

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northwest Wayne County and South Oakland County suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

City Needs Birthday Party

The city of Westland will be one year old next May 16 and a gala birthday is in the making. The community of Nankin Township voted last spring to accept the status of a city and the inauguration of that event was on May 16.

To mark that anniversary, which by a fortunate coincidence falls during Michigan Week, would bring an excellent opportunity for civic leaders and citizens to forge a permanent community tradition which seems to have been lacking in the past.

During the period of less than one week since the birthday was first mentioned publicly, there have already been suggestions for a large "birthday cake" with a gas-lighted candle on top; election of a baby born in Wayne County General Hospital (which is located in Westland) on May 16 of last year as the official May Westland; a parade; band concerts with the audience seated on the grassy slopes of the Hines

Parkway which winds its way through the northern part of the city; a week-long celebration which would dovetail with the successful programs held during Michigan Week in the past; and productions by the local Nankin Hills Players.

There is really no limit, other than imagination, on the ideas which can be utilized to help mark Westland's first anniversary as a city. The Observer hopes that a permanent committee composed of persons representing various aspects of the community be formed to consolidate and work out plans before time runs out.

Farmington has its Founder's Day celebration; Plymouth, its Fall Festival; Detroit, its Freedom Festival. The anniversary of city status seems like an ideal way to enable Westland to put on something of their own to build a sound, community tradition and image.

—LEONARD POGOR

Is It Worth It?

No reasonable person would throw good money after bad.

At least not in theory. Residents of Farmington Township are, in effect, doing this in two separate, but interrelated actions.

Both involve rezoning in the northeastern section of the Township. Both actions involve the same group of people.

One case in point is the current legal battle being waged to reverse the Circuit Court's decision overturning the residential rezoning of Middlebelt and Northwestern to allow for the construction of a real estate office.

The other is the current move to force a referendum on the Township Board's rezoning of the corner of 14 Mile and Northwestern to allow for the construction of an apartment development. Previous rezoning for this four acre parcel had included the business, office and residential classifications.

Commercial zoning exists on the other corners of the intersection. The Parcel isn't big enough to support any good size commercial business and slightly more than an acre of available land will be taken with the extension of the Northwestern Highway expressway.

Residents of the area—specifically the Franklin Fairways and Franklin Forest Associations—have opposed any change in zoning at either intersection.

They cry that they want to maintain the rural character of the Township and keep

Farmington a nice residential community.

However, how many of these same residents would build a home at either intersection if the land were donated? We doubt that many of them would.

We can't really blame them for this as we wouldn't want to construct a home in the midst of their traffic patterns and in the face of the projected increase in traffic.

Why prohibit the land from being put to a reasonable use? The real estate office and an apartment development may or may not be the best kind of business one could have backing up to the property. This depends almost entirely upon the upkeep of the property by the particular owners.

Farmington Township's Planning Commission has bent to the pressure of these residents several times in refusing to take the necessary steps for rezoning for specific proposals.

Each time the Commission has acted it has done so despite the advice of the Planner and the Attorney. The Planner contends that these corners might be put to a good use with other than residential zoning and the Attorney has warned that the client if he could make the case stand up in court.

On one corner the Attorney has been proven correct in his estimate of the situation.

Examining the entire situation brings us back to the starting point. No reasonable person would throw good money after bad.

—SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Who Are These Mothers Who March for Dimes?

January is March of Dimes month, and perhaps a good time to clear up some misconceptions about this yearly fund collection.

They need clearing, because dedicated workers from the background of the March of Dimes, and more such workers are needed in Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Farmington, Garden City and Westland if the drives are again to produce noteworthy results.

So it should be known to all that the March of Dimes is not connected in any way with the United Foundation. It collects funds separately for a special purpose.

And that brings us to the next misconception—that the March of Dimes might have finished its work now that its original enemy, dreaded polio, for the most part has been conquered.

Far from being through, the March of Dimes has turned its attention to birth defects in children—another real scourge of health and happiness. And the dollars collected in this nationwide drive can fill such widespread need as Braille books for the blind child, special training and schools for the cerebral pained, research

into the causes of mental retardation.

Many of the women who plan to join the Mother's March Jan. 31 have first-hand knowledge of one of the many facets of March of Dimes assistance. Others just want to add their help to this tremendous project.

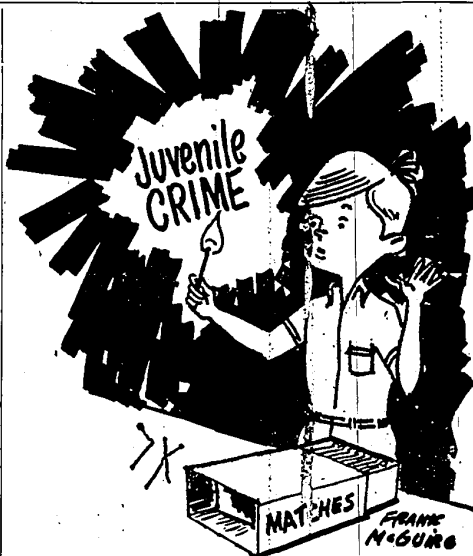
Those who want to help in any way are urged to call their city's March of Dimes Chairman. In Livonia it's Mrs. Robert Fox, GR 4-172. Plymouth's coordinator is Robert Olson, can be reached at 453-0559. and Garden City's Chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilson, GA 2-7821. In Westland Mrs. Alice Mandeville, of the Jaycee Auxiliary, is in charge of the Mother's March.

Any form of assistance will be welcomed happily and persons who accept responsibility are asked that they carry through on their telephone so another can take your place.

Those unable to help actively can be prepared for the Mother's March the last evening of this month and make as large a contribution as possible.

The March of Dimes intends to see through its commitment to vanquish birth defects, but it needs the help of all.

—MARGARET MILLER



Letters to Editor:

Wants Council to 'Group Up'

Editor:

I would believe that the Livonia Councilmen were elected (or appointed) to serve the best interests of the community as a whole. Results of recent meetings of the Council would disprove this. It reflects there to be a group of spoiled children more interested in waging a "childish" war on the Mayor at the expense of City progress.

When is the Council going to "group up" and act as a group of mature citizens and of for Livonia? When are they going to accept proposals for what they are worth, rather than "who" they are from?

I, for one, am ashamed that my vote had something to do with the formation of this group. Perhaps, God willing, I may change my mind if and when they function as a City Council and not a group of egotistical kids.

Charles Luteran,
Livonia

Against Parity Pay

Editor:

The idea that a fireman's pay should be the same as a policeman's pay because they both face danger and because their former spends long stretches away from their families cannot be supported. Sure, a fireman faces danger. So does a steelworker, an astronaut, a power company lineman, and a test pilot. Should all be paid equally? Of course not.

Sure, a fireman spends time away from his family. So does a railroadman, an air force pilot, a seaman, and a DSR bus driver. Why, even I, must leave my dear wife and kiddies for six times a week for 10 hours or more. Sure a Livonia fireman must put in 56 hours a week. But I'll wager that if he is not working at a second job (something that his great amount of spare time allows) he has more total working, relaxing and playtime with his family than the average guy.

The similarity between the two jobs ends when you say they both require a uniform and a willingness to face danger. A policeman carries a gun—a responsibility which you and I and a fireman would have difficulty in comprehending. A policeman must meet and deal with Mr. Citizen in all of his Jekyll and Hyde personalities, day in and day out. He must deal with people not just when they are in danger but when they are endangering the

lives of others. A policeman must be a taskmaster, organizer, a custodian of public goods, a public relations expert, a sleuth—your name it.

A policeman works the night shift this week, the day shift next week. He's considered to be on duty 24 hours a day—always subject to call.

Sure a fireman's responsibilities cover many of the same areas mentioned above. But not to the same degree. In my opinion the difference in degree could represent as much as a 25% difference in pay.

I do not mean to belittle or minimize the importance of a fireman's job. He should be paid a salary commensurate with the abilities and sacrifices we demand. The salary we in Livonia are now paying our firemen may or may not be high enough (I think it is). But to say that the fireman's salary should be equal to a policeman's is surely not the way to determine what that salary should be.

ROBERT D. BENNETT
Livonia

Ed. Note: It is a debatable question and either side can raise justifiable arguments. Editorially The Observer believes in Parity Pay between Fireman and Policemen. It believes both branches of service are on duty to physically protect the citizens of the City when called upon—both with his life if necessary—for a chance to have their roles of men wounded in action—both have had in paying out their job responsibilities.

A Matter of Style

Editor:

Thank you, Myra Chandler, for so precisely stating the REAL controversy between Mrs. J. Kennedy (our Former First Lady) and Mr. Manchester. Yours has been the only column truly and objectively written of the subject. Let your readers know that neither John F. Kennedy nor facts of history are the matters that are being questioned, and it is a lie to say that it is a singular fact of "confidence betrayal" by Mr. Manchester.

Now, Myra, please let us also read as precisely, and professionally as you life capable of expressing yourselves to wit: How could have our beloved Jacqueline Kennedy herself betray so shamefully the respect people have had for her, not only at home but everywhere in the world, by exposing herself in the poor-

est dress style one can imagine. Was it really necessary for Jackie to join the juveniles in order to show the world that the period of mourning is over? Instead of sympathy she is beginning to deserve pity.

PAUL NASTOFF
Plymouth

Dear Mr. Nastoff: Mrs. Kennedy has both from me. My experience has been showing of the knees or not has nothing to do with mourning—it is a matter of the heart—and that Mr. Nastoff, you, or a curiosity-seeking public, cannot view.

Editor

Couldn't Disagree More

Editor:

Bruce Duke's ideas would be laughable in a world of rational men. Unfortunately we live in a world always teetering on the brink of madness. The particular insanity which John Birch Society members demonstrate is called paranoia in the hospital books. Its basic credo is "problems are rooted in the ill will of my enemies" and its non-sequitur corollary "problems will disappear once you dispose of enemies." This "double-theory" has led to crusades, pogrom, Western imperialism, and the Birminghams of governments who claim to be friends because they count the Communist states among their enemies.

Rational arguments against the boycott of Rhodesia can be put forth (as Mr. Knight, publisher of the Detroit Free Press, has ably done). Reasonable men can debate the merits of particular policies and strategies to "make the world safe for diversity," but rational discourse is impossible if one accepts Mr. Duke's unstated premises. Like Captain Ahab in Moby Dick, he battles the white whale when he should, in his inconsiderable ignorance, be learning better how to fish.

ROBERT M. EDDY
Farmington

OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

Every time an article appears in the paper discussing juvenile delinquents the editor receives telegrams, telephone calls, cat calls and criticism questioning why we never talk about the good kids.

It is for protection of the normal, good kids we must call attention to the bad apples. The 10 per cent of hard core, habitual young criminals in our area spoil it for those in the white hats. In fact, according to Robert Turner, chief of Livonia Detectives, the 10 per cent centers lead as many as one out of every four kids into trouble—so skilled are they at the art of making crime exciting.

Captain Turner, however, says a criminally intelligent kid, in his opinion, is not born. "The parents of these kids in Observeland just aren't doing their job. It is mostly a mama week with Dad on the scene for little influence on the kids mostly on week-ends," says Capt. Turner. He thinks parents are not tough enough to do not stick to their word when they say "no," where, when and what time.

His prime concern is parents who take too much for granted when their child is away from home and should be questioned and checked on and disciplined if he or she is found not telling the truth—the first untruth—the first time.

It starts this way—and it moves rapidly in the wrong direction too fast, too often.

His second concern is with the courts.

Did you know, for instance, our biggest population is youth? Did you know we have one judge in Wayne County that handles juveniles and that 60 per cent of the crimes are committed by juveniles? (fact, fellow readers—not opinion.)

Also did you know we have 24 circuit court judges to handle 40 per cent of the crimes committed by adults?

Judge James Lincoln, whether you think of him as a genius or a mental midget (and the opinion is divided among the police) has somewhat of a problem.

Number one, they decided in Wayne County the juvenile home was too small, only able to hold 240 kids. They closed it and built a new one. The new marble edifice holds 180 kids—most inadequate.

There is a new state law creating work camps for young offenders. Some camps have been built for housing these delinquents. Unfortunately only the 17 to 20 year olds are eligible to be sent to these work camps.

Captain Turner—and other officers of the law concur, the 17 to 20 year old group is now hard core. He believes the area for change and improvement is the 14 to 17 year old.

"If some close but sparse barracks were built and these kids were taken from home environment into an area of military discipline away from a girl, beer and banjo, I know when we could reverse their trend from criminal tendencies. They would be so anxious to get back to their nice mama they would shape up. And we could keep track of them for a year—and if they caused no more trouble then the record against them could be erased," stated Capt. Turner. But we must do this before they are 17—it's those 14, 15, 16 year olds that are causing us trouble—up and down the streets and in our shopping malls around suburban areas.

"These young kids we pick up for attempted rape or assault are not even bothered by Judge Lincoln's court. They thumb their nose at us said one policeman on the beat. They know they will be released in 10 minutes after we pick them up."

"Anything short of murder—and they are back on the streets. Even then it's tough because we cannot question them under the law. This is no protection for the good kids, the citizens of the community, or in the long run, for the offenders themselves."

Another idea for cutting back the crime of these kids would be, in Capt. Turner's opinion, and (The Observer certainly concurs) in publishing their names and their parents' names. It would have a two-fold purpose—it would protect the neighborhood against a criminally intent kid—and it would certainly expose the parents to their lack of responsibility.

This expose, of course, should be based on the five and six time offenders—not the first time a youth gets into trouble. The parents should be given a chance to step in and control their own son or daughter once or twice. It would not expose the mental delinquent, the agencies are working over-time to aid these unfortunate. But the criminal delinquent who has been allowed to show disrespect for his parents, school and police officers needs a little of the punishment that comes from public opinion being turned against him in full force.

This might pierce his tough facade and make him see the light that he can't get away with it.

Against Parity Pay

Editor:

Attention: Section 9 taxpayers:

Some of our City officials are endeavoring to establish a 40-acre public park in our back yards, which will en-

face a rift-off to bring their gin, knives and guns into the center of our section.

Come to the Public Hearing at City Hall Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 8:30 p.m. to protest.

A Livonia citizen who did not want his name printed or disclosed.

Are You Hungry All The Time!

Do You Eat A Lot Of Food. And Still Feel Hungry?



Nina Parker

The average American mole has increased the size of his waistline by three inches in the last ten years. He eats more because he is still hungry, consequently he gains weight. He does not assimilate his protein because he consumes too many carbohydrates. A high carbohydrate diet will eventually help you to get in trouble with low blood sugar levels by stimulating the pancreas into an overflow of insulin in the bloodstream. Low blood sugar levels may in turn help develop a craving for sweets, goodies and alcohol. Try Zerbo's body-rebuilding nutritional program.

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