

In Our Opinion . . .

New School Boundaries To Cause Distance, Chauffeuring Problems

With Farmington mushrooming, periodic revisions in school boundaries are necessary. And when a new school opens, decisions must be made as to which students will go there.

Such is the problem with the prospective opening in September of Power Junior High School at 34740 Rhoadswood near Gill Rd. It will be opened in a semi-finished state with approximately 400 students assigned here. A lesser number would not utilize classrooms to capacity.

Because there will be more than 1,000 students at O. E. Dunklelton High next year, and growing room must be maintained there in view of building in Colony Park and other nearby areas, some of the students must be siphoned off and directed to the newly opened doors of Power.

In doing this, school administrators rely on the figures indicating density of school children at each grade level living in each quarter section. Open, uninhabited space cannot be considered in their calculations.

They make an effort not to duplicate transportation patterns of the buses by not sending them through property already served by another school bus.

They also take into consideration where future growth is due. There will be a sizeable increase in school population from the Chatham Hills subdivision at Grand River and Halstead Roads and the Eight Mile - Halstead vicinity, where sewers and water are now available.

Ideally, perhaps, it would have been preferable to locate the latest Junior high school at the 11 Mile - Halstead site owned by the district, but this building must be postponed until sewers and water are closer. At present they would have to be brought at prohibitive cost from Grand River and Halstead about a mile away. With projected growth figures as they are, this school will be needed in the future, because the site is adjacent to one of the few sections still open for development.

Administrative Assistant Byron Oliver prognosticates that the new high school at 12 Mile and Middlebelt will have space only until 1972 or 1973. Another high school is in the plans for about 1975 and will be located at 12 Mile Rd. and Drake.

He adds that by 1980 the present number of school children in the district will double. With these problems in mind, it is obvious that assigning residents to their appropriate schools is no easy chore.

The latest boundary changes (see maps in this week's edition) are not being felicitously received by all those parents whose children are affected. The loudest outcry comes from the 11 Mile-Drake Road vicinity, where residents were expecting an earlier construction of the junior high "right on their corner." They can't appreciate the new development which will remove their children from Dunklelton and transfer them to the distant Power School.

Those in the business of chauffeuring children to and from after school activities object to the many-miled circuit involved if they have offspring at both the new junior high and North Farmington High which is frequently so.

Objections are to be expected when such drastic alterations to established patterns are necessary, and the objectors may be expected to express their viewpoints to the Board of Education and school administration.

Where To Build Veterans' Monument

The Farmington Community Veterans Memorial Monument Committee has had some difficulties deciding where a new monument ought to be located.

Some want it in the triangular park west of the Masonic Temple in the downtown of the City of Farmington, historically the center of things.

Some—township residents—want it somewhere in the township, pointing out that the original monument was on what used to be township property in downtown Farmington.

"We have an idea how the city backers could have a little malicious fun with some of the more adamant township residents.

The city people could say: "OK, we'll agree to have it in the township—provided it's in downtown Farmington Township and provided everyone can agree on where the downtown part of the township is located."

That ought to set off an amusing battle.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago MARCH 22, 1962

Light Study
A study into the need for a traffic light on Farmington Rd. at Freedom Drive will be getting underway soon as the result of action taken by the City Council Monday night.

Letter from Gov.
The City Council's recent resolution voicing strong opposition to a Detroit or Wayne County income tax which was sent to Gov. Swainson as well as state legislators was acknowledged by the governor last week.

Legal Action Planned
The Vigilance Tax Committee made up of mayors of communities surrounding Detroit are now proceeding with plans to start legal action against Detroit or Wayne County if they decide to go ahead with plans to impose an income tax on non-residents.

Save the Trees
Acting on City Manager John Dinan's recommendations, the Council took action Monday night calling for a renewal of the program to protect elm trees in the city.

10 Years Ago MARCH 21, 1957

Offer Withdrawn
The City Council Monday evening withdrew its offer for purchase of a parcel of land at the northeast corner of State and Liberty Streets following receipt of a counter offer from the owner.

Annexation Issue
Officials reported this week that some confusion apparently exists over the proposal which will appear on the April 1 ballot regarding the annexation from the Township to the City of 170 acres of land along the east side of Farmington Road between Eight and Nine Mile Rds.

School Murals
Prehistoric animals are being recreated at Clarenceville High School through the efforts of four second year biology students. The mural which the girls have been working on is approximately four by eight feet.

Scared Kids
Most children have had their creativity frightened out of them by the time they begin school, contends a well-known psychologist, Dr. Harold H. Anderson of Michigan State University.

15 Years Ago MARCH 20, 1952

100 Little Leaguers
Approximately 100 boys and their parents attended a special organization meeting of the Farmington Little League held last Wednesday evening at Blackless Motor Sales.

Grass Is Burning
Two grass fires within a 15-minute period Monday afternoon may serve as a warning to city and township residents that the danger season is here, Leo Hendryx, fire chief, stated Tuesday.

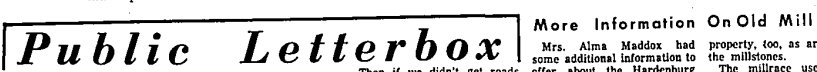
"Shoot" the Kids
Plans are being made for a children's immunization clinic in the Farmington area on April 7 and May 5, school officials announced this week.

Parking Prohibition
Closing hours in effect on parking meters in the business section of the City of Farmington have been moved back from 9 p.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturdays, according to a resolution approved by the City Council Monday evening.

Bad Roads
To The Editor:
If the people in this community need just one good reason for incorporating, they just need to look out their front doors.

Study Committee Organization

This is the organization chart of the "Future Farmington Area Study Committee," the group organized by the Board of Commerce, Jaycees and League of Women Voters to ponder the 36-square-mile area's municipal future. The MSU Institute for Community Development is consultant. The series of four boxes in the third row represent contact persons in each of the four existing municipalities. The seven boxes in the bottom row are study subcommittees and their chairmen.



Public Letterbox

FISCAL REFORM
To The Editor:
The long claim of buck-passing from political party to political party, governor to governor, budget to budget, and organization to organization demands that legislation be about to stop. With at least 56 votes in the House and 20 in the Senate, fiscal revision for Michigan will become a reality.

The issue is simple—Michigan must have the money to operate through tax structure reform. Our democratic government demands that legislative responsibility override political expediency.

Costs have been going up. Each of you have felt the rise in the prices of goods purchased by the housewife. But the rise in costs of commodities purchased by government agencies, including municipal and school, has been almost three times that rise.

If fiscal reform fails to pass, Gov. Romney has stated that there will need to be cuts of about 15 per cent in appropriations. Since education comprises more than 50 per cent of the budget, you can guess where the cuts will be.

Those of you who own property and pay taxes on it will undoubtedly have to make up the difference, unless the Legislature enacts further "patch work" taxes and/or sales tax increases in an already "crazy-quilt" tax structure.

The tax rate for schools here in Farmington is a shooie in the highest in the State. I doubt if it can stand too much of a further increase.

I have talked with Sen. George Kuhn, and he is not yet sold on fiscal reform with an income tax. He has stated that he "voted his mail" on the question of Daylight Saving Time.

If enough of you write him or call him on the phone, maybe he will again "vote his mail," when it comes time to vote on fiscal reform.

GENE SYVERSON, President, Farmington Education Association

BAD ROADS
To The Editor:
If the people in this community need just one good reason for incorporating, they just need to look out their front doors.

Our family has lived in this block for 48 years. And ever since I can remember, we have never been able to get through these roads. Spring or winter.

I will defy anyone to show me just one road, in the area bounded by Shawlesse, Inglester, Grand River and Middlebelt you can get out of.

I drove up and down for 45 minutes last night and finally came back to the Top Motel. The man let me out his drive, for which I would like to publicly thank him. I am the first to use off Grand River. At the time he was spreading gravel in his place, that the cars had tore holes in, using his drive and parking to get in and out.

He said, like I do, if truck loads of gravel were dumped in the holes one year, the next year there would be a solid bottom so we could get in and out.

But it probably would be like last summer. I called to have the hole at the end of Rockwell fixed. It took two trucks, two scrapers and three men with shovels four hours to spread three bushels of gravel. So you see there is no hope for us at all.

Now my real gripe is this, we had called Pontiac twice about this mess and no satisfaction. So my husband called last night and the man said, "I don't have to listen to this stuff," and hung up. He was being polite too.

The irony of it all is, until three days ago the roads were passable until the county truck drove up and down them two days in a row and broke down what solid surface we had.

They make the mess, then even refuse to listen to us. Just hang up.

But believe me, this summer when it's all dry and the road is all oiled, they will be up and down scraping like every year. So we go on and on setting Pontiac have our tax money and gasoline money to do with as they please, not to fix our roads for us.

At least if we had our own city we would know who was responsible for our roads.

More Information On Old Mill Scene

Mrs. Alma Maddox had some additional information to offer about the Hardenburg Mill picture which appeared in a recent issue of the Enterprise on this page. She is the daughter of the Fraser Wadsworths who own the property where the mill stood and remembers helping to take it down in 1947 or thereabouts. She also wrote a paper about the old mill while she was in school.

Mrs. Maddox and her father before her attended the West Farmington school on Halstead and 12 Mile Roads which burned down about two years ago. She was born in the house where her family now lives, and her father in one nearby. The present Wadsworth house has the cornerstone of the community's original store and post office once to be found on that property, and the pine-tree in the yard, according to Mrs. Maddox, must be about 150 years old. The hitching posts are still on the property, too, as are some of the millstones.

The millrace used to run around the house and rejoin the river just to the south. After the mill was dismantled, some of its components were moved to a cider mill in the area and put to use in crushing apples etc.

C'ville Band Wins A First

Clarenceville High School Band won a first (superior) rating when it played host March 4 to the District 12 Band Festival. This enables the band to participate in the state competition on April 29 with other Class B first division bands.

The Clarenceville Band played "Brighton Beach," "Au Pays Lorraine" (required) and "Fantasy on American Sailing Songs."

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

To the Qualified Electors:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That a Municipal Election will be held in the City of Farmington, County of Oakland State of Michigan

ON
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1967

AT THE PLACE OR PLACES OF HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID CITY AS INDICATED BELOW.

PRECINCT No. 1—City Municipal Building, 23600 Liberty

PRECINCT No. 2—American Legion Home, 31775 Grand River Avenue

PRECINCT No. 3—Farmington Senior High School, 32000 Shawlesse

PRECINCT No. 4—Farmington Flanders School, 32600 Flanders

PRECINCT No. 5—Long Acre School, 34850 Arundel

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS, VIZ:

CITY OFFICERS
3 Councilmen, 1 Municipal Judge, 1 Associate Judge.

ALSO ANY ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS OR PROPOSITIONS THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED

Notice Relative to Opening and Closing of the Polls

ELECTION LAW, ACT 116, P.A. 1954

SECTION 720. On the day of any election the polls shall be opened at 7 o'clock in the forenoon, and shall be continuously open until 8 o'clock in the afternoon and no longer. Every qualified elector present and in line at the polls at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote.

THE POLLS of said election will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. of said day of election.

TRENA QUINN, City Clerk

March 19 - 26, 1967

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