In Our Opinion . . .

Two Township Roadways That Need Widening

At the present time Farmington Township has only a couple of really good major artery north-south roadways and both are bottleneck two lane roads at least some of the distance that they run through the community.

We are referring to Middlebelt Road and Orchard Lake Road and both are long overdue in being widened the entire distance they extend through the township into at least three-lanes and preferably four-lanes. The more growth and development there is in the township the more serious the traffic flow problem becomes.

Some might say that Farmington Road should also be considered as a major north-south route through the township but we can't agree. A serious bottleneck situation prevails at Ten Mile and on southward through the city at least until Nine Mile and even beyond. Through traffic thus avoids this roadway.

With only Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads to serve an ever increasing density of both commercial and residential development not only in Farmington but in communities north of 14 Mile Road as well, it is our opinion that the time to get these roads widened and made into good routes for thru traffic is here now.

The Township Board is planning on giving more thorough study to strengthening its regulations to require turning lanes along the routes of these two roads and others, and we feel it's a very good move. But, these turning or deceleration lanes at the entrance-ways to new subdivisions, commercial business centers and schools will not be enough in themselves. The wider roadways are needed also.

Perhaps traffic counts that have been made don't show a definite need for these wider roadways yet. But, we have always argued and will continue to argue, that traffic counts in themselves are not the only criteria that should be used to determine when wider and safer roadways are needed.

Those of us who have to travel Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads frequently know quite well that many traffic congestion and safety problems prevail and that the condition is getting constantly worse.

With development continuing to come more rapidly, it seems rather pointless to us to delay much longer in getting the wheels in motion to get both of these roadways widened soon.

If there are such widening plans in the works now, then we would like to see the county road commission make these plans known to the citizenry of Farmington and divulge their time-table schedule on the projects.

* * * *

Treat All Re-zoning Requests Equally

A couple of weeks back we had praise for The Farmington Township Planning Commission for its "go slow" approach on re-zoning more and more land area for multiple housing developments.

Our opinion has not changed that careful consideration should be given to all requests so as not to re-zone too much land area for multiples and get more apartments than would be healthy for a community such as Farmington.

But the specific action that was taken by the planners at their August 26 meeting was to flatly deny one request for re-zoning for apartments and table two others. The one request that was denied at once rather than being tabled was for approximately 210 units to the south of a proposed shopping center on the south side of Grand River east of Drake Road.

The proponents questioned why and so do we. Being located to the rear of a proposed shopping center it would seem like a logical type of buffer development between the commercial center and single family homes. Furthermore, an inspection of the property by us as laymen would indicate that there might be some serious problems in developing this property so near to a planned commercial center with single family homes. The topography just doesn't seem to lend itself to a cheaper-type of single family home development.

Again we want to emphasize that we favor a "go slow" approach on re-zoning too much land for multiple housing but feel that this proposed area for re-zoning for multiple units deserves more thorough and careful consideration than it was given. It should at least be given as much time and study as the other requests for re-zoning and it hasn't, in our opinion.

If the commercial zoning is to be allowed on that portion of the property that fronts onto Grand River, then there is added reason for considering multiple housing to the rear of the planned shopping center, we would think.

Our plea is that the planners continue to "go slow" on re-zoning but that they give all requests thorough, fair and equal study and consideration.

Looking Back in the Files

5 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 22, 1960

Gridiron Lineup

The Farmington High School football team lineup for this week's game with Rochester will probably consist of: Quarterback Jim Anderson, halfbacks John Wagner and Bob Mooney, fullback George Becker, guards Dave Busch and John Mullin, tackles Keith Markert and Bill Uppleger, ends Gary Atchinson and Gary Bartsch and center Dick Lam.

Falcons Edged

The Farmington gridders were edged 13 to 6 in their season opener with the Bentley Bulldogs. Game statistics favored the Falcons in just about every department except on the scoreboard where it counts.

New City Manager

Appointment of John D. Dinan as the new City Manager for the City of Farmington was announced Monday by Mayor Robert Lindbert.

Total Enrollment

The total enrollment in the Farmington Public Schools is now somewhat up from the estimates made prior to the opening of classes this fall. There are now 8,673 students attending schools in the District.

10 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 22, 1955

Newspaper Honors

The Michigan Press Association has voted the Farmington Enterprise an award of General Excellence in the competition of newspapers throughout the state.

Grid Opener

Farmington bowed to Clarenceville, 7-0, in the football opener for both schools. The game's lone score came when Trojan halfback Bob Soop gathered in a Falcon punt and scampered 65 yards to pay dirt.

New Building Code

The City of Farmington now has under consideration the adoption of a new building code ordinance.

New Mail Route

Farmington Postmaster Henry Trombley this week announced the addition of a new mail route to local postal service. Due to the growth in the community's population this past year, the Post Office has added about 1,300 new mail stops to bring the total in the area to 6,300.

15 YEARS AGO

SEPTEMBER 21, 1950

Falcons Win

The Farmington High School football team successfully opened its 1950 season with a 12-0 victory over Plymouth. Falcon fullback Jim Bates scored both of the touchdowns.

Rent Controls

Rent controls within the City of Farmington were lifted as of September 13, following the approval of a resolution passed by the City Commission.

Adult Education

O. E. Dunckel, Superintendent of Schools in Farmington, announced this week plans to expand the adult education program this fall.

FHS Gridders

The Farmington Falcons will start an eleven against Rochester this Friday consisting of: Quarterback Dick Alexander, halfbacks Jerry Plum and Foster AschenBrenner, fullback Jim Bates, guards Bob Slusher and Jerry Ditchfield, tackles George Hayes and Norm Raupp, ends Al Hollaman and Don Bunge and center Jim Mecham.

The Farmington Enterprise

P.O. Box 435 — 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington — GR. 4-2225

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Public Letterbox

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Farmington Board of Commerce recently by officials of the City of Farmington.

William Conroy, President
Board of Commerce
Farmington, Michigan

Dear Mr. Conroy:

The Farmington City Council adopted a resolution expressing their appreciation to the Board of Commerce for the effort that was displayed in making the First Farmington Founders Day Festival such a huge success.

The Board of Commerce should be commended for the coordination and development of the many fine activities that made the Festival an excellent commemoration of our Farmington heritage. We realize that it took cooperation from every segment of the community and dedication in making this affair such a success.

To you, and your fellow workers, the City Council, on behalf of the citizens, would like to extend their thanks in providing the Farmington area recognition that it richly deserves.

Very truly yours,
JOHN D. DINAN
CITY MANAGER

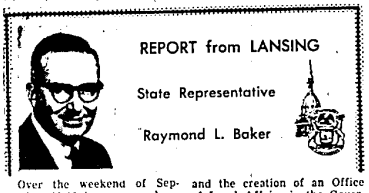
To The Editor:

This is to protest the inclusion of a photograph and caption in the Farmington Enterprise of September 9, 1965, as follows: "complete medical services are afforded all residents of Independence Green a short distance away in the city of Farmington at the Farmington Professional Park". The above is included in a section of your paper devoted exclusively to publicizing and extolling a commercial enterprise, Independence Green.

Please be advised that services provided by physicians in Farmington Professional Park will be no more or less available to residents of this development than are those of other physicians in the area. Any association or identification with the commercial development Independence Green is disclaimed by professional men who have offices in the buildings pictured. Your inference is misleading and unwarranted.

It would be appreciated if this is published in your Letters to the Editor.

Yours very truly,
Robert C. Douglass, M.D.



Over the weekend of September 10-12 it was my pleasure to attend the Republican Leadership Conference on Mackinac Island. I was fortunate to serve on the planning committee for the conference as a result of my position as a liaison between the Republicans in the House of Representatives and the GOP State Central Committee.

The Conference which was attended by some 750 Republican leaders from throughout the state heard reports from four task forces appointed by Governor Romney and GOP State Chairman Elly Peterson. The reports spelled out party principles, developed programs and goals for the party and called for improvement in the areas of election laws and party organization.

PARTICIPANTS also heard speeches from General Lucius Clay, Governor John Chafee of Rhode Island and Governor John Love of Colorado. State Republican leaders including Governor Romney, Lt. Governor William Milliken and Mrs. Elly Peterson also addressed the group.

Most of the meat of the conference can be found in its 14 section report on programs and goals. The results of this study will probably be the basis of the Republican Legislative program for 1966.

The fiscal reform section of the report called for an increase in revenues as well as tax relief for low income families, property tax relief and repeal of the business activities tax. In the area of urban and local problems the report supports the enactment of county home rule legislation and the creation of an Office of Local Affairs in the Governor's office.

A **STRONG** statement on civil rights was also included in the report. It calls for programs which will assure equal educational opportunity, equal public accommodations, equal employment opportunity, equal housing opportunity and equal protection of the law.

In brief, some of the other topics of the report supported; a stepped up attack on crime and delinquency, better assistance for needy senior citizens, improved facilities for public and mental health, a comprehensive traffic safety program, more job opportunities and better use and conservation of our natural resources and recreational facilities.

The conference was well worthwhile and is expected to provide a new and positive direction for the Republican Party. At the same time such an activity can do much to preserve the two party system in our country which came so close to elimination in the last election.

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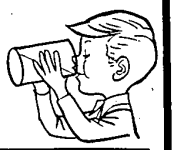

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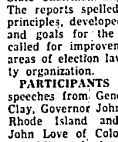
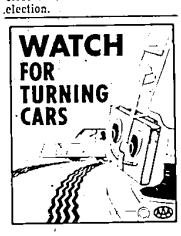


WATCH FOR TURNING CARS



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- FLUFFING OR DUSTING draperies, chenille bedspreads or other articles that need airing. Place in dryer on "no heat" setting and allow to tumble for 5-10 minutes.
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PG-D 146-33

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