

Readers Give Their Opinions On Police Pay Raises, Rezoning

Police Want \$10,000 Salary

EDITOR: The Livonia Police Officers Association has been negotiating with the city for the past eight months for a new contract which expired on Dec. 1, 1967. In August of 1967, we expressed the desire for a salary increase to \$10,000. This was some six months prior to Councilman

McNamara's suggestion that was reported in the Livonia Observer.

The LPOA had a golden opportunity to play politics in the recent mayoral election. Instead of work slowdowns and picket lines in front of city hall, the membership decided to continue collective bargaining in hopes of achieving an equitable contract. I wonder how many other citizens of Livonia would continue to work at their present jobs without a contract.

Along with Detroit's salary increase to \$10,300 for patrolmen, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department has succeeded in

gaining an increase to \$10,000-plus. Garden City police officers are already being paid \$9,000 for 1968 with a sizeable increase scheduled for 1969. By the time Livonia settles a contract, we will again be \$2,000 behind neighboring departments as we are now. Livonia patrolmen currently earn \$8,216 annually.

It is unfair to compare salaries of police officers with those of elected officials. If the mayor's salary is not commensurate with the office, raise the salary; don't use this as a feeble excuse to keep other employees' salaries at a base level. The taxpayers of Livonia voted an additional mill for police in 1965. By so doing, the citizens have shown they desire a professional police department second to none.

Highly prepared officers in any quantity can never be attracted by offering a low salary. High caliber officers will not remain with the police vocation for any length of time if they cannot maintain a decent and honorable standard of living.

In answer to the hiring of civilian help in the police department: There are already eight civilians doing clerical work in the police department as well as two civilians doing technical work. We also have four civilians doing police dispatching in the communications division.

In conclusion, may we say that your editorial statement that "a police officer should not be paid \$10,000 to sit in a motorcycle while writing parking tickets" might be just a shade partial. This statement probably stems from a parking violation that was issued to one of the Observer employees at the Livonia office on Five Mile Rd. on March 23.

The violation was written by one of our motorcycle officers for improper parking. What you did not include in your editorial was the insult: that the police officer had to endure while carrying out his sworn duty. It is the duty and obligation of every police officer to enforce the ordinances of the City of Livonia impartially and without prejudice. It is our firm belief that no one should be granted special privileges when it comes to enforcing the law.

CPL. FRED BENSON,
President, LPOA

Speaks Out Against Rezoning In Redford

EDITOR:

I have never before written to the editor of a newspaper, but after attending the public hearing at Lake Valley Junior High I feel compelled to speak out against the need to approve a high rise zoning classification. I am definitely opposed to such zoning for the township as a whole, and Glenhurst in particular.

To me, it appeared to be the first step toward forcing high rise building upon us. The Planning Commission made it sound as though every community should prepare for this eventually, but, rather, I feel we should eliminate any possibility of it ever becoming an actuality by enacting whatever legislation necessary to bar forever that possibility.

To threaten the folk gathered at Lake Valley with the court forcing this upon us is ridiculous from my point of view. I cannot conceive of the court forcing Redford Township to eliminate a recreation area in order to accommodate high rise buildings.

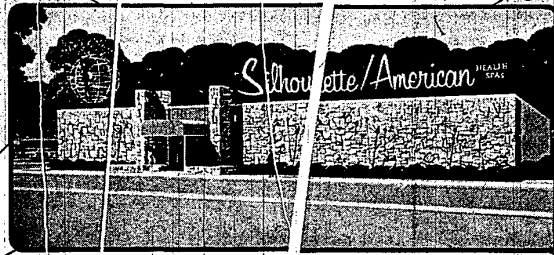
Top dollar would be paid for Glenhurst only if rezoning could be achieved there! First the will of a few must be forced on many! After all we are the community, and we support and maintain it!

My impression tonight was that we are a community of people willing to tax ourselves enough to provide adequate police and fire protection, schools, good government, and recreational facilities for our families.

I feel that the township could and should purchase Glenhurst as it is currently classified. As R1, single-family residential. Or let it be sold at that classification and utilized accordingly (money doesn't grow on trees or golf courses). If it is feasible I would like to see Glenhurst become a recreational facility for the township, but under no circumstances do I want high rise buildings in the township!

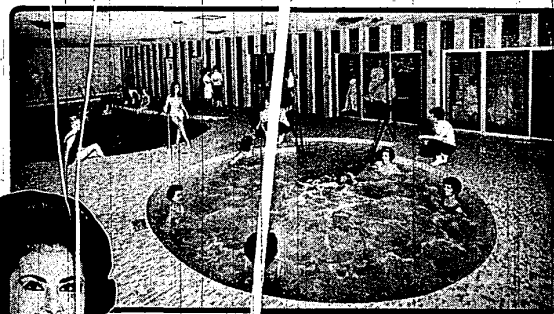
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