

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal of Progress" Established 1888

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RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND
PUBLISHER

THOMAS F. ISLEY
NEWS EDITOR

MICHAEL J. KILEY
MANAGER - EDITOR

DONALD R. STEWART
ADVERTISING MANAGER

WINONA WOODS
ASST. MANAGER - BUSINESS

VICTOR HOWARD
PLANT SUPERINTENDENT

Member of
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In Our Opinion . . .

How Many Apartments Should We Have?

What ratio of multi-family home development to single family dwellings is healthy for a community such as Farmington is or ought to be, is a question. This is the question that we feel officials of both Farmington City and Township are going to have to work diligently to seek an answer to from every possible source. As it stands now it appears to us that there are only about two factors upon which officials are basing their decisions to approve or reject re-zoning requests to permit multiple family housing developments. These are the amount of objections that are voiced and with what vigor by surrounding property owners and the officials' own personal feelings as to whether or not their decisions would be detrimental in the particular area.

An area might be very suitable for apartments and the plans of the developer show that it is to be a very high class type of unit that is proposed, but this is not enough. The highest class and best looking building in an area, whether it be commercial, industrial or residential, can become rundown and develop into a community eyesore and problem spot fast if there is not a real need for this building.

If there are figures available showing the number of multiple family homes Farmington can support we haven't seen them.

In the past couple of years a lot of apartment development has taken place in the City of Farmington. Still more is underway or contemplated on parcels already zoned for such use and there are more parcels of this type of use in the Township, one or two good sized parcels are already zoned for multiple family development and another piece of property is currently being considered for re-zoning to be used for this purpose.

We would venture to say that there are a few remaining areas in the City and numerous areas in the Township which might be determined to be suitable locations for apartment developments. But, to continue with the present pattern of re-zoning these parcels as requests come in with little regard for whether there is a real need or not could prove very detrimental to our community.

We are not opposed to quality type apartment developments in our community and feel that if reasonable assurances can be given that more and more apartments can be built and kept occupied with a good class of people then they should be allowed to be built. If re-zoning to get the right locations is needed then it should be done.

The fact that various owners of some good sized parcels of land in our community are presently finding it hard to develop their properties as they are now zoned is no basis for allowing re-zoning to permit the construction of apartment buildings there, however.

We can see a real advantage to allowing multi-family housing in areas where it would serve as a buffer between residential sections and areas zoned commercial or industrial nearby. To allow the over building of multiple housing units in situations such as this would be grossly wrong and very detrimental to the community as a whole, however.

The ratio of need for multiple housing compared to single family development for the ideal type of community we want Farmington to be has got to be established and we say that local officials should try to do this as quickly as possible.

Stand Up for the Views You Express

Letters to the Editor are something which this newspaper has always encouraged and will continue to do since the feeling of the paper's management has long been that this is a newspaper for the community and its citizens.

Each week we take a portion on our editorial page and use up valuable news columns to present our own views on community matters or subjects which we feel should be of interest to our readers. We feel that our readers should also have some space to express their views in the same manner.

We receive many fine letters expressing views on a variety of subjects and publish them even though they may contain statements or thoughts completely contrary to ours. Unfortunately, however, we find it necessary not to publish many letters which are submitted to us. What many do not seem to know or understand is that anything said in a newspaper, whether it is written by us or someone else, is our responsibility. The newspaper can be held equally as libelous for statements against individuals, governing boards or groups that cannot be backed up with facts to prove the statements as the party writing the letter or expressing the view himself.

This is why we must insist on every letter to the Editor being signed. Letters which we receive without signatures are automatically rejected by us, therefore. Those who ask that their names be withheld for good reasons we oblige. Far too many want to abuse this "withholding of name" privilege, however. They asked that their names be withheld only because they do not want to defend their own position on a matter or statements against someone but want us to express it for them to our many readers and then defend their views for them as well. This we feel we have a justifiable right to refuse to do.

Other letters to the Editor which we reject are those which deal with subjects having only limited personal interest and are not likely to be of real interest to our readers as a whole.

If you have an opinion to express or a complaint to voice to the Farmington public, put it down in writing in a letter to the Editor for us to publish. Let it be known that they are your views, however, allowing us to use your name on the letter as printed.

Should it be a letter that is critical of an individual or body, then back up your statements with some written documents to prove what you say is true or at least with the names and addresses of some authoritative people who can substantiate your claims.

Don't ask us to argue your cause if you aren't man or woman enough to stand up and argue it for yourself.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

OCTOBER 23, 1958
Homecoming Queen
The Farmington High School Homecoming Queen for 1958, Miss Myrtis Berling, was crowned in ceremonies at the Falcon's victory dance on Friday evening. The Falcon's defeated their strongest rival for the Inter-Lakes Conference grid title in the afternoon to remain undefeated in league play.

Big Debate Looms
The question whether the proposed City of Farmington Woods should be established in Farmington Township will be the subject of a debate this Monday night, October 27, with the Farmington Township Citizens Committee taking the negative argument. The League of Subdivision Associations is sponsoring the debate in the public interest.

United-Fund Drive
Farmington United Foundation Torch Drive volunteers collected one-third of their 1958 goal of \$1,785 during their first week of soliciting. \$5,333.10 was the amount collected as of Monday, this week.

10 Years Ago

OCTOBER 22, 1953
Takes Basic
Private Donald P. O'Keefe, son of Mr. and Mrs. O'Keefe of 2270 Power Road in Farmington, has completed Army basic training conducted at the Third Armored Division base in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Parking Lot Site
The City of Farmington started action this week to acquire property south of Grand River Avenue and east of Farmington Road to be used as a parking lot for the public.

New Church
A new church will have its birth in Farmington this Sunday, October 25, when Rev. Richard A. Geiger opens First Presbyterian service in the new Farmington High School on Shawnee Avenue.

Hunting Deputy
Farmington Township Police Officer Irving Yakola killed moose today that Thomas Schreiber has been appointed deputy police man to assist during the hunting season.

15 Years Ago

OCTOBER 21, 1948
FHS Downs Civille
The Farmington High School Falcons defeated their neighborhood rival Clarenceville, 14-0, with a second half offensive showing early both teams had played a fairly tight ball. It was the third straight victory of the young season for the Falcon strikers.

Little Sale Opens
When you're in Farmington on Friday to do your shopping, don't forget to include a stop at the Farmington Town Hall on your rounds of the local store. For this Friday, October 22, is the date of the second annual Little Sale, sponsored by the Town Club.

Cut-Off Speed Limit
The Farmington City Commission has passed a resolution recommending to the State Highway Commission that a speed zone be established on the Farmington - Grand River Cut-Off of 45-miles-per-hour.

Statewide Editor
Clifford McNamee has joined the staff of the Farmington Enterprise as Editor.



Home In Old Homestead

MARY CHECKETTS
Phone 474-5705

The stork wheeled slowly over the subdivision last Tuesday evening, Oct. 15, with an eye out for the brightly lighted house where he was to drop off the large bundle he was carrying. The load was a heavy one and he would be glad to get rid of it. He spotted the house he was looking for and landed on the roof and left quickly after delivering the triplets to Gipsy-Bird and Ann Franklin's porch—two little male puppies and one beautiful silver female.

In the meantime, the anti-aircraft guns situated around my home were trying to zero in on that elusive bird with no luck. However, by the time you will have read this I will be home from St. Mary's Hospital of a couple of days.

IT'S LATER than you think, the frost has been on the pumpkin. Our pumpkins at any rate! October's warm, bright - blue days have literally been flying by, and the fall harvest is nearly over! Halloween is just a week off for all the goblins and ghosts. Don't forget to stop by and have some refreshments at the Bouffard's when you're out on Halloween evening. There'll be St. Alban's Catholic Church.

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 views of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Figures Tell Many Different Stories . . .

Dear Sir:

Traditionally, economic statistics are quoted in the form most favorable to the views of the person quoting. Therefore it is not surprising that the "Michigan Tradesman," quoted in your editorial of October 17, should use absolute figures on federal expenditures and gross public debt.

To place these figures into a meaningful context, one must consider the simultaneous rise in the Gross National Product (GNP), which is a measure of all produced goods and services, and also the steady increase in the Net National Worth (NNW), which is the market value of all assets owned by residents of a country. A representative sampling of these figures yields the following table:

Year	Federal Expenditures (as % of GNP)	National Debt (as % of GNP)	National Debt (as % of NNW)
(W.W. II)	12.0%	49.2%	6.8%
1945	45.2%	121.3%	37.8%
(Korean War)	13.4%	77.6%	about 21%
1953	20.3%	72.8%	20.0%
1961	15.8%	55.8%	about 14%

Thus federal expenditures are only slightly higher in percentage than in 1933, while the national debt as a percentage of economic activity has been dropping almost continuously since World War II.

The same people who constantly criticize alleged federal fiscal irresponsibility sometimes tell us that government should be run like a business, sometimes instead they suggest that the federal budget should be handled like one's family budget. I happen to disagree, since the functions of the family, the business, and the government are quite different. But for the sake of argument let us consider the federal figures for 1962, scaled down to a family of four. That family's share of the Gross Public Debt is \$8,400, but its share of the Gross National Product is \$11,500, and its fraction of the Net National Worth is \$45,200. Is it really fiscal irresponsibility for a family, or a business with assets of \$45,000 and gross annual income nearly \$12,000, to carry a \$8,400 mortgage?

Yours truly,
Edward C. McIrvine

EDITOR'S REPLY: It is often said, and rightly so, that a smart man can make figures say just about anything he wants to.

Some subscribe to the philosophy that the more you make the more you should spend. This, in reality, nearly always happens but many times it is carried recklessly so far.

In 1941 the Federal expenditure per capita was running \$100. In 1951 it was running \$285 per capita and in 1962 it was \$470 per capita. Only in the years of World War II has it run any higher than the 1952 figure.

West Point Park News

Miss L. A. Ault GR. 4-4294

At their home on Hubbard Ave. Saturday evening, Oct. 12, Mr. and Mrs. R. Stevens held a reception honoring their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stevens. The young couple were married in California on September 21 and were stopping off on their way to Connecticut, where Ted, who is a member of our Armed Forces, is to be located for a time. Nearly ninety relatives, friends and neighbors dropped in at the Stevens home to extend their congratulations to the bride and groom.

Sunshine Sisters met at Neighborhood Sunday School last Wednesday afternoon. The program consisted of the reading of clippings taken from literature provided for the use of children in Sunday School. The next Sunshine meeting will be held Wednesday, October 30. Halloween will be the theme and the group will fill "Treat Bags" to be distributed to the sick and shut-ins.

The Cecil Willeits, Mayfield Ave., are vacationing in northern Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Stevens and their son, John, of Hubbard Ave., are now on vacation in northern Michigan.

The Raisanen family of Brolton Rd. spent last weekend in northern Michigan.

With his final discharge from the U.S. Army, Rickey Stevens, son of the Hubbard Ave. Stevens, will arrive home soon.

The Forrest Aults, Kentucky St., spent last weekend in northern Michigan.

Mr. Lester Bell of Norfolk Ave. has been a flu victim this week. Mrs. Maurice Myers, who, as the result of an auto accident has been a patient in St. Mary's Hospital, is now returned home for further convalescence.

George MacArthur, who recently underwent surgery at Pentecost General Hospital, has now returned to his home on Shady Side Ave. and is feeling fine.

Members of the Hobby Club are now interested in the sewing of furs. As usual, they met for a busy session at the Reddy home on Shady Side Ave. Thursday afternoon.

Goodwill Industries from Detroit collect household discards.

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