

editorial opinion

Resident input needed

"Waldron Park" is now mainly a weedy lot filled with promise.

The purchase of the property delayed development of the south end park for at least two years.

Plans drawn up by an architect in 1972 outlined space for picnics and games, a much-needed spot of greenery in one of the more densely populated parts of town.

It is to the credit of the new city government that plans for development are moving ahead.

The acquisition of the land was one of the last acts as a supervisor of now-mayor Robert McConnell.

IN FINISHING up the land package, the city took a step in the development of some public land in a city nearly barren of any kind of public recreational area other than schools.

But there is another part of the 1972 proposal which has not been reactivated.

This is the idea that a council consults residents of the immediate area for input on the park and how it is to be developed.

The "local" nature of the new park virtually demands some kind of input from the neighbors.

It should be next on the council's agenda.

With all deliberate speed

Results of a late March survey reflect a high degree of dissatisfaction with President Richard M. Nixon.

In fact, the results of the survey might normally be termed alarming. But the word, alarming, does not apply. The survey results are as one might expect of informed, concerned citizens.

In one of the nation's Republican strongholds, the 19th Congressional district, 31 percent or 7,750 respondents said they favored impeachment of President Nixon.

ANOTHER 12 percent, or 3,000 respondents, favored immediate resignation of the President. Twenty-three percent, or 5,750, said they do not want Congress to impeach Mr. Nixon.

The remainder of the 25,000 respondents either said they needed more information to form an opinion or failed to answer, the questions concerning impeachment.

The survey was conducted by Republican Rep. William Broomfield.

Broomfield had supported President Nixon and had stated repeatedly that he

would keep an open mind on the question of impeachment and the charges against the President.

Broomfield's attitude is apparently undergoing a change since release of the Presidential transcripts. He calls the overall tone of the transcripts "deplorable" and "lacking in moral judgement."

Some persons have charged Mr. Nixon with being an amoral man. We cannot agree with such a judgement.

We must, however, add our voice to the increasing numbers who are strongly dissatisfied with Mr. Nixon's actions.

PRESIDENT NIXON has shown a clear disregard for the wishes of the American people. It is clear that concerned citizens want the full truth about Watergate, about partisan political favoritism, about the Ellsberg affair, about the Milk Fund and other lobbyist activity, about subverting government agencies to partisan political ends.

Mr. Nixon has categorically stated he will give no more information. Congress has a clear mandate to gain this information through the impeachment process with all deliberate speed.

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Phantoms say thanks

To the Editor:
We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation on the part of every member of the Farmington Phantoms Wheelchair Track and Field team and on behalf of the Greater Farmington Optimist Club, our sponsor. We thank you for the support you have given to help us overcome our transportation problem and for the wonderful news coverage you have given our team.

THE NEWSPAPER article helped in bolstering the team's moral and also in achieving the help and support of the Farmington community, which we will be representing in the Michigan Regional games at Wayne State University on May 10 and 11.

We have been steadily improving during our practice sessions and, according to last year's record, we should give a very fine performance at the games.

Through the publicity in the newspaper we were able to acquire another wheelchair, which we very desperately needed.

Peter Solar
Carole Solar
The Farmington Phantoms
May 5, 1974

Welfare answer

To the Editor:
Those of us in the community who are closely associated with the plight of the poor in Oakland County (the sixth most affluent county in the nation) are distressed by the tone of your editorial last week on welfare fraud.

I would grant that, as in all human institutions, there is some fraud and illegal receipt of public monies by the poor, but the same can be said of any other group of people in society, even including the President of the United States. The system as now operating is only one step above the situation early in this century when the poor received only sporadic private charity, but for a governmental system it could not be much worse. What is needed is a wholesale revamping of the public welfare system to eliminate the horrendous amount of red tape which now exists. I am sorry you gave the impression to your readers that, as did Mr. Patterson's secretaries, you can walk into a welfare office and get public money. Having worked with the poor for the last two years in Oakland County, I can assure you that this is not the case and that the plight of the poor is really disgraceful.

John H. King
5400 Longwood
Bloomfield Hills

Hearings a fake?

To the Editor:
Rep. Lucille McCollough, chairman, Michigan House Committee on Education, is really clever. She made every outward appearance of fairness in the public hearings on birth control and sex education. It was a fake.

After the committee voted and the bill died, I asked a knowledgeable observer if hearings were always run that way. The answer was, "No, most chairmen keep the testimony to the point and on the

questions of the bill." That was comforting.

The real result of the vote was that six Congressional seats got protection. School boards and parents were denied a choice and 78,000 public school children paid for it.

Jane Hazen
29465 Northbrook Court
Southfield

Presumption false

To the Editor:
The basic presumption in your reader's letter, that the paving project in Sly Farms Subdivision, of which Orinoco Circle is a part, is "against the wishes of local residents," is false.

State statute provides that such paving projects shall be considered only upon petition of owners of 51 percent of the lineal frontage in the specified area or upon resolution of the township board. In this case, as it pertains to Orinoco Circle, proper petitions were filed containing signatures of 57 percent.

Furthermore, public hearings on both the necessity of the project and the apportionment of costs are required by statute and were held as required. The petitions and hearings, contrary to your statements, demonstrated that the majority involved desire the project.

You may be assured that the road commission will not proceed with a project contemplated under Act 246 of the P.A. of 1931 as amended (the statute authorizing assessment paving) where the statutory majority of the people is opposed to such project.

On the other hand, where such majority is in favor of the project,

Eccentricities

by HANK HOGAN



Historians tell us the French called the game "Le Paume" meaning the palm of the hand, but its roots go back to ancient Greece.

When the French played the game the official in charge would cry "ten-er" which is the French command to start.

If a person did not score a point, the French would refer to the zero on the scoreboard as "Oeuf" or egg since the zero was the shape of an egg.

When the game crossed the English Channel it became known as tennis, a poor pronunciation of "ten-er." "Oeuf" became "ov" and later "love" when players failed to score.

WHEN THE FRENCH played the game they struck the ball with their hand to drive it over an embankment. To ease the sting some tried gloves and eventually designed wooden paddles.

The embankment was later replaced by a net. Since 1873 there have been few changes in what Major Walter Wingfield invented as lawn tennis.

Now all of a sudden tennis buffs are faced with change. Tonight World Team Tennis starts in Detroit at Cobo Hall.

WORLD TEAM TENNIS is a team sport,

Good luck, 'Oeufs'

where tennis has always been an individual sport in the past. Each World Team Tennis match will consist of three events, a men's singles, a women's singles and a mixed doubles event.

There will not be three winners. The team that wins the most number of games in all three events combined will win the match.

Even the scoring will be different. Instead of the old 15, 30, 40 and game score, each game will be scored on the basis of one, two, three and four.

THE FIRST PERSON to score four points wins the game. Deuce is gone. Long games are a thing of the past in Team Tennis. This is a concession to television so match lengths are more predictable.

Nine point tie-breakers will be played in any set tied to six all, or in the event the total games won by each player for the two sets are even. A 6-4, 4-6 split would result in a 10-10 score and necessitate a tie-breaker.

The Detroit Loves, our local professional tennis team, will host 22 home games over the next three and a half months.

They will bring high quality tennis to the area.

As a tennis player I wish the "Oeufs" good luck and look forward to their new season.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



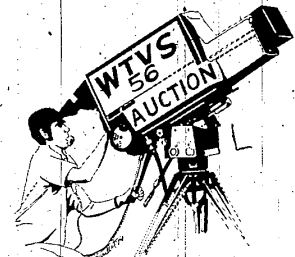
Who brings you Sesame Street, just when you need it most? Who brought you programs like "Upstairs, Downstairs," as part of the Masterpiece Theatre television series? And who put together that wonderful documentary on the Twilight of the Medici show, now running at the Detroit Institute of Arts? And who brings you provocative local programming, including "It's Your Turn" and "Common Ground?"

In short, who does more to relieve the worsening wasteland of commercial television than anyone else around?

The answer's obvious. It's Channel 56, public television in the Detroit area.

THIS IS the week of the annual Channel 56 auction, which is designed to benefit the operations of this public-supported television station.

The proceeds of the auction pay for about one third of the station's operating budget. Last year,



It's YOUR show

An 8-foot mouse

more than \$410,000 was raised, but rising costs mean that even more needs to be raised this year if the station is to break even.

As of Monday, the hard-working volunteers who run the auction had just a little over \$100,000 pledged, which is \$14,000 ahead of last year's total at the same time. But they're running short of some items, and this column is directed at merchants and private citizens who are interested in doing the entire community a service and getting a good tax deduction for themselves.

IF YOU WANT to donate items to the auction, especially those running in value from \$200 to \$500 (major appliances, sporting equipment, TV sets, riding lawn mowers, boats, etc.), just call the friendly folks at Auction Central, at 873-7200, or bring the items to the studio at 7441 Second Blvd., in Detroit. The items must be new, and they must be worth \$25 or more, and those merchants who do decide to donate such items can claim the donation as a tax deduction, since Channel 56 is nonprofit.

Individuals who would like to help out are encouraged to send cash, since there are valuation problems with individual gifts.

OF COURSE, individuals can help out by bidding on the items auctioned. Just look in at Channel 56 this week through Saturday, from 2 p.m. to midnight, to see what's up for auction. Then call 873-7500 to put in your bid.

You'll find some wonderful things, as well as some great values. Auctioned already have been: rhinestone bra-eight-foot mouse; the original script, bullet and so forth, from the Lone Ranger radio program; parking meter; tennis shoe autographed by Frank Zappa; a queen-size quilt made especially for Channel 56 by some nice ladies in Dearborn.

The Channel 56 auction is a real institution around here. It's in a wonderful cause; it's fun; and I encourage everybody to tune in, bid and donate items if you can.

From our readers

A better way

To the Editor:
As an observer of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, I should like to make the following observations:

1. The Board of Commissioners as now constituted is too large and too costly and there has got to be a better way of running a county.

2. It is clear to me that most members of the board, although they profess otherwise, do not want citizen participation. They think they know best, and they don't want to be bothered with outside interference.

3. Several years ago I served on a county reapportionment committee considering the reduction of the number of commissioners from the then 87, and I advocated a six- or nine-member full-time board. I now renew this plea that the present board is too large and too costly and that a reduced number should be paid a decent salary and have no other outside interests.

4. The attendance at commission meetings is not what it should be; in fact, at the meeting on March 29, neither the chairman, nor the vice chairman was in attendance.

5. I have lived in several counties where the board of commissioners number no more than six and, as far as I can see, the government there was no better nor no worse than it is here with 27.

I make these observations in the hope that some citizens or group will begin to start thinking about the quality of government they are getting in Oakland County.

John Kokalis
Troy

April 29, 1974

f.y.i.*

A crowd of gawkers

Residents near Grace Elementary object to the number of persons reportedly involved in the fight there last week.

They say that although a large crowd gathered, fewer than 25 actually took part in the melee. The rest were there to watch.

It's a dog's job

Those lowly fire hydrants are in for a new face in Farmington. The city council voted to allow repainting of the hydrants in color and designs to resemble miniature militia men. The painting is part of the Farmington Sesquicentennial Celebration.

But councilman John Richardson couldn't understand why it was necessary to paint the hydrants.

"I thought the cocker spaniels in town did that," he quipped.

Read it in the paper

Helpful suggestions sometimes just don't work.

A reporter recently called Farmington Hills City Hall and asked for information regarding Waldron Park. The city manager was gone, the city clerk was busy, but a clerk made a suggestion.

"I'm sure there will be something in the paper pretty soon about it," she offered.

The way things were turning out, that didn't seem likely, the reporter said.

John H. King
Bloomfield Hills

April 15, 1974