

# Editorial Page

## Push Fairly But Firmly

Already there are a few protests against the proposal to create adequate public parking in the downtown district. The plan is subject to change — and undoubtedly will undergo changes. It should be set up to be as fair as possible to the most people involved. Surely there will be a few things which might be considered injustices by those who complain.

This is written prior to the meeting this week, so we don't know what changes might be proposed. Usually we're not in favor of "setting up a committee." That's often a good way to kill a plan. But in this case we think the city council might well appoint a group, an "authority," to study the project and set final details, then see they are carried out.

This proposal is so terribly important to all the city and its taxpayers. If it fails to materialize, there isn't apt to be another chance to bring some good commercial enterprises into the decaying downtown area. As stores are vacated and not again rented (as has been happening) residential taxpayers are going to have to carry an increasing burden. And with our city population growing so rapidly, we need these businesses to serve us properly.

If ever there was a time in the history of Farmington city for councilmen to act on and vote their convictions, despite pressure by the small number in opposition, this is it.

## Needed at Park

The recent attempt of the Farmington Jaycees to initiate a plan which would provide a park and recreational facilities, particularly of benefit to children not interested in Little League baseball, definitely brought to light the city's lack of such facilities.

The Jaycees undoubtedly are well advanced in their study to determine the best way to use the funds earned by their community work. We wouldn't presume to suggest how those funds should be used.

However, in doing a little checking and thinking about city parks, we came to the realization that there is one important thing missing at the park south of Shawasse. That's toilets. Here are all of these boys playing baseball practically every night, and quite a few adult spectators — probably a total of a couple of hundred any one evening. And no toilets.

To us it seems important that before anything else be done to extend recreation facilities in the community, there should be a study of basic needs.

Another thing has occurred to us. The park is shaped like a capital L, with the short leg running along Power street. In this area is one Little League diamond. Doesn't look like it's used too often. Otherwise, it's a nice area, naturally somewhat separated from the other diamonds.

If an entrance were run in off Power just north of the Rouge bridge, it would be readily accessible. Perhaps it should be separated also from the other diamonds, maybe by a fence. This would be an excellent playground area, which could be developed by the Jaycees or the city, with not too much expense.

There are not too many things for youngsters to do in a community such as Farmington, so some basic planning should definitely be done in this field before too long.

### The Farmington Enterprise

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## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

### FRANKLIN

Protections of Franklin peace have embarked on a month-long traffic safety campaign, utilizing their new electric speed timer.

"During the campaign we intend to issue warning tickets, but we will still give regular tickets to flag violators," said Richard Diederich, chief of the 15-man Franklin Village volunteer police department.

"The timer will also supply a count of traffic, showing us what time of day and where to expect the most speeding violation."

The State speed limit on village roads is 25 miles an hour unless otherwise posted.

In the first six months of this year the department issued 41 summons, all for motor vehicle violations.

"Speeding was the most frequent violation," followed by failure to stop for stop signs and having a defective headlight," Diederich added. He stated that most speeders were apprehended on either Franklin Road or 13 Mile.

The semi-annual report of the department revealed that 2,417 miles had been traveled in patrolling and that 374 man hours had been spent on duty not including emergency calls.

—The Village Crier

### WIXOM

The Wixom council sidestepped a rubbish disposal issue recently by referring petitioners for a landfill to the board of appeals.

As a result of the council action, property owners between Grand River and the expressway east of Wixom Road must seek permission for a landfill on their property from the board of appeals as outlined in the charter.

The landfill issue first came to the attention of the council early in July in the form of a protest by a resident indicating that the Gus McCready landfill near his property was a health menace because it showed no flow of water and created stagnant pools along the expressway.

However, later several other property owners in the vicinity petitioned the council to permit McCready to extend his landfill operations to their property.

Lamont of the county health department recommended to the council that present landfill operations be continued. He also suggested that the dumping operations, with the low area only half filled, would not benefit the city. It was his recommendation, however, that McCready be required to follow a pattern of operation to prevent pools of stagnant water.

—The Novi News

### DEARBORN

Residents can expect about a 20 per cent increase in their water bills after November.

It was indicated that Dearborn would have to pass along the wholesale increase announced by Detroit which supplies water to Dearborn.

Superintendent Benjamin Joswick states that Dearborn has been getting a good deal from Detroit of its water. Rates haven't been raised in ten years despite inflation.

Joswick says the average home owner uses about \$5 to \$8 worth of water every three months.

—The Dearborn Press

### SOUTHFIELD

You can step on the gas in Southfield, but be careful where you do it.

Traffic regulation 59-2, adopted recently by the city council, sets speed limits for city streets at 55 mph, with but a few exceptions where speeds of 35 to 45 mph are allowed.

The exceptions are Nine Mile Road, a short stretch on 11 Mile Road, Evergreen to Leabers, Evergreen Road where the limit is 40 miles per hour and a few others.

—The Southfield News

### PLYMOUTH

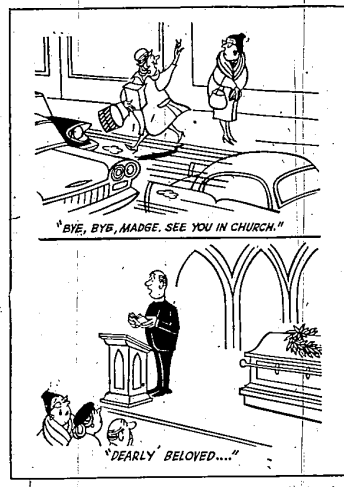
An exploratory drilling for oil and gas is being carried on along Edgewood Drive overlooking Wilkes Lake Drive. The drilling could cause some what of a furor among neighbors who claimed that the noise kept them awake nights.

As a result of their protests and intervention by the township supervisor, the drilling has been halted from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. But the leaseholders claim they will appeal the order.

There have been several hundred wells drilled within the Plymouth/Northville area since an oil field was discovered in 1954. None of the wells, however, have come as close to public view as the one started several weeks ago in Riverside Park.

—The Plymouth Mail

## The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



More than 253,000 pedestrians were killed and injured in 1958.

## MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

### Most of 1958 Michigan Tax Study Proposals 'Scuttled'

THE WIDELY-QUOTED 572-page "redbook" on Michigan taxes is headed for the archives. Someday a tax researcher may blow the dust off a bound volume of the staff papers of the 1958 Michigan Tax Study and find it as background for a new study of Michigan's tax structure.

MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS based on the 1958 study were scuttled the 1959 legislature.

Also scuttled was the dream of Rep. Rollo G. Conlin (R-Tippecanoe) for an overhaul of Michigan's patchwork revenue system.

Conlin was a proud man Dec. 2, 1958, when a Citizens Advisory Committee appointed by the House Tax Committee came up with a comprehensive program for revising the tax structure.

The program was promptly dubbed the "Conlin Plan."

It was built around a graduated personal income tax. The graduated income tax, endorsed by Gov. G. Mennen Williams, failed to get wide support in the House and was denounced in the Senate. Conlin turned to a "piggy bank" income tax. It failed in the House.

He then tried a flat rate income tax. It slipped by the House with one vote to spare, but was chattered within minutes after it arrived in the Senate.

Conlin, a pipe-smoking farmer who says he is serving his last term in a 16-year legislative career, didn't vote when the House passed plans to increase the sales tax.

But everybody in the chamber knew what he was thinking.

THE LEGISLATURE MAY be asked next year to require zoning boards and other bodies at the township level to open their meetings and records to the public.

Kenneth West, managing editor of the Lansing State Journal and chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Michigan Press Association, said some study was expected in this direction.

West's committee was instrumental in securing passage of a bill requiring open meetings and records of school boards.

The 1959 "Right-to-Know" bill was sponsored by Reps. William Romano (D-Warren), Elmer E. Anderson (D-Escanaba), Robert Johnson (R-Grand Rapids) and Russell Strange Jr. (R-Clare).

Senator John H. Stahl (R-Grand Rapids) championed the freedom of information cause in the Senate.

Stahl was responsible for killing an amendment — that would have required school boards to take final action in closed-door executive sessions "in the public interest."

"This would not be a fair way to do it," Stahl said. "You wouldn't be taking away a freedom."

"A little group of people could shut everybody out; make a decision — and let you know about it afterwards."

Stahl will be remembered as one of the most colorful figures in legislative history. He was popular among Senate GOP leaders early in the session when he criticized the Democratic state highway administration as over the top speech, which was delivered in a Will Rogers style. But his colleagues held him with less enthusiasm when he argued

## Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

### 25 Years Ago AUGUST 2, 1934

#### Alley Parking

A warning was issued to motorists this week by police officials against parking in the alley in back of Curly's Electric Shop. According to Marl Pettibone, constable, complaints have been received and in the future arrests will be made for illegal parking.

The most trouble occurs on Friday nights when crowds attend the free movies. The greatest objection to parking in this alley is that in case of fire it would be practically impossible to move fire apparatus to the rear of stores on the north side of Grand River.

Back in 1934 food prices were really low, but, then, too, so were wages.

There are some kroyers offered by the community. Hugo's store: apple sauce — 3 No. 2 cans for 25c; 4 tall cans of pork and beans for 25c; peaches — 10 pounds for 49c; hams — smoked picnic for 14c a pound; steaks — round, sirloin and tenderloin for 25c per pound.

### 10 Years Ago AUGUST 4, 1949

#### Enrolling Students

Registration of kindergarten and new elementary students in Farmington Township School District will continue through Friday of this week.

Miss Minnie Ziekle, elementary supervisor, stated that quite a few children have already been registered. Efforts are being made to register all kindergarten children and all grade school children new in the school district during the week. About 200 students are expected to enroll.

#### Gala Days

Sunday will be special events day at the annual American Legion Gala Days celebration highlighted with a big pet and doll parade, contests and games and climaxed with a huge fireworks display in the evening.

The program, which opened on Monday of this week, will continue through Sunday. A carnival, with rides and entertainment is now operating in conjunction with the celebration on the grounds just west of the American Legion Hall on Grand River at Lakeway.

The annual pet and doll parade will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Those entering in the contest will parade from the school band house at School St. and Grand River eastward on Grand River to the Legion Hall. Prizes will be given for the best dolls in three classifications. There will also be three classifications in the pet competition.

### 5 Years Ago AUGUST 5, 1954

#### Water Situation

City officials announced this week that the overall water situation is continuing to improve although not sufficiently to lift the restrictions on outside usage as yet.

Norbert Ratsky, city engineer, stated Tuesday that the water head in the city's two

### Finishes Armor Course July 25

Army Pvt. Clifford N. Carter, 17, son of Ellen H. Carter, 33100 Grand River, Farmington, Mich., completed eight weeks of advanced individual armor training July 25 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During this phase of training, he qualified as a driver of the Army's medium tank, passed proficiency tests with the .30 and .50 caliber machine guns and qualified as a gunner with the 90 millimeter tank gun.

Carter entered the Army last January and completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The son of Ralph H. Carter, 30401 Cherry Lane, New Haven, Conn., attended Northville High School.

## Malcolm the Milkman

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### Visit in Oregon

Mr. and Mrs. M. Fedewa, 22921 Power Road, have returned from a two week vacation in Portland, Oregon, where they visited with the L. Atkins. They made the trip both ways by train taking the southern route to the northern route. The trip took about 58 hours in each direction. Mr. Fedewa said.

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