

In Our Opinion . . .

Study Committee Digs Hard For Municipal Facts, Not Emotions

Watching the meetings of the group that now is calling itself the "Future Farmington Area Study Committee," we've been impressed and encouraged.

This group, composed of both local government representatives and private citizens, has taken seriously the advice of its Michigan State University consultants—it is gathering facts first and not jumping to conclusions about whether Farmington city and township ought to consolidate or become separate cities.

It's a refreshing change in the rather sad pattern of incorporations and annexations that Michigan has seen under its legalistic home rule city act.

Usually, a group which wants a change in its boundaries or its municipal status hires a lawyer first. The study committee, instead, has gone to men who are experts in governmental problems—political scientists, economists, sociologists. In fact, in the entire staff of the MSU institute which is helping the Farmington group, there isn't a single person identified as a lawyer.

In a Jan. 29 editorial, in which we endorsed Gov. Romney's proposal for a State Boundary Commission, we pointed out that the present state law speaks in terms of legal procedures—petitions, legal descriptions, elections and so on.

"What the law fails miserably to do," we said, "is to provide economic, sociological, population density and engineering standards for annexation and incorporation. The law assumes the people will do this themselves; but things don't always happen this way."

Well, at this point in Michigan history, there is still no Boundary Commission. Nevertheless, the study com-

mittee is trying to do the job anyway.

Chairman John Richardson has appointed subcommittees to gather facts on population (present and projected), the economic base and land use, home construction, existing governmental units, public controls over land use, public utilities and education.

The committee gives every appearance of wanting to conduct a hard-nosed search for the facts. There have, upon occasions, been vague discussions of "community spirit" and other emotional intangibles, but these haven't predominated happily.

It has been encouraging, too, to see representatives of the "Farmington Township Citizens Council for Community Development" attending the study committee meetings. (You wouldn't guess it from the name, but the Citizens Council for Community Development is the group that circulated petitions asking for an election on incorporating part of the township as the City of Farmington Hills.)

The Citizens Council representatives haven't taken an active part in the study. But the mere fact that they are interested in the factual approach to municipal government, rather than confining themselves to the legalistic approach, is a good sign.

It's a serious, difficult business—this decision of whether our 36 square miles should be one big city or a jigsaw puzzle of small ones. The decision should be guided by cold, hard facts rather than college fraternity-type feelings about who's part of "the community" and who isn't.

And so we are impressed and encouraged so far by the work of the Future Farmington Area Study Committee.

Children Could Look Toward 'Helping Hands' In An Emergency

PTA groups will be contacted in the coming weeks for aid in the "Helping Hands" project, aimed at providing places of refuge for children in distress.

As the sponsoring Farmington Jaycee Auxiliary explains it, two homes in each block would display wordless signs with a picture of a hand. Children would be taught to go there for help if molested or endangered in any way.

The PTAs will be asked to help select the homes for the "Helping Hands" signs. A list of these homes will be held by police departments, which have endorsed the project.

There is, to be sure, widespread concern in the metropolitan Detroit area over crime—particularly senseless crimes against the weak and defenseless. This concern has bordered at times on panic.

Yet the "Helping Hands" project is not a "panic" sort of program. It's a level-headed effort of neighbors to help neighbors in the sort of emergency that could strike in even the best of neighborhoods. It's a healthy preventive program, far more desirable than a shrill outcry after a crime has been committed.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

Summer School

Plans have now been laid to initiate a summer school training program in the Farmington public school system beginning this summer if enough interest in participating is shown on the part of parents and students.

Pool Study

A study into the costs which would be involved in building and operating a year-around indoor swimming pool through the school system for both school and community use as well as the cost for constructing an auditorium has been called for by the Farmington Board of Education.

The Farmington High School basketball team will meet Dearborn High School's quintet tonight, March 15, in the first round of the State Regional Basketball Tournament being held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Preliminary sketches for the new East Junior High School were approved by the Board of Education Monday night.

10 Years Ago

MARCH 14, 1957

Raises Due?

Should the salaries of Farmington Township officials be raised? Do we pay a "living wage" for these full-time jobs? A study group of the Farmington AduW recently considered these and other questions on Township government and came up with some interesting information and suggestions.

Annual Meeting Set

The annual meeting of Farmington Township has been set for 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, according to a resolution approved by the Township Board Tuesday evening.

Building Goes

Another familiar landmark in the annals of Farmington's history will be soon just a part of the memories of Farmington of yesteryear. A building that has housed all the ministers of the First Methodist Church since the congregation moved to the church to the Grand River location is to be torn to the ground.

15 Years Ago

MARCH 12, 1952

Cagers Tumble

Both the Farmington Falcon and the Clarenceville Trojan basketball teams were eliminated in their initial games of the District cage tournament held last week-end at Bentley High School, Livonia.

Barn Blaze

A spectacular fire early Saturday evening completely destroyed a storage barn and 53 tons of hay located on Eleven Mile Rd. about a half mile west of Middlebelt, Leo Hendrix, fire, chief, reported.

New High

Members of the Board of Education of the Farmington Township School District approved final plans for the new high school building at a regular meeting of the Board held Monday night.

Meters Discussed

Parking meter hours will be one of the main topics of discussion at the next regular meeting of the City Council to be held Monday evening, James Tennant, city manager, stated this week.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Every Oakland County citizen can help to buy and preserve a priceless bit of Michigan's yesterday, by sending contributions to the Eastern Michigan Nature Association's TIMBERLAND COMMITTEE, Box 128, Davidsburg, Michigan, 48019.

Timberland Swamp Nature Sanctuary, in the Andersonville Swamp near Davidsburg, is one of the few true wilderness areas left in Oakland County. Its 100 acres contain songbirds, rare plants, some virgin hardwood trees, deer and small animals. Its star attraction every year is the blooming of millions of wildflowers, some of them extinct elsewhere, between April 25 and May 20.

Before the sanctuary is opened to the public on April 30, the Timberland Committee must raise \$2,000. Every penny will be used to acquire additional acres in the Andersonville Swamp and other sites in southeastern Michigan. These will be left exactly as they are, and held in permanent public trust for future generations.

Only the EMNA is working to buy and preserve these last remnants of the beauty that once covered our entire state. They are not provided for by any state agency.

Such unspoiled areas are fast disappearing. We must act today to save these bits of yesterday for tomorrow. They cannot be replaced.

Sincerely,
Mrs. G. W. Stark

To The Editor:
Re: Telegram to Gov. George Romney and Richard Nixon.

Honorable Sir: as a Republican leader, consider this Congress must approve the consular treaty by two-thirds, which would require Republican support. The consulate may be established in our cities requiring only President Johnson's approval. A Democrat! Because President Johnson wears two hats, one I won't let them win in Viet Nam and two—in hand for the other communists. I believe this inconsistency leaves Republicans with a duty to maintain any check possible on President Johnson. I propose an amendment requiring a two-thirds vote of the Senate for approval of any consulate locations in our country or no approval at all.
Bruce E. Duke
27714 Forestbrook
Farmington, Mich. 48021



In Old Farmington, Grist Mills Were Important

During the 19th century, almost every town and township in America had a grist mill to which farmers transported their grain by horse and wagon. Recalling Farmington's early farming days is this picture of the old Power Mill which stood just north of Grand River on the west side of Power Road. The mill was there as late as 1912, serving area residents who still farmed their land into the early 20th century.

ture of the old Power Mill which stood just north of Grand River on the west side of Power Road. The mill was there as late as 1912, serving area residents who still farmed their land into the early 20th century.



Star-spangled way to save a bundle

Instead of stowing away your loose change in an old sock, turn it into a bagful of U. S. Savings Bonds.

So you don't have much to start with. The beauty of Savings Bonds is that you don't need much to start with. 63¢ a day will get you your first crisp, new Bond in a month.

Building a bundle for your future with Bonds is a safe, sensible move. When held to maturity, your Bonds are worth \$4 for every \$3 you invest. And your Bonds convert easily into cash when you need it.

There's a hidden bonus in every Bond. It's the star-spangled feeling you get from knowing that your Bonds help your country while they help you. Because your Bond dollars are put to work expanding the

horizons of freedom throughout the world.

If you'd like to see a Bond close-up—with your name on it—there's no time like the present for getting started. A bundle of Bonds is security in the bag.

Quick facts about Series E Savings Bonds
✓ You get back \$4 for every \$3 at maturity
✓ You can get your money when you need it
✓ Your Bonds are replaced free if lost, destroyed or stolen
✓ You can buy Bonds where you bank, or on the Payroll Savings Plan where you work
Buy E Bonds for growth—H Bonds for current income

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

STAR-SPANGLED SAVINGS PLAN FOR ALL AMERICANS



The U.S. Government does not pay for this advertisement. It is provided as a public service in cooperation with the Treasury Department and The Advertising Council.

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal Of Progress" Established 1888



M. P. A.
A. N. R.

Publisher Philip H. Power
Editor Tim Richard
General Manager Jeanne Beck
Circulation Manager Fred J. Wright
Advertising Representative Russ Oehler
Printing Superintendent Victor Howard
Published by Farmington Enterprise, Inc., 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan, each Sunday. Entered as Second Class Matter at the U. S. Post Office, Farmington, Michigan. Address all mail subscription change of address forms 3579, to Box 435, Farmington, Michigan 48024.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Carrier: Single copy, 10¢; Monthly rate, 25¢.
By Mail: \$4.00 with Farmington address; \$5.00 Elsewhere.
PHONES
Home Delivery Service 474-8737
Subscriptions and Want Ads 474-6225