The Farmington Enterprise

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In Our Opinion

A Neighborhood Park Plan That Worked

A couple of weeks back we commented editorially on our concern over the fact that our-still undeveloped township and city areas were building up fast and that no firm provisions were being made to provide for more public parks, or open beauty areas in our fast, pace move toward total development. Our appeal was actually for a little action to provide for some public breathing areas between subdivisions.

This past week we received in the mail a note from Ruth Henry of Prospect St, which included, with it a story from "Reader's Digest" explaining how the City of Minneapolis has developed an exceptionally line network of parks and parkways over the past several years.

Minneapolis has actually developed a total of 154 beautiful park sites in its community without placing any real tax burden on the city-at-large and now has at least one park within easy walking distance of almost every house in the city, according to the article.

"A community with parks never feels crowded," one citizen was quoted as saying in the story. We're sure that most of you as citizens will agree wholeheartedly with this statement.

How'd they do it? Quite simply, they left it un to the homeowners in each of the neighborhood areas as 'they developed to provide their own neighborhood public parks by means of special assessment districts or to the developers who wanted to get a good price for their property and the homes they built on the rapid of the project-really started in Minneapolis way back in 1883 when it was A couple of weeks back we comment-

The project really started in Minne-apolis way back in 1883 when it was

reasoned that if people should pay for their own street paying, sidewalks and sewer and water facilities extended to their houses that they should also willing to pay for their own area parks on a neighborhood special assessment. Neighborhood committees in the Minieapolis area, over the years, shave apparting the park in their own neighborhood committee in the Minieapolis area, over the years, shave apparting the desired park in their own neighborhood rather, than lecking into the city general fund to provide for parks at locations the community's officials chose for such park sites.

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In one year alone, the article revealed, 46 new parks and parkways were proposed to the city by neighborhood groups and .15 of those proposed were approved. It was also brought that developers had discovered the value of having parks nearby in selling their property and the homes-they were putting up on it at a higher price. Many developers therefore agreed to donate land to the city park board if that board would agree to landscape the land area. A thousand acres, or one fifth of the whole park system, was acquired in this manner during the city's years of rapid growth.

It's an idea that sounds like it would have a lot of merit for Farmington Let's get an active park board established and start encouraging neighborhood groups to appeal for special assessment districts to provide some open spaces for public use in their own neighborhoods. What worked so well for lead-

What worked so well for land develop ers in the Minneapolis area might also catch on in this area as well.

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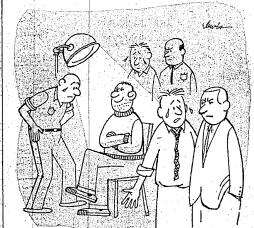
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deserve consideration as a holiday also.
Of course, the voter jam-up situation would also be helped out a lot, if all those not working would make it a point to get to their polling places during hours other than those which working people would logically, be limited to. Car pools and "free rides" service of ferred by local civic groups should be helpful in this regard if taken advantage of by the citizenry. Kids present a problem for many mothers but they always seem to get around that one pretty well when there is an important daytime social gathering coming up so they should be able to do it on election, day as well.

One thought that has been running through our mind is that election days in the State of Michigan be declared state holidays with all but essential workers being given the day off. After all, more and more companies and business places are giving their employees days off before or after holidays which fall on weekends and for a number of other reasons and we can't help but feel that election day is important enough to deserve consideration as a holiday also. Of course, the voter jam-up situation The new state election laws which call for 'a fewer number of elections with a greater number of offices to be filled on one voting date coupled with a change to the "Massachusetts" balloting system have clerks in communities all over the state 'talking to themselves and moanist!

The Balloting Dilemma Can Be Solved

have clerks in communities an oven the state 'talking to themselves and moaning.

The job of getting voters through to ballot on all the candidates for the large number of local, county, state and to be any easy task and we sympathize with the clerks and their election workers on this matter.

But, having observed a number of elections over the past several years and having visited various polling places at different times of the day, we can't help but feel that much of the problem would be maintained throughout the hours that polling places are open.

The jamen of voters seems to come at two or three period during the time the polling places for elections are open. During many times of the day, election workers are often sitting around with nothing it do do.

The new state election laws which call

as well.

Full citizen co-operation is going to be needed if we are to avoid some rather serious problems on election days coming up later this year, and that's for sure.

nothing to do.

What the real answer might be to getting a more even flow of voters throughout the voting day is not an easy one to give.

Looking Back in the Files

Public

5 Years Ago
10. Years Ago
11VY 29, 1939

Parking Plan
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