

The Farmington Enterprise

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In Our Opinion . . .

'Poor' Cries from Detroit Not Based on Facts

We have been following with considerable interest Detroit Mayor Cavanagh's comments in the press and on television during the past week and a half. His remarks have been a mixture of fiscal year budget and for continuing to collect one cent on the dollar in income tax not only on residents of the city but non-residents working there as well.

In truly political fashion, he has been attempting to make everyone believe that Detroit will fall into the depths of economic chaos unless his budget wishes are met and the City of Detroit is allowed to continue to collect its unjust one percent income tax on non-residents.

You don't have to analyze the matter too extensively to see that Mayor Cavanagh's cry of possible economic chaos for Detroit is not in any way based on sound facts.

First of all, his proposed budget will reflect an anticipated surplus of nearly \$4 million for the current fiscal year due to good economic conditions, to carry into the new 1965 year operating budget. Many suburban communities such as Farmington, we are sure, would have liked to have had a proportionate amount of percentages of surplus to carry into their new year's budget. Most have found it very difficult to find any good sized surpluses to carry into their following year's budgets for some time now.

His proposed budget will allow a 40c per \$1,000 of assessed valuation decrease in the present tax levy rate. In Farmington and nearly all other suburban communities around Detroit for the past several years noting that they required have none nothing but go up.

It is also expected that if Cavanagh is successful in getting his wishes satisfied it will be possible to completely wipe out by next June a remaining \$10 million deficit which Detroit has. We in the suburbs who have had to go into financing sewer and water plants and facilities as more and more new schools would like very much to be able to wipe out these debts fast as easily.

While population has been skyrocketing in the suburbs, it has actually been decreasing in the City of Detroit proper and less and less people seem to be going into core Detroit to shop or find their entertainment these days. Despite this fact, the Detroit mayor sees need to spend over a quarter of a million dollars more in his proposed budget to provide some 100 civilians to do desk work and act as road crossing guards so as to free 100 more patrolmen for street duty. Substantial raises for both police and firemen are also called for in his proposed budget as well as raises for all other city employees.

Meanwhile most suburban communities are finding it impossible to come anywhere near to meeting Detroit's pay scale for their police and firemen. Furthermore, the ratio of policemen and firemen per capita in Farmington and other suburban communities comes nowhere near equalling Detroit's.

The only solution we seem to have for getting even the minimum amount of police and fire-fighter protection is to go out and ask property owners to absorb even more of a tax burden to provide the same, such as Farmington Township will be doing on May 15 of this year.

Despite all these facts, Mayor Cavanagh still cries poor-and insists that the state legislature would be dealing Detroit a very drastic financial blow if it should allow his city to collect only one half of one percent in income taxes from suburban dwellers working in Detroit in the future.

What kind of a financial blow does he feel was dealt to suburban areas when the one percent income tax to support Detroit was assessed against many non-residents? This added tax load to help support Detroit has made it just that much harder for suburban communities to get their citizens to approve additional tax levies to provide the services badly needed in their own communities.

It's high time a lot more suburban officials get up in arms and start calling Mayor Cavanagh and other Detroit officials on their tactics, in our opinion. Detroit is in a pretty favorable financial position compared to a lot of suburban communities around it.

Having Trained Administrator Is Valuable

There is real value in having an experienced administrator running the operations and affairs of just about any type of business and the operations of a community's governmental unit or units is no exception.

The value of having such a trained administrator is exemplified in many ways. One of these is in the preparation of an operating budget which is both realistic and detailed enough to give a true course of direction.

For the past three years now, the City of Farmington has had such a budget. Our hats are off this week to City Manager John Dinan who again this year has come up with an excellently prepared and easily understandable proposed budget.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

APRIL 16, 1959

Mayor Re-Elected

Farmington Mayor Robert Lindbert was re-elected by the voting councilmen at their first meeting. V. O. Bates was re-named Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Hugo "Pete" Peterson was named to the planning board and Howard Thayer was named to the board of appeals.

Clyde Beatty

Five years ago, Farmington City's Department of Public Works had a crew of just six men. Jean Brown, Marvin B. (foreman), Glenn Green, Howard Pangel, Bill Speller and Clyde Beatty. Now Clyde is the only man still actively working for the city and the crew has been expanded to a force of more than a dozen men. Clyde is the man you'll most likely see around town driving the city's road grader.

Hamlin Re-Elected

Delos Hamlin of Farmington has been re-elected chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. Nine new members of the board were selected, including Curtis H. Hall, of Farmington Township.

10 Years Ago

APRIL 15, 1954

Baseball for Boys

Contributions came in from civic organizations and clubs this week to support the 1954 Farmington Little League program. Donating some of the checks on behalf of their organizations were: Mrs. Charles Gierke, president of the Farmington Club; Phil Thomas, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; and Bob Lindbert, president of the Farmington Exchange Club. Receiving the checks on behalf of the Little League were their treasurer, Gene Hayes.

Mayor's Exchange

Farmington Mayor Kenneth R. Loomis and Village President Luther L. Daines of Paw Paw will exchange offices on May 15, one-day 5 or 6 or 7 as part of the observance of Michigan Week.

School Budget

The Farmington Township School District budget for the fiscal year, 1954-55, has been approved at \$978,912 by the Board of Education. This is an increase of \$25,000 over the school operating budget of last year.

15 Years Ago

APRIL 14, 1949

Baseball Opener

The Farmington High School baseball team will open its 1949 season this week against neighborhood rivals, the Trojans of Clarenceville High School, on April 19 at 4 p.m. on the Falcon diamond.

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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.

Wants Wider 8 Mile

The following is a copy of a letter which was sent to R. W. Ogston, Traffic Engineer for the Board of County Road Commissioners in Oakland County, Michigan, the widening of Eight Mile Road from Grand River to Midland. A copy was also sent to us for publication.

Dear Mr. Ogston:

Thank you for your reply to my letter in regard to the widening of Eight Mile Road and Midland.

I believe that with the new Botsford Hospital being completed, and with the new shopping centers at Seven Mile Road and Midland, along with many other factors, that preservation of the health of residents in the area of the community and to eliminate traffic load which does cause disability and many times times. We should consider an ambulance with an emergency case headed for Botsford Hospital, running into a traffic bottleneck which could be eliminated by a small expenditure of money. As a physician I can readily see how it could cost the life of a patient. In my thinking the widening project could be limited to the intersection between Eight Mile Road and Midland, and Eight Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

I am fully aware that the traffic survey has been made, but I would like to see a new one for the reconsideration of those who have the power to say "yes" or "no". It is important that action be taken before the Botsford Hospital is completed, and ready for occupancy of patients. The writer is aware that some effort has been made in the past to widen Eight Mile Road, with its eventual connections to Whitnore Lake, but to date no action has been taken. Acute needs, serious thought

Teamwork Needed

Dear Editor,

The Westbrook P.T.A. Pan-Cake Supper and White Elephant Sale which was held on April 8 was a success.

Anyone who has donated time and effort towards a community project knows the elation that comes with spirited teamwork. One may ask—what does teamwork mean personally? I believe it is the realization of getting together with friends, neighbors and strangers in a project where each cannot have complete success without the other and bringing it to a good conclusion.

In this project we could not have done without the leadership, the Service Squad Girls assistance at the tables, the willingness of the parents and teachers who worked at preparing the supper, the serving of so many people, the very nice items sent in for the White Elephant Sale and the help of the neighbors who donated and last but not least the support of everyone who bought a ticket.

I personally hope that every one attending enjoyed their part.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. George Nikorak
Publicity, Westbrook P.T.A.

A Great Man's Passing Leaves Much to Ponder

The recent death of General Douglas MacArthur gave many citizens a renewed opportunity to review the life and achievements of this great American hero. As a soldier and statesman of the highest order he has left much to be pondered and to us to reflect upon; his legacy is our birthright.

The Farmington Enterprise published an article written about General MacArthur back in 1942 entitled, "I am a Soldier . . . but I am prouder to be a Father." This article was brought to our attention last week by Tracy Conroy and we think it is particularly apropos now to review the life and achievements and the memory of this great man's passing still very much with us. The substance of that article is as follows:

Upon learning that he had been chosen by the National Father's Day Committee as the "Outstanding American Father of the Year" General Douglas MacArthur said:

"Nothing has touched me more deeply than the act of the National Father's Day Committee. By profession I am a soldier and take pride in that fact, but I am prouder, infinitely prouder, to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build. The father only builds, never destroys. The one has the potentialities of death, the other embodies creation and life. And while the soldier's death are mighty, the battles of life are mightier still. My hope is that my son, when I am gone, will remember me not from the battle but in the home repeating with him our simple daily prayer, 'Our Father Who art in Heaven.'"

Story of Alaska's Earthquake Told by Local Man Who was There

(Editor's note: The following is a first hand report from the floor and there watching all the drama of the earthquake which survived the tremendous earthquake of March 20 which struck the state of Alaska. The author of the letter is 28-year-old Larry Morris, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Morris, 2380 State Street, Farmington. Larry Morris and his wife live in the small community of Spenard, Alaska which is located just north of Anchorage, the city hardest hit by the earthquake.)

Dear Folks:

I've now got a full day ahead of me with no work in view until tomorrow so I can write and give you more details on our doing after the quake. We've been pretty busy getting things straightened up around town and, as far as my job goes, we're working some days on the quake repairs. Buildings that have been damaged by the building inspectors and rebuilding some of the hundreds of chimneys and fireplaces that topped over.

Friday, the 27th, I got home from work a little before 5 and sat down to read the paper. Dorothy fixed supper. We were going to have something quick—pizza—because we wanted to go downtown to a movie at 6:30. I washed up while the pizza was heating and we sat down to eat about 5:20. We had just finished the first pizza and were waiting for the second one to finish baking when the floor started to roll and the house shook in general.

After about the first two jolts I could see that this wasn't going to be an ordinary quake. We had had one about ten days before and I didn't feel it at all. Now, limbs fell over as did the top of the refrigerator and stove started to jump around. I told Dorothy to grab her pants (parakeets that were in the house started to fly around) and run for the bedroom. I had decided the best place to ride the thing out was the bed. Also, there was no furniture to fall on us in there.

We live in a frame, one story apartment and I wasn't worried about the roof coming down. The house was really rolling and pitching by this time and I guess I had my arm around Dorothy trying to steer her toward the bedroom door. She was really making much progress in that direction. It was hard to stand up because when we tried to step the floor wasn't there. We picked our feet up the floor jumped up to meet them.

I took the bird cage from Dorothy and led her through the doorway. I put the cage on the floor. The yellow from the

the floor and we piled onto the house next door said he couldn't tell anything had happened by looking inside his house because he always kept house that way.

Then the word was passed around that there was an earthquake and we realized that things might be worse than we expected.

(To Be Continued Next Week)

This is a vintage year for three-axle drivers. The Institute for Safer Living of the American Mutual Life Insurance Company, estimates that three million new drivers will be taking to the road this year, more than for any past year.

It seemed as though the earth and suddenly turned into a bowl of jello and someone kept giving the bowl a violent shake. Things that we had always considered substantial and solid were bending and rippling as though they were made of rubber. As humans, we felt puny and insignificant. After what seemed to be a long time, the tremors started to decrease in force and the time between them grew longer. Everything in the house slowly stopped moving and settled back down. Dorothy dried a few tears. (She was understandably terrified), and we went to the living room and looked out the front window. The telephone poles and trees as well as the trees were still waving and people were starting to pour out of their doorways to shake their heads and make sure they had experienced much progress in that direction. It was hard to stand up because when we tried to step the floor wasn't there. We picked our feet up the floor jumped up to meet them.

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Offer Classes For Diabetics

The fourth series of classes for diabetics and their families will be offered again by the new Botsford General Hospital, Farmington.

This series of classes will be held at Farmington Senior High School, Shawassawee and Ordway streets, M.S. A.D.A., Executive Dietitian, and Dr. John Collins, Registered Nurse.

The classes will be from 7:30 a.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, May 12; Tuesday, May 19; Tuesday, May 26; Tuesday, June 2; and Tuesday, June 9.

The classes will stress the importance of the diabetic's cooperation with his physician and the responsibility of the patient in taking for himself, in order to lead a healthy and useful life.

DIABETICS MUST have the written approval of their physician to attend these classes. Class enrollment is limited to 20.

To register, please call the Oakland County Health Department, 2322 E. Park Road, Farmington, Mich. 48335. Mrs. Meiers, Dietitian, Tel. 6-6400 - Ext. 82.

FLORAL PARK

E. R. PHILLIPS
GR. 4-6575

Mrs. Blanche Smith of 23475 Violet just returned from a trip to South Bend, Indiana. Her nephew, N. Boyer of that city was seriously ill. She saw several of her nieces and nephews at that time including also a brother and his wife that flew in from Anaheim, California.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Officer John O. Butler of 2315 Orchard Lake Road. Our fellow Floral Park resident will be missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

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