

In Our Opinion . . .

Need Shown Clearly By the Figures

Another good sized school bond issue proposal as well as two operating millage proposals will be put to a vote of Farmington School District taxpayers this fall.

As the area continues to grow residentially new school facilities must be provided as well as funds with which to operate them.

In less than ten years eight good sized bond issue proposals have been necessary in the school district to provide the additional classrooms and other facilities needed. Since 1959 four operating millage proposals have also been needed to come up with the ever increasing amount of operating funds required.

A lot of development remains to take place in the community and operating millage and bond issue proposals are going to continue to be necessary for some time yet. Improvements in the amount of money the district will be able to get in state aid may help reduce the frequency of these local proposals but sure won't eliminate their need.

Based on valuation figures for new single family home starts in Farmington City and Township for the first six months of 1965, the average home being built runs right around \$20,000. Based on the present school tax rate, the amount of school taxes each of these new homes will yield will run approximately \$325.00. But coming along with each of these new homes is between 1.7 and 2 school age children for whom classrooms must be provided and teachers and other personnel hired.

The school district's cost per child for operating the schools only is now nearing the \$500 per year mark. This means that the average new home adds between \$850 and \$1,000 in increased operating costs in the district alone not even considering the substantial outlay that must be made for new classrooms and schools.

Figuring that the school district gets 55 percent of its operating monies from state aid sources it is easy to determine that the taxes from new homes being built will not satisfy the increased school operating costs that come right along with the increased local school tax revenues.

Those who continue to insist on fighting new industrial development anywhere near their neighborhood because it is detrimental to the rural way of living they would like to have all around them should weigh this fact carefully. So should those people who vigorously oppose high class apartment developments which add good tax base but bring along with them no school age children or very few.

If we continue to develop residentially as we are presently a balanced amount of good new industrial, commercial and multiple-family development is going to be necessary or our already too high school taxes are going to shoot up very high.

A few areas may still be left in the township where \$40,000 and \$50,000 homes can justifiably be built, but we just can't expect to get enough of this high income type of residential development to offset housing starts in the \$20,000 average range to carry the tax load.

Our public school system has been and continues to be operated very economically, but the cost for teachers and other personnel continues to climb. So do the costs on building and equipping new schools. All of us in the community have an obligation to provide a good public school system and when our taxes as homeowners won't do the job, we have got to encourage and not fight other types of development that will.

Now Is The Time For Conservation

In a recent issue of the Enterprise we published a story about the Ann Arbor schools are doing in the conservation field. We were favorably impressed with the presentation made by Dr. Bill Stapp, conservation consultant for the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and most interested in the low cost of providing the outdoor "laboratories" on the school sites.

It is our hope that some group in Farmington — possibly a committee of members of the various garden clubs, beautification members, and interested citizens — will investigate the possibilities of establishing a similar program in Farmington.

The Farmington School District now owns several undeveloped school sites which have natural features worth saving. To initiate a program like the one in Ann Arbor would probably be out of the question for the school district at this point when it is faced with ever-growing needs. We are sure, however, that school administrators would be come the undertaking of the project by a citizens' group and would cooperate in every way.

We think these "nature spots" should not be limited to school sites. Planners all over the country are concerned about the disappearance of park sites and wildlife sanctuaries — and we should be concerned in Farmington. There are still many types of wildlife and nature spots in our area. However, each time a subdivision goes in, much of this, if not all, is destroyed; and each time a highway is built, more land is lost.

We're all busy "growing," but we can't wait until we're completely grown to save some of the natural settings that still exist in the area. We must act now to preserve some of the land for the future.

The idea of "parks" — with picnic tables and recreational facilities — means upkeep and the outlay of a considerable amount of money. We don't feel that parks, as such, are needed as much as we think all the more open space and outdoor living facilities. We think we need places where people can walk along quiet paths — through cool, green, leafy vegetation — places that have an occasional rustic bench where one might sit and commune with nature.

All it would take to preserve a few natural spots in Farmington would be some time and effort on the part of a few interested citizens. Dr. Stapp has offered to assist in establishing a program in Farmington and we think we should take advantage of the opportunity for his assistance. Both the city and the township should be interested in preserving some land area for this kind of use, and we would hope that they would cooperate with a citizens' committee on a project of this kind.

Looking Back in the Files

5 YEARS AGO	10 YEARS AGO	15 YEARS AGO
JULY 21, 1960 City Rehabilitation A preliminary plan for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the fringe areas around the core downtown Farmington business section will be the topic of discussion at a public hearing set for this coming Monday night.	JULY 21, 1955 Marj's Milestone Harry McCracken, Farmington Township Clerk, celebrated his 90th birthday July 14. He holds the longest tenure of service of any Township employee.	JULY 22, 1950 Heads State Group Dr. F. D. Egan, Farmington physician, has been elected President of the Michigan State Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Egan owns and operates the Grand Ten Veterinary on Grand River just west of Farmington.
No Water Ban No water ban is anticipated for the City of Farmington and in sharp contrast to a year ago, residents are continuing to use as much water as they wish in attempting to keep lawns green, swimming pools filled and flower beds moist.	"Teen Town" A newly organized club for all Farmington teenagers, met for the first time July 14 in the basement of the Salem Evangelical Church.	Gala Days Set The annual Gala Days celebration in Farmington will begin July 31. The community held its first Gala Days celebration in 1919 to welcome members of Farmington's World War I veterans.
Ne-Hill Pletcher Pat Kearney pitched a perfect no-hit game to lead his Little League Braves teammates to a 2-0 victory over the Orioles. Bill Oldershaw leads the league in batting with a healthy average of .500.	Stamen Acres Plot plans for the extension of Stamen Acres Subdivision were approved by the Farmington Township Board Monday night. The extension increases the size of the development to 98 acres with sites for a total of 118 homes.	Fire Guts Home Fire gutted the home of the Rink family at 20350 Whitlock Street in Farmington Township on Sunday night.
	City Tax Bills Farmington City Treasurer Kathryn Cotter announced this week that \$31,658.74 has been collected out of the City's total tax statement of \$61,529.85.	Swimming Program A total of 125 youngsters from area playgrounds participated in the Red Cross Swimming Program at Kent Lake with the Farmington Summer Recreation group.

The Farmington Enterprise

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New Officers Are Installed By Jaycettes

The new officers of the Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary were installed at their annual Social Night on June 15 by outgoing President, Donna Tupper.

The president for the coming year is Sally Witt. The board consists of Shirley Richardson, vice-president; Dorothy Loreth, recording secretary; Ruth Pawl, corresponding secretary; Gloria Butten, treasurer; Ann Kennedy, Carol Kurth and Sue Nameche, directors.

AT THE INAUGURAL Dinner on June 19 at Frontier Town, Sally Witt received her official pin and presented Donna Tupper with her Past-President's pin, a lovely pearl ring, and a memory book.

Also on the program was the awarding of the Sparkettes for active interest and participation in the many projects during the past year. Included among these projects were the very successful Baby-Sitting Clinic; redecoration and furnishing of the Youth Guidance Center; assistance to the Jaycettes in filling of their projects including the Jaycettes Show, "Anything Goes" placement of the Community Calendar; various community services as the Blood Bank calls, Senior Citizens transportation, sending a representative to Girls' State, making cobbler aprons and toy bags for Plymouth State Home, and sewing cancer pads.

THE MEMBERS honored with this award were Doris Baker, Gloria Butten, Ann Hanlan, Virginia Kolman, Marjorie Parin, Ruth Pawl, Pat Takliff, Shirley Richardson, Donna Tupper, Elaine Wendrick and Sally Witt.



REPORT from LANSING
State Representative
Raymond L. Baker

In the last minutes of the session, the House and Senate finally agreed on a record-setting \$820.4 million general fund budget for the fiscal year 1965-66 which began July 1.

This is about \$32 million more than recommended by Governor Romney and \$138 million more than was appropriated for the last fiscal year.

The total impact of these increases is subject to some debate. Nevertheless, it is relatively clear that the state will get by the current fiscal year without going into debt. In the long run, however, this spending trend will put the state into the red. Barring some tax action this year, it appears as though the state will be in a deficit position beginning July 1, 1967.

MAJORITY PARTY leaders have indicated that, when the session reconvenes in the fall, the revenue side of the picture will be given more serious consideration. Up to this point they have rebuffed all of the efforts toward long range fiscal integrity.

One responsible move was the dropping of some \$40 million in anti-nuclear expenditures. This could be interpreted as short range fiscal integrity in that it insures solvency for at least another year. On the other hand, it may just provide another excuse for not tackling tax reform in the fall.

THE LARGEST increase in

the new budget is contained in the school aid appropriation. State assistance to local school districts over and above earmarked funds will amount to \$206 million compared to the \$139 million for fiscal 1964-65. This came as a result of a bipartisan move which will increase per-pupil allowance and generally improve the over-all school aid formula.

At this writing the Governor has yet to sign the appropriation bills, but he is expected to approve them shortly. In most respects the budget comes very close to his original recommendations.

Twp. Chief Attends Police Convention

Farmington Township Police Chief Irving H. Yakes attended the annual Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Convention held at Caberfae Lodge in Cadillac, Michigan, June 27-30.

Chief Yakes reported some 500 chiefs of police from around the state attended the four-day convention.

Public Letter Box

Apathy Towards Dutch Elm Disease Charged by Farmington Resident

To the Editor:
Farmington Enterprise
Farmington, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Why is a subject that involves the beauty of the city as well as the township, county, state and entire country given such little importance that it merits only four lines buried in column three on page 8A of the Enterprise?

These four lines, expanded at Page One material I am referring to the article "Councilmen Ask for Many Improvements," and specifically the request of Councilman Ralph Yoder, "that greater effort be put forth to get dead and diseased Elm trees removed."

Thank you to Councilman Yoder for affording me the opportunity and giving me the incentive to write about the seriousness of this situation and the fatalistic attitude that has been taken by local authorities and many property owners in regard to it.

Our community has been generously endowed with beautiful and valuable trees of all kinds. Too great a number of these happen to be American Elms subject to the devastating Dutch Elm Disease.

This death-dealing disease, as all property owners should know, is spread from tree to tree by the Elm-bark beetle, a small, hard-shell, dark colored insect approximately one-eighth inch in length. This beetle carries the spores of a fungus which causes the cells of the tree to become plugged with a thick gummy substance resulting in eventual death.

The disease can be recognized by the sudden wilting and browning of leaves and branches beginning at the trunk and extending inward toward the trunk.

When this wilting process becomes recognizable the tree is usually infected and doomed to die.

The only defense against the spread of this disease is to recognize it early and act immediately by removing and burning the tree in the hope of destroying the bark beetles thereon; and by a program of regular spraying with effective chemicals or inoculation with the newly authorized product "Bldrin."

To my knowledge no such program has been undertaken and enforced by any local governmental agency. The State Department of Agriculture does issue condemnation proceedings but time delays in follow-up make enforcement ineffective.

Many conscientious individual property owners have tried to cope with the spread of this killing disease by spraying diligently year after year and by removing infected trees immediately only to find that others do nothing, thereby making their efforts show little progress.

In our own small, one block long subdivision on the west end of the city we have just lost a beautiful Elm over fifty years old. Last year four fine trees had to be removed. Several



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Y.W. Sets Summer Program

Registration is open for the mid-summer program at the YWCA, 25940 Grand River, which will begin the week of July 26. A variety of subjects will be offered children and teens to help fill summer hours.

The Ponytailers Program for girls 7-12 years will meet Monday and Wednesday mornings for four weeks from 9 a.m. until 12:30. Their program will include sports, crafts, creative dance, singing and games. Fridays are set aside as trip days for the group as an added attraction for those who wish to attend.

TEENS ARE HAVING a special opportunity to do something different in the Gadabouts Program for 12-17 year old girls. The Gadabouts will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays and take off on some adventurous excursions which might include anything from a "bike hike" to an overnight. Surprise events spice up the routine and the girls can help plan some of their excursions themselves. The Gadabouts Program will begin July 27 and early registration is advisable. Swimming for all age groups will continue for a second term at the Greenfield Village Pool. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning and will include boys and girls in beginners and intermediates as well as adults and the popular Mother-Tot classes.

Enrollment is open at the YWCA, 25940 Grand River, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further information may be obtained by calling KE 7-8500.

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