

# In Our Opinion . . .

## A Most Heartening Development

The Farmington City Council's action last week in proposing to discuss and consider the possibility of consolidation with the Township was most heartening. The action, of course, stems from the will of the people—whom it is as should be.

It was even more heartening to learn that Township officials have pledged 100 per cent cooperation on an objective study of consolidation. Office holders in both governmental units stand to study themselves right out of a job—but if it is in the best interest of the people of the City and Township, this is their job.

It is most heartening to see a group sit down and discuss what might be for future citizens of the City and Township rather than what is best for the present people and officials.

Consolidation of Farmington City and Township might not be desirable once the facts are studied and made known. However, since so many citizens in both municipalities have suggested the study, it is certainly an obligation of both governmental units to carry out those wishes.

The City and Township might not be as far apart as some seem to think. The boundary lines are all just lines—no railroad tracks or natural barriers. Residents of both live and work together in the schools, churches, fraternal organizations, clubs and groups. The two police and fire departments work together.

It would be over-simplification to say that consolidation can be easily accomplished. Yet, most of the problems would be bookkeeping ones—and any bookkeeping problems can be solved.

There are differences in planning, zoning, restrictions, water, sewers, taxation, and others. However, within each unit there are already differences which are controlled and maintained through ordinances.

Let's hope that any studies undertaken will become serious and comprehensive ones. It's my hope that there is enough farsightedness among both groups of officials to see that the best possible future is planned for all of Farmington—no matter what the present inconveniences might be.

★★★★

## Post-Election Reflections

It is customary for a post-election editorial to chide the voters for not showing up in greater numbers at the polls. With 41 per cent voting in the City on the August 2 primary ballot and 39.9 per cent lining up in the Township it might seem that a scolding should be forthcoming. As a matter of fact, however, this is the largest primary turnout ever recorded in the area, so congratulations are in order instead.

With this foundation to build on, who knows what may occur in elections of the future? An informed electorate intent on expressing their wishes at the voting booths can be a powerful deterrent to political hocus pocus. It can also be a rousing tribute to that time-worn description "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

If the Township candidates who were defeated in the primary were surprised, they shouldn't have been. There has been such a quiet campaign; it might have been conducted in a library. This is not the way to upset any apples, particularly when a serious issue such as a threatened annexation is troubling the constituents. That so many did exercise their voting privileges in spite of the non-campaign indicates a commendable maturity.

People want a clear-cut statement of

program and some promise of its performance. We feel that the local newspaper is the ideal vehicle for presentation of these programs and procedures.

In the coming months, it is to be hoped that the general citizenry will become at least intellectually involved in the problems which face this expanding community. Through the pages of the Enterprise, we invite a healthy and stimulating interchange of ideas on any and all subjects pertaining to the concerns of the area's residents.

It would be gratifying to run out of space for the Letterbox every week, but alas this dilemma does not loom in the future. Conversations of vital civic importance and very provocative in nature can be stirred up in this community at the drop of a cliché, but to get citizens to take pen in hand and change their remarks toward a reading audience is something else.

When a suitable forum exists for the exploration of ideas and solutions to problems, isn't it a dereliction not to use it to advantage?

Conversations of vital civic importance and very provocative in nature can be stirred up in this community at the drop of a cliché, but to get citizens to take pen in hand and change their remarks toward a reading audience is something else.



THIS FARMINGTON AREA recreation group, to the left, is supervisor Bob Anderson, of the Farmington Area Recreation Department. These swimming outings at Kennington Metropolitan Park concluded on Friday, August 4.

## Public Letterbox

Farmington Enterprise  
23623 Farmington Road  
Farmington, Michigan 48024

Gentlemen:  
The writer is deeply grateful to the voters of Farmington Township, who, on August 2, so graciously cast their votes in my favor for the office of Township Supervisor. Since I had not been a candidate for Township office since the 1957 election, when I was elected to a four year term as a Township Trustee, and many, many new people have since moved to our Township, I am particularly pleased with the results of the August 2 Primary Election. I am also greatly appreciative for the fine support which the voters gave to the "Wendell Brown Team" — some of whom, I believe, had ever before run for Township office. Some of our candidates, I believe, had never run for a public office. All of our candidates had worked diligently, all winter and spring, to preserve our Township form of government. The August 2nd election results were most gratifying. In view of the election results which nominated all incumbent Township Trustees, I wish, with great interest, await their future attitude towards preserving Farmington Township under the township form of government. This will be complete reversal of their unsuccessful attempt, last winter and spring, to dissolve the Township favor of a Home Rule City Government. Apparently the incumbents are now convinced that the voters of our Township want the Township form of government continued. Our Primary Election fight, I believe, has strengthened their resolution in that regard. IN THE LAST few hours of the recent campaign — the writer was scurrilously attacked by an unnamed, anonymous letter, obviously it was authored by someone (or more), unfamiliar with my record as a member of the Farmington School Board for six years, as President of that Board for four years, and as Township Trustee for four years. Had the vicious letter been signed, the voters might

have evaluated the opinions therein expressed, particularly the quoted material, the author(s) of which also remain anonymous! Has anyone ever heard of the Farmington Republican Association? The Oakland County Clerk advises me that there is no such name registered with his office. I'll appreciate hearing from anyone who may know of such an organization in our Township. Sniping from the sidelines, jungle-style from behind the bushes, may have been fun for whoever indulged in it — but in this instance the author(s) did not have the intestinal fortitude to sign the letter, or give a return address to the missile of attempted character assassination, or to mail it to our electors sufficiently in advance of Primary Day to permit of clear answers to unjustifiable charges. He, she, it, they were unwilling to stand up and be counted. My record of ten years of public service to our community is open to all for inspection. Many people have told me they had no record. The vote of the people on August 2 would seem to be their stamp of approval. THE AUTHOR(S) of the letter in question found two things in my public record so objectionable:

August 5, 1966  
I wish to thank the people of Farmington, Mr. William Bowman, and the Board of Commerce for the very wonderful honor bestowed on me during the Farmington Founders Festival.

It has been a privilege to be associated with the Red Cross and its many activities during the years. And dear to my heart is the blood bank to which you have always responded so very generously.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Mrs. Carl Goodrich, who took over so admirably as chairman when I was unable to continue, and to Mrs. Olive Lathrup who is continuing the good work today. These women and many others have worked unceasingly and unselfishly for the Blood Bank, and my prayer is that you will continue to give them the same wonderful cooperation which you have accorded me. Thank you all my heart.

Mary Lenz  
(Mrs. Fred Lenz)

To the Editor:  
Now that a group prevented the charter from being written for the people of Farmington Township in the so-called interest of protecting our Township's dignity against special interest groups — we would like to know what happened to their concern now that the City of Farmington is attempting to annex prime property and our industrial park?

We are concerned about the Township's future if countless raids are attempted. How does this group propose to protect our boundaries now? Let's hope that their voices can be heard as loud for the Township as they were for the City.

Lois and Lawrence Witt

to each of which there is valid and convincing answer. In one of the Zoning Cases referred to, I was subpoenaed as a witness. Again, — time after time, Township Officials have given me zoning requests, because zoning could not be sustained, if taken to court, I'll happen again. Regarding agendas, — many, many times they were tardily prepared and delivered to Board members. Then before the 1959-1961 there were secret meetings of some Board members, which were finally brought to light and to full participation. The contents of the letter clearly indicates to me that it was utterly unfair, and was contrary to the express provisions of the corrupt practices section of the Michigan Election Laws, which reads as follows: —

Any person or his agent who knowingly makes, publishes, disseminates, circulates or knowingly causes directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed before the public, in this state, either orally or in writing, an assertion, representation or statement of fact concerning a candidate for public office at a primary or general election malicious, without the true name of the author subscribed thereto, if written, or announced if unwritten, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Personally, and on behalf of "Wendell Brown Team" — may I again express our, and my, appreciation for the fine record of the very wonderful vote of the voters at the August 2 Primary Election.

Sincerely yours,  
Wendell Brown  
(Editor's note: The letter referred to was mailed to residents of the Township shortly before the August 2 primary.)

## Public Letterbox

Here is a copy of a communication which was sent to the Township Supervisor.

Dear Mr. Hall:

As a follow-up on the discussion we had at the last Township Board meeting I would like to offer the following names for consideration to fill the vacant Trustee post:

Mrs. Dorothy Williams, 28550 Belcrest. Mrs. Williams has a rich background in township government having served for two years as Supervisor of Farmington Township in Wayne County and four years as Township Clerk. She was also a member of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors where she served on the Juvenile Court and Water and Sewer committees.

coverage for school students. Both Mrs. Williams and Mr. Stockell have indicated an interest in serving on the Township Board. Others that should be considered include Carl Weidner, Robert Brown (who ran for charter commission) and Dave Mills. I have not talked to those persons and therefore do not know whether they are interested.

I would hope that these names and any others submitted by interested individuals would be submitted to a broad-based citizen committee which would then recommend to the Township Board so that the best possible person is chosen to fill the vacancy.

Sincerely yours,  
Aldo Vagnozzi.



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