

The Farmington Enterprise

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PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be held upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.



News from Kimberley

JUDY BURNS GR. 4-3112
Lin and Maribel Chalmers recently spent five days at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, as Lin attended the North American Life Insurance Company convention.

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In Our Opinion

Let's Keep Them Public But Well Controlled

Time and time again over the past several years we have been at public meetings of governmental boards where controversial matters have been up for discussion and seen them get completely out of hand with sharp clashes developing and tempers flaring.
The end result often is that the whole purpose for public discussion on the pros and cons of a subject is lost and decisions are made without all the facts being brought to light and weighed objectively.
We have seen it happen before the township board, township zoning board, city council, city planning commission and zoning board of appeals and just about every governing or advisory body there is to name.
It seems to us that it might be well for all of our elected and appointed governing officials to make a thorough review of Robert's Rules of Order and study carefully the details of parliamentary procedure that have been set down. Then it should be insisted upon that they be followed whenever there is public discussion at a governmental meeting on any matter.
We have noted that many times governing body officials are equally as guilty of violating prescribed parliamentary procedure as are citizens in the audience desirous of being heard.
Letting everyone be heard who wants to is important but we also feel it is important to set time limits and that these time limits should apply equally as much to members on boards as to those in the audience wanting to be heard. Repeating and stating the same things frequently waste a lot of time. A good chairman properly versed in procedure should rule the offender down

immediately whether he be a board or commission member or a citizen in the audience.
A word that seems to be sticking in our throat more and more strongly of late is "executive sessions." It appears to us that a number of rather controversial subject matters of major public interest are getting thrashed out behind closed doors by our boards and the action when it comes at official public meetings is pretty well "out and dried."
Perhaps these matters should not be opened up to public discussion but we feel that they should at least be aired at a public meeting where citizens can sit in and listen to the pro and con points voiced before the final decision is made.
We are appealing to our local governing boards of all them—to start observing parliamentary procedure more closely. We are also appealing for fewer "executive sessions" and for more controversial subjects to be aired at public meetings even if it is deemed necessary to forewarn citizens in the audience of an ensuing discussion on the matters under consideration.
Stormy public meetings are no more appealing to us than they are to members of any of our local governing and advisory boards. But with proper parliamentary procedure insisted upon we do feel that meetings where controversial matters came up for discussion need to be overly stormy or to get completely out of hand.
It appears to us, as the result of statements that we are hearing from citizens with more and more insistence, that we look to the members of all our governing boards to reassure the citizenry that actions being taken and decisions being made are "up and above board."

Township Zoning Board's Procedure Strongly Objected To By A Citizen

Dear Sir:
Turn back the calendar and come with me to the regular monthly open meeting of the zoning board held at the Farmington Township Hall on 11 Mile Road on the evening of April 23 where a standing-room-only crowd witnessed such a scene of unbecoming conduct and a moment a stunned silence filled the room—the realization of what had been perpetrated by a Michigan citizen. The zoning board as one and formed into scattered groups of angry citizens asking one another, "Where do these matters come from? There must be SOMETHING we can do!"
The proceedings were managed so skillfully, it leaves a person in amazement that the zoning board meeting had been carefully planned in advance.
An organization owns a piece of land in our township. The zoning board has approved the dwellings in an area zoned for single family dwellings. The organization wants to build a multiple family home. Being owners of the section of land, they have the right to try to build what they desire on it.
The great majority of the residents surrounding this property, whether they are for or against zoning, are against "spot zoning." Our state law also forbids it, as there are many very good reasons why this is undesirable. These reasons are: right to protect their interests and property values.
The zoning board (all of whom are appointed) are in the middle. It is up to them to decide who will be the winner in this tug-of-war.
According to their rules of procedure, both sides must be heard at an open public hearing, with an open question and answer period following. Then the zoning board will vote on the case—at the open meeting—and makes its decision. (Or at least this is what the board did us at the March hearing.)
The first hearing was indecisive, because the proponents were unable to answer many of the residents' questions. They asked for more time to prepare, so the board postponed action until the next monthly meeting.
At the second hearing, the proponents did not show up. The residents, unaware that the proposal had been rejected and received a further extension of time, were there in full force. Many questions could not be answered because the proponents were not there. The board instructed the public to restate those questions at the next open hearing, when they promised—on the condition that the board would be well-informed.
At the third hearing, the proponents were there as promised. Their representation had a been carefully prepared and was well-documented. They had the advantage of a month's time to think over and plan their rebuttal to the residents' questions. They were introduced by the residents at the second hearing. (Although the proponents had been absent at the second hearing, they had had a mouse under someone's chair—for much of their presentation was a definite repeat of the expert opinions advanced at the second hearing.)
At the conclusion of the proponents' representation, the board opened a meeting for questions stipulating that since there had been a great deal of discussion at the two previous hearings, only new questions or testimony would be recognized. (Did they forget that many previous questions were still unanswered, and that they had not heard the testimony they should be registered now?)
It seemed increasingly significant that the board readily recognized and politely "heard" the speaker for the proponents, while they ignored many hands of residents desiring recognition.
More questions were disallowed. The board closed the question-and-answer period with questions still to be answered. Later I discovered, much to my consternation, that the board at the board table who was doing most of the talking and seemed to be directing the proceedings is not a member of the board and is the law partner of the lawyer representing the proponents. This seemed to me to be a highly unusual arrangement.
The gentlemen at the board table then held a brief meeting and decided that since two board members were absent during the meeting until a executive session could be held with all members present. A resident spoke up and demanded to know of the board if the executive session would be open to the public. The answer was a simple, loud NO!
These last moments must have been embarrassing for the good people who had consented to come and speak in behalf of the proponents.
"Forgetting for a moment many individual desires and arguments, at least two large questions remain unanswered."
Laid side by side on the scales of justice, which should overshadow — an organization whose members live outside our township, or hundreds of our resident taxpayers whose main assets are tied up in their homes?
Which fact should deserve precedence—a letter dated November 17, 1956 over the signature of a zoning board member promising issuance of a permit, or a Michigan citizen who forbids the thing that would be necessary to issue the permit—zoning?
If you have read this far, you may have decided this was either over-dramatic or some sort of a crack-pot. Perhaps—in the weeks since the zoning board was so carefully described above, casual inquiries have been made and there have evoked some surprising responses:
"Don't talk to ME about the zoning board—we've been all through that in our neighborhood and it didn't get us anywhere."
"I know what you mean—we fought against a golf course with apartment buildings right across the highway from our neighborhood, with petitions and everything, and it went through anyway."
"That's nothing—I know a couple who live in a nice neighborhood of brick houses and the property behind them was rezoned to light industry. So, 7 feet from her back fence will be a plant 17 feet high that will be there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."
"Is it possible that under the guise of what's good for the goose, we've been a bit-bit being desecrated and property values lowered? Is there a 'conflict of interests' in the zoning board? Is this 'city planning'?"
Neighbor, don't say your area or subdivision "it can't happen here"—it has, it does, and it can.
A. L. Scaglione

declined the honor. Doug won a color TV in a raffle while attending the convention!
Mary Throgmorton was on the vacation circuit Memorial Day weekend accompanying husband Bob on business to Pittsburgh, where she fell down the motel steps and broke her ankle!
The east department also includes Ken Jamison (again), who now has a broken big toe in a cast on the same leg that is already in a cast from his automobile accident six weeks ago!

A DOZEN RED ROSES to Alice O'Daniel, who underwent open heart surgery on June 9 as a result of her stroke early last month. Alice will be in Harper hospital for several weeks, and then faces many months of convalescence at home.
Ricky and John Horst are doing fine after tonsilectomies at Mount Carmel on June 6.
The gorgeous floral centerpieces for the recent subdivision dance were master-engineered by Dorothy Byers and designed by Jackie Mathot, Peg Lukey, Verna McGlory, Maria Topp, Belle Brees, Sara Derdarian, Marib Chalmers, Nancy O'Malley, Irene Schooley, Marion Olson, and Sandy Cullen. Alice will be a future daughter-in-law.
Sunday painters (amateur and otherwise) will have their heyday at an informal art exhibit at Beechview pool in July. Anyone interested in showing their work are invited to call Margaret Grabowski, 476-1885, or Patsy Smith, 474-0497.
Congratulations are in order for Mike and Sally Klein, budding button over 6 pound, 15 ounce Catty Ann, born on Memorial Day at Stant Hospital. Catty has a big brother, Lewis, 4, and her proud grandparents are Mrs. Gertrude Klein of Detroit, Mrs. Howard Coby of Romeo, Michigan, Mike's father, and Mrs. Irene LaPointe of Detroit, Sally's mother.
VERNA AND HOWARD McGLORY and their five boys, Dennis, Scott, Brian, Bruce and Robert, moved from Kimberley on June 12. Howard has taken a new job as sales manager for the Diamond Products Division of the Elgin Watch Company, and the McGlory's new home is in Elgin, Illinois.
Goodbye will soon be in order to Gene and Beva Welner and their three children, Billy and twins Linda and Lee. The Welners have been transferred

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Planning a trip? Before you pack up, pick up the phone and let folks know when to expect you. You'll avoid the disappointment of finding them away from home when you arrive. And of course it's equally important to phone ahead when a hotel or motel is your destination. And when you arrive, why not phone the folks at home? They'll be glad to hear you arrived safely. It doesn't cost much to keep in touch by Long Distance—use it often.

BE OUT-OF-DOORS without being out-of-luck when the phone rings. Ever miss out on an important call because you were out in the yard and couldn't hear the phone ring? It won't happen again if you'll just ask your Telephone Man to install a Bell Chime ringer. This device can be set to ring extra loud when you're outside. Then when you're indoors the Bell Chime can be set to announce calls with soft, melodious notes that will soothe your ear—or set for your regular telephone "ring." Order yours today. Just call our Business Office.

Beware of Anonymous Literature

We received in the mail a short time ago three or four copies of a small handbill containing statements alleged to have been made by Abraham Lincoln.
At the top in big letters the small handbill read, "LINCOLN SAID" and at the bottom "At Charleston, Ill., 9/8/1858."
The statements that were alleged to have been made by Lincoln read as follows:
"I am not, nor have ever been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races."
"I am not, nor have ever been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people."
"I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which, I believe, will forever forbid the two races living together in social and political equality."
"And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together, there must be the position of the superior, and the inferior, and I am, as much as any

man, in favor of the superior position being assigned to the white race."
The fact that such hate literature came to us in a plain envelope with no return address and bearing only a Detroit postmark and our address made our blood boil then and still does every time we look at the anonymous little green sheet. All anonymous letters or statements seem to affect us this way for we feel that anyone who believes what he is saying or passing along should have guts enough to identify himself with the statements.
We had done a little checking around and have found none who seem to know about Lincoln ever having made such statements as these. We would like to meet face to face with anyone who can prove to us that Lincoln ever did make these statements.
Our knowledge of Lincoln makes it hard to believe that he ever did say such things.
Beware of anonymous letters, handbills and the like. Most of the time they are gross lies, half truths or facts badly twisted to make a point seem to be something it is not.

Gets S. African Ford Post Assignment

William F. Sankovich of Greythorne Trail in Farmington has been named secretary-treasurer for the Ford Motor Co. operations in South Africa. It was announced this week.
Prior to this assignment, Sankovich was manager of the profit and loss international division at the Ford central office building.
He will be leaving for South Africa later this month with his wife, Jean, and their daughter, Linda, 15 years old.
Michigan ranks third or higher in production of more than 30 important crops, although ranking only 22nd in land area.

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Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago
JUNE 18, 1959
Librarian
Mrs. Florence Leach has resigned her position as librarian of the Farmington Library, effective July 1. She will be succeeded by Mrs. Mildred Droegge. Mrs. Leach has served the Library faithfully for more than 20 years.
Local News Items
Janet Boushka of Glenview Drive has received his Master's degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois. Jim graduated from Farmington High School in 1954 and from the University of Michigan in 1958.
Botsford Inn
Historical Botsford Inn in Farmington is now undergoing a major program, handicapped program, it was announced this week by owner John Anbut. The new plans call for adhering strictly to the architectural program. The inn will add, among other facilities, a total of 16 luxury rooms and a long-top upper and lower veranda extending the entire length of the inn.
10 Years Ago
JUNE 17, 1954
Jaycee Officers
New officers for the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce were installed at special ceremonies held last week. The new officers are: William Clarke, president; William Connor, first vice president; Donald Pierson, second vice president; Charles Bridges, secretary; Paul Brant, treasurer. New members on the Jaycee Board of Directors are John Courville and Phil Thomas, retiring president.
Special Education
Voters of Farmington unanimously approved the special education proposal on the ballot in the annual school election held Monday. Under the proposed program, handicapped children will be provided with therapy at special facilities set up within the school district.
Traffic Accidents
One person was killed and a total of eleven others injured in five separate automobile accidents reported in Farmington Township this past week.
15 Years Ago
JUNE 16, 1949
School Board
Curtis H. Hall and Samuel B. Turner won election to the Board of Education in the election held Monday.
Record City Budget
The Farmington City Commission approved a record budget of \$9,337 following the annual City budget meeting held last Friday. Last year's budget was \$85,630.
FBS Commencement
A total of 83 seniors were graduated from Farmington Senior High School last Thursday.
Store-Bought Oil
An economy-minded citizen, deciding to save by changing his oil, probably wishes he hadn't today. After crawling beneath his car and removing a plug he saw the black sludge drain out of a dish. Everything was fine until he had to re-fill the crankcase and discovered it was still full. His server station man straightened things out for him. He'd emptied the transmission oil.