

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northhampton County and South Oldland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Lynola, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

We, The People

In a few more days we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day and, like the Pilgrims who originated the custom, we, too, have a great deal for which to be thankful.

In their first Thanksgiving they offered their prayerful thanks for a bountiful crop that served as the inspiration to keep them going in the new land of their adoption.

Measured in worldly things we have a great deal for which we can offer thanks. First, there is unprecedented economy that not only makes us the richest country on the globe, but enables us to have a higher standard of living than any other people.

Second, there is the work of the medical scientists who have developed medicines that have brought about the curtailing of many illnesses that not long ago were considered beyond cure. And with this increased longevity we have come to be the healthier nation in the world.

We are well on the way to conquering space and the waters under the sea—all of which adds more and more to our higher standards of living and our battles against disease.

Much of the drudgery has been taken out of labor by the use of automation in which America has taken the lead. And with the introduction of each new product we have more cause for which to be thankful.

And just a week ago the election, that will have a great effect on our future, through the turnover of many positions, gave us something even greater for which to be thankful.

The turnover in government was brought about because the people in America have the right to be heard. In many countries the people are little more than numbers under the various dictators and monarchies. They do as they are told or else. They have no voice in

government or the conduct of their lives.

To be sure many of these countries have elections—but they are of the mock variety. There is only one party or one state of candidates.

But in America we have the right to choose our leaders and the right to dissent one of our most precious privileges.

In the most recent election the people spoke—in no uncertain terms. Because the people in America have a right to dissent, they spoke, and when they did, their voices were heard. For this we should be doubly thankful.

So, on this Thanksgiving Day, let us emulate the Pilgrims of the early days. Let us offer our thanks for the right to dissent. This tops all the other things for which we should be thankful. It is the richest right we have.

—W. W. EDGAR

Time For Reflection

Since the Farmington community is in an unusual period of lag between hot campaigns on local issues it might be a good time for the residents of both the City of Farmington and Farmington Township to reflect on just where their communities are headed and how they will get there.

Both communities have a leader, plans and both pride themselves on their long range goals and planning. This applies only to the governmental units, however.

Do the residents really want two separate governmental units who by pressure of the local politics will be somewhat at loggerheads with each other all the time?

Quite frankly we don't know. We don't even think that the residents have thought about it much. We think that it's about time they did.

Needless to say this comment raises that hot question of consolidation or unification if you like that term better.

Never in the history of the State of Michigan have two separate incorporated cities incorporated. Cities and Townships do not incorporate either as cities will take the annexation route for areas which it desires.

Annexation might be the most feasible route for cities, but it certainly can carve up a Township and leave isolated spots left to fend for themselves.

Farmington Township Supervisor Curt Hall stated at a public meeting one night that there was no question about the fact that the most efficient manner for the entire Farmington community to develop would be through consolidation.

Hall added, however, that it was not feasible at this time.

We agree that it is not immediately probable. The different level of services and the consequent different tax levy between the two communities is the most obvious problem.

There is another problem though. Residents of the City of Farmington could stop being so smug about all the services they receive and stop asserting that they would never "get mixed up with the Township."

The Township resident, on the other hand, could stop considering himself as just a cut or two above the City dweller and could stop asserting that they are currently paying for many of the same services in the form of private contracts rather than in the tax bill.

In other words both sides have some searching to do.

The Observer is not so naive to believe that such a momentous move as consolidation could happen overnight. It does believe, however, that the groundwork must be laid for such an action.

An impartial committee composed of members of the Greater Farmington Board of Commerce, The Jaycees and the League of Women Voters is currently exploring various avenues open to the community at large. We hope that with the hiatus of local campaigns this group will find the right atmosphere and will perform its function.

We also hope that the individual residents take time to analyze where their community will be in 20 years and how is the best means to arrive there.

—SUE SHADGNESS

Did They Die In Vain?

A small boy meandered by the scene on his bike. Another youngster stood near the monument probably wondering what the adults were doing on a Saturday morning and why a newspaper photographer was on hand for the event. Autos drove by the Garden City Civic Center and the drivers continued on their business in a free country.

But that was about the gist of the "crowd" for the event which was scheduled to mark the annual observance of Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, to celebrate the end of The War to End All Wars.

In these days of patriotic cynicism, people are not expected to get excited about the American-Flag or conflicts in the past which their neighbors had to shed blood or die to defend their country.

But the situation was epitomized Friday (which is even more aptly Veterans Day) when a plant worker walked into a Garden City office and said that he received a day off that day but didn't

know what the holiday was.

It's hard to believe that an adult in this day and age, with the newspapers and magazines and television networks full of war scenes from the previous day's battles in South Vietnam, fails to be reminded that Nov. 11 is a national holiday.

It's hard to believe that American citizens could forget the event which triggered a day set aside to honor veterans of wars who donned their country's uniform, went off to foreign lands, and fought to defend their nation.

Day observance was held without a single adult present (other than the newspaper photographer and those taking part in the ceremony itself). It's not hard to believe.

This lack of participation and interest in one of our most important patriotic holidays is even more painful since it reflects the general public's poor attitude toward its fellow citizens—especially veterans.

—LEONARD ROGER



Letters to the Editor:

Westland Needs Zip Code

Editor:

At the present time many of our citizens are in the process of changing addresses from Garden City, Wayne or Livonia to Westland. We are in dire need of a Westland Zip Code for the Zip Code authorized by the Post Office Department for use in Westland is the Wayne Zip Code. It is inevitable that the City of Westland with its population of over 75,000 will have its own post office and will no longer use the Wayne Zip Code.

To prevent the costly and time-consuming process of changing address to figure out the time it is essential that immediate action be taken to assign to Westland a Zip Code of its own. Until such time as a Westland post office is established all such Zip Code mail would go to the Wayne post office. With the establishment of a Westland post office, however far into the future that might be, no further time, trouble, or expense would be necessary to correct the addresses of the residents of Westland.

Letters from Westland citizens to Mr. L. F. O'Brien, Postmaster General, U. S. Post Office Dept., Washington, D. C. and to Congressman William D. Ford, Wayne Post Office Bldg., 3716 Newberry, Wayne, Michigan 48184, would be helpful in obtaining action from the postal authorities.

ALBERT CHAPMAN, Westland

Grateful To Westlanders

Editor:

SUPERLATIVE... "Superlative" is an adjective. I am expressing all others: supreme, 2, excessive, 3, expressing the highest degree by being, or as though, modified by

most." (Quoted from Webster's Dictionary.)

When Webster included this adjective in the Dictionary, he must have been thinking of a word to describe the "4th Annual City of Westland and Firefighters Ball."

The extreme generosity of so many people who helped us by their donations, time, effort, and energy made the ball a real success. The "Event of the Year" here in the City of Westland.

A book could be written with the names of the many businessmen, the people of the metropolitan area, and the fine people here within the City of Westland, and we sincerely wish that space would permit us to name all our friends.

From those who attended the Ball at the Wayne-Ford Civic League hall on Oct. 8, the reaction thus far, is that everyone had an enjoyable evening, which was our goal as well as our benevolent fund.

We of the Firefighters Association would like to personally say, thank you, we'll see you at our 5th Annual Firefighters Ball on Oct. 7, 1967 at the Wayne-Ford Civic League Hall.

The City of Westland Firefighters Association:

WARREN A. ROBINSON, JOSEPH F. BENYO, Co-Chairmen, Firefighters Ball

Grateful To Westlanders

THANKS LIVONIA!

Editor:

Due to the generous acceptance of charitable activities by the people of our community, the Livonia Kiwanis Club's annual picnic, Sale was a smashing success. Total donations to date, far exceed any previous year.

Livonia Kiwanis Club

mailed out some 1,400 "professional people" in Livonia, and then hit the streets "en masse" on Saturday, September 24, to raise additional funds for needy and deserving children in our community.

Committee co-chairmen Dow, Tunis, and Walter Green who emphasized the entire club's appreciation and enthusiasm, reported that the funds will be used primarily to further the Kiwanis activities in the Livonia high schools, Schoolcraft College, and in individual local centers referred to in the club. Additional funds will be used to increase the Kiwanis activities at Northville State Hospital.

WILLIAM A. WALLACE, Livonia

Pledge from Candidate

Editor:

Garden City citizens and friends, I am most grateful to those of you who voted for me and supported me in my campaign. Without your faithful service and believing trust, I could not have carried this campaign to the people.

I have lost this election, but I have gained in many new and wonderful friendships, and this is a victory for which I am grateful. I cannot personally thank all the wonderful people who supported me. But I feel you, the citizens, have made your choice and we shall trust this will be for better government.

Since Garden City is my home and I am concerned about its government I will watch over it very closely.

SUSAN HILL, City Council Candidate, Garden City

Not All Chamber Members OK'd Liquor By Glass

Editor:

Despite the fact that the people of Plymouth were made to believe we were practically the only so-called "dry" city in the state, it is interesting to note that 37 cities and townships in Michigan had a LIQUOR BY THE GLASS proposal on the Nov. 8 election ballot.

It is noteworthy that in Adrian the Adrian Chamber of Commerce refused to take action on LIQUOR BY THE GLASS in Adrian and the proponents of the proposal (builders of a beautiful new hotel) were unsuccessful in their efforts to have it placed on the ballot.

Our Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is a respectable organization of about 300 members, and though it has been declared repeatedly, recently, that the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce supported the LIQUOR BY THE GLASS proposal, a resolution to do so was made by just a few members (approximately 12); this was rather disconcerting when it was discovered that actually many members of our Chamber of Commerce opposed LIQUOR BY THE GLASS in Plymouth.

I am reminded of a statement by Paul Harvey from "Startling Facts"—"Combine all our churches, synagogues and temples and they are outnumbered by our taverns by 175,000!"

MARSHA DAVIS, Plymouth

Disagrees with Editorial

Editor:

I am shocked at the stand the "Observer" has taken in an editorial by Richard T. Thompson on Nov. 2, 1966, entitled "Wake Up Plymouth."

I would like to commend the City of Plymouth rather than shake fun of them (as Mr. Thompson did in his editorial) for being "the only city in Wayne County and one of a very few in the state to prohibit the sale of liquor by the glass."

Approval of this proposal would definitely increase the number of people driving while under the influence of alcohol and thus endanger innocent citizens' lives. Would the amount of "extra business" he claims to obtain upon passage of this proposal be worth even one life lost because of it?

In response to his claim that passage of this proposal would aid the tax situation, I would remind him that studies have shown that more than twice as much money is spent by most communities for problems stemming from the use of alcohol than what is taken in in taxes.

My faith in the integrity of

Dear Concerned Parents:

I think your son has just learned one of the facts of life the hard way. Mr. Newmarch says he has had several shortages every week and has warned his employees to use the key on the cash register which they carry with them. He says when they use the key there is no shortage, but always when they do not, there is.

He said no one shift is responsible for another. He checks the cash before the night shift comes in. He said he explained the shortage policy to his employees and put it into operation because he was losing too much money.

CONCERNED PARENTS, LIVONIA

OMBUDSMAN

(A special feature in The Observer Newspapers) we will do our best to be a go-between, a red-tape cutter as the name indicates. When you have exhausted all other measures on a problem write to us (keep it short, please) and we'll see if we can help. Yes, John Q, you can fight city hall — with your own Ombudsman!

Dear Ombudsman:

Is there anything that can be done about a gas station that hires people and then when they are paid are docked almost two-thirds of their pay to cover shortages?

My son worked at this gas station last year as a co-op in high school. Upon graduation he obtained a full time job at a local plant, working 10 hours a day. He didn't mind this. When they cut back to eight hours, he felt he wanted to get something part-time, and he went to the gas station where he used to work and they hired him part time. He worked 31 hours and when he received his first pay — it was \$12. He has approximately 11 hours pay coming

for last Friday night and Saturday.

He had been working four hours every night from six until 10 and all day on Saturday. The owner of the station employs his family during the day.

Is it fair that the people putting in the late hours should be penalized for shortages that may have occurred during the day? If so, another party were docked, and the explanation was given as due to shortages. A \$12 check for 31 hours amounts to approximately 39 cents an hour. This is fair.

The station is the Newmarch Standard Service on Five Mile and Levan in Livonia.

CONCERNED PARENTS, LIVONIA

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