959 session will adjourn in mid-June, if some of the problem that have plagued members since it convened Jan. 14 can be solved.

Beyond the immediate cash crisis lies the long range tax problem.

To stay afloat and expand to meet the needs of a growing population, Democrats and Republicans agree privately that a broad-based tax is needed.

From the beginning there were signs of a long and bitter fight over Gov. Williams' proposal for a graduated income tax, a package that he said would net \$14,000,000 a year.

Williams, smarting from attacks on his program, was reported ready to agree to any form of tax that will net the necessary money.

Some Republicans are still un-

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago
APRIL 12, 1934
New Bank Assured
A new bank in Farmington is now a certainty as the result of the recent Thursday morning of the stock of \$37,500 in local stock subscriptions for the establishment of a new financial institution, one-half of which will be owned by the Federal government.

Application for a charter is to be filed soon and it is hoped that the opening of the bank and distribution of 35 percent dividends to depositors of the Farmington State Bank may be possible within the next 30 days.

It is expected that distribution of the dividend, which will amount to about \$225,000, will be the first function of the new institution.

Voting Question
Official certification of the special election to be held April 30 on the question of authorizing the expenditure of \$37,500 for state unemployment relief, was made last week by the Dept. of State.

Election instructions sent to county clerks did not mention the controversial question of qualification of voters. New state laws permit only taxpayers to cast ballots in elections involving issues of bonds and the attorney general has given an opinion that only real and personal property taxpayers will be qualified to vote on April 30. The method of deciding which voters are taxpayers is to be left up to local election officials.

The question to be placed before the voters is whether the state shall issue bonds and use the money for unemployment relief through construction of hospitals and other public works.

10 Years Ago
APRIL 14, 1949
Dental Clinic
Plans for the establishment of a school dental clinic at Farmington was announced Monday evening following the regular meeting of the Board of Education for the Farmington Township School District.

The clinic, operated under the Children's Fund of Michigan, will begin next September. The school will provide space for the clinic which will be under the direction of Dr. R. M. Gates, D.D.S. The purpose of the program is to provide dental examinations and care to students of the school district.

The clinic will operate in Farmington for about two months.

Fire Record
Some sort of new record was established Monday evening when the Farmington volunteer fire department extinguished a too-hot automobile on Middlebelt Road just north of Grand River.

Just ten minutes elapsed between the time the call for the department was placed and the final rolling up of hose after the fire was thoroughly extinguished.

5 Years Ago
APRIL 15, 1954
Township Offices
A public hearing will be held to discuss proposed plans for the construction of township offices and remodeling of the Town Hall. A date for the hearing was not set.

One citizen expressed the opinion that he would be opposed to putting any additional money into the old Town Hall. A new building for township offices was recommended by him.

School Budget
The 1954-55 school budget for the Farmington Township School District, as prepared by Supt. O. E. Dunkel, was approved with only one minor change.

A proposed budget of \$978,912 as prepared is an increase of \$193,449 over last year's budget of \$785,463.

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