

editorial opinion

Hills should pay for paving

The City of Farmington Hills should shoulder most of the financial responsibility for paving Gill Road instead of asking either residents or the Farmington School District to pay more.

Farmington School District has two schools, Power Junior High and Gill Elementary, on the portion of Gill Road which will be paved. Farmington Hills originally told the school district its share of the paving cost would be \$6,000.

Now Farmington Hills has requested \$26,000 more as the Farmington School District's share.

There are three reasons why Farmington Hills should pay the brunt of the paving costs.

The first and most important is that Michigan has a system of separate school districts and municipalities. The Farmington School District is a completely separate entity from the City of Farmington Hills. Residents of the City of Farmington and West Bloomfield Township pay taxes to the Farmington School District. Those residents pay for roads and road improvements in West Bloomfield and the City of Farmington. Should they also pay for

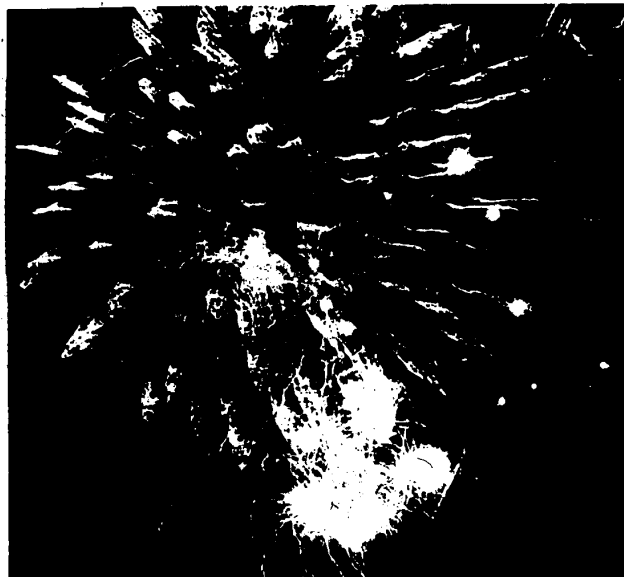
roads in Farmington Hills?

Another reason is that school taxes should go for education rather than roads, wherever possible. When voters approved a school tax rate increase, they did so to improve the quality of education of their children. The improvement of roads is the business of the City of Farmington Hills, not the Farmington School District.

A third reason for Farmington Hills paying for the improvement of the road is practical. Farmington Hills has the money; the school district may not.

Farmington Hills budgeted a \$1.5 million fund balance. It has announced no plans for that money other than to draw interest to be used in its general fund. Farmington Hills also receives rebates of state taxes to be used for roads, which the Farmington School District does not.

The Farmington School District should participate in paying for the cost of public improvements which benefit it, even though apparently there is no legal compulsion that it do so. However, Farmington Hills should learn a lesson in responsibility and pay for most of the road.



Electric-like fireworks celebrate the nation's 199th birthday. The weatherman promised

perfect example of July climate for the July 4 weekend.

Eccentricities



by HANK HOGAN

Michigan Bell Telephone, in its recent request for a rate increase, asked that a charge of 20 cents per call be placed on all directory assistance or "information" calls in the home area code after the first three per month from any residential telephone.

The Bell system already has done this in Cincinnati, but the situation there is a little different because the entire listings of metropolitan Cincinnati appear in one telephone book.

We all know that in the Detroit area there are several zones, which all have their separate telephone directories and, apparently, there are 27 different directories to take care of all of the numbers in our area code 313.

THE TELEPHONE company would make an exception for people with visual, physical or mental limitations and are unable to use a telephone directory. However, the system is cumbersome, because a handicapped person might not always use the same phone.

We know that all of the utilities are looking for new sources of revenue to cover their increasing costs. At first glance Ma Bell's request looked like another gimmick to raise rates at the inconvenience of a lot of people.

ON CLOSER inspection, it seems that 10 per cent of the people make 60 per cent of the information calls, and more than 80 per cent of the in-

Let your fingers do the walking

formation calls are for numbers that appear in the phone book. (Thirty per cent of Michigan Bell operators spend their time answering information calls.)

THE INFORMATION service will cost the telephone company \$25 million this year, which all telephone users will have to share.

If those frequent users were deterred by being charged for their information calls, the telephone company estimates that \$10 million a year could be saved, which means that each residential phone bill could be reduced on the average, by \$4 per year. The telephone company has represented to the state Public Service Commission that it will pass this saving on to its customers.

IF CINCINNATI can be used as an example, after the information charge was added only five per cent of the customers ended up using more than the three calls a month.

Thus, everyone's bill went down (or, more realistically, didn't go up as much) except for the frequent users of the information service.

When you realize that about \$10 a year on the average is added to your phone bill to pay for the lazy people who won't pick up a phone book, you realize that this rate request makes sense. As a matter of fact, it makes me mad that these few people are ripping all of us off.

Broadcasting the Revolution

Tim Richard writes

Did you ever wonder how the American Revolution would have been described if modern broad-casters and columnists had covered it? Let's turn the time clock back 180 years and see how a 20th century analyst—we'll call him Boo Gorgon, though the name is purely mythical, of course—would have viewed the events of Philadelphia 1776 at the Boo Gorgon Rally and in his Boo Gorgon column in Public Affairs:

THE CONTINENTAL Congress came up with some gimmickery about "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" the other day, and the Public Affairs editorial called it a "stirring and patriotic alarm."

Well, if that Congress' "stirring and patriotic alarm," then all I can say is, "God save the colonies!"

The colonial people are fed up with gimmicks and gimmickery. They want straight talk from straight men, and I can give it to them.

The flamboyant first signer of that lofty declaration is none other than John Hancock, and you've heard me talk about him many times. He inherited £10,000 when he was 27, and he's been one of the wealthiest, most opulent men ever since, so you know whose fortune—and honor he's interested in.

It is my firm conviction that Hancock has a lot to gain from a rebellion run at the small taxpayer's expense and which his gawky PR flack, Tom Jefferson, refers to as "this separation. Hancock is a merchant and into this new insurance thing. John Hancock would like nothing better than to eliminate insurance competition from Lloyd's of London through a rebellion, and then subject the average man to his mercantile rip-off.

Well, John Hancock is going to have to answer to ME, and he's going to have to answer to the colonial people if he thinks he can pull the wool over our eyes with this long-winded Declaration.

I've invited Mr. Hancock to appear at the Boo Gorgon Rally, where I would sit behind an authoritarian desk with a well-prepared list of accusations and he would sit out in the open, for a spontaneous and unrehearsed discussion. But he's always got an appointment in the ale house with Sam Adams or Ben Franklin. What's Mr. Hancock afraid of?

... This gang of lawyers, merchants and plan-

tion owners that sits in Congress doesn't care about the bellies of farmers and mechanics. Inflation is ruining, rampant, and all the Continental Congress can do is come up with bombastic political declarations that take the Creator's name in vain.

What's Congress going to do about beef prices? Beef is up from 13 10s a barrel three months ago to 17 10s today.

Rum prices have risen 110 per cent since last winter. Mr. Jefferson and Col. Washington don't care because they like French wines.

And just the other day, a fishwife was telling my wife, Yucki, "The cry for pins is so great that what I used to buy for seven and sixpence are now 20 shillings—and not to be had for that!"

You won't find the editorial writers for Public Affairs talking about these issues, and I know why: All 42 of the newspapers in this land are owned by Whigs, and there's not one—not a single one—that will give news to the colonial people straight.

The newspapers and pamphleteers failed in their sacred responsibility to the public last week when they didn't cover my rally at King William College. I talked about this with an editor of the London Times, and he told me his paper would have had that story on page one of all editions.

I predicted 13 years ago that if we got into a war with the French and Indians it would last seven years, at the same time our leaders were lying to us and saying there was light at the end of the blunderbuss barrel. And I predict right now, this rebellion could drag on for six years with a couple of more years for negotiations.

What those mercantile rip-off artists in Congress want is the dubious freedom to have factories here to make hats, textiles and wrought iron. Would you like a wrought iron factory next to your home? It would lower property values, but Josiah Quincy and the Adams gang wouldn't care.

WELL, THAT'S how it might have been covered. But this American prefers the way it actually came out.

From our readers

Thanks for help

Editor: The family of Joan Wagner would like to say thank you for everything that could be done at the time of our great loss. Mrs. Wagner, myself, and all the children would like to thank all the residents of Forest Subdivision, the Farmington Hills police, City of Farmington police, the Southfield police, the fire department and all those who volunteered their time and effort in the search for Joan. We know she is in good hands, but the loss is great.

Abstract civil rights

Editor: The well-planned attacks on the CIA by groups and individuals of obviously

leftist leanings should give us pause. Our security at a time when we are all well aware that Marxist forces are all around us, even in high government, can not be protected by our just being "nice people." Karl Marx gave us very clear warning, that because of our own weakness, leftist forces would eventually crush us.

It is certainly to be hoped that FBI files on subversives should not be destroyed, but kept up to date.

Personally, I do not mind if my telephone is tapped or if my mail is inspected. So far as I can recall I have never had a subversive call, certainly never made one, and my mail is open to anyone's inspection. The abstract matter of my "civil rights" in a world such as we live in at present is not nearly as important to me as the notion that I want to live in a world free from Red dictatorship and Red control over the thinking of my children and grandchildren.

I am not interested in an America where all free thought is suppressed as it is in China, Russia and the Iron Curtain countries. If this means that a duly constituted agency must inspect what I write and say to make certain that I am not opening the back door to the enemy, it is a cheap price to have to pay for the right to live in a democracy.

Instead of condemning the CIA, I would give the agency high praise for protecting me all these years. And I would not get pretense about whether America's enemies live inside or outside our borders, or even whether they sport American citizenship. The overwhelming majority of Americans are loyal and peace-loving, and if the "minority" doesn't like it here, they are certainly at liberty to crawl behind the Iron Curtain and accept the "freedom" they now think they might have there.

CARL G. WONBERGER Birmingham

Thoreau at Woods

Editor: Two items appearing in your June 19 issue deserve comment and further discussion.

The first is a description of the meeting at Valley Woods April 11, 1973. Mr. Ketchum and Sgt. Peckenpaugh (an excerpt from "Valley Woods responds to schools"). Two elements brought about the interruptions. The first was the tendency of the superintendent to answer any questions put to Mr. Ketchum and, secondly, the absolute refusal of Mr. Ketchum to give a board position, instead of a personal opinion. The Valley Woods parents were insisting that the very least a board of education owes the citizens and if Mr. Ketchum, as president, can not speak for the board, who can?

On the subject of "refusal to respond" it might be interesting for your readers to learn that the same evening a "statement of intent" from the parents of learning disabled children at Valley Woods was read and copies presented to Mr. Ketchum and Sgt. Peckenpaugh describing in detail information that must be forthcoming to the parents regarding the placement of their learning disabled children. I understand the following evening at the board meeting where a report of the meeting at Valley Woods was read no mention was made of the statement and as of this date the parents have received no reply. My second concern regards a line in a letter to the editor stating, "If the

data on which they acted has changed or does change, they know the community experts them to act accordingly and responsibly."

I agree. The fact is, however, virtually every fact the board used in coming to their decision is either no longer true or never was true. Yet the decision remains the same.

I believe the whole relationship between the board and the citizens and the basic reason why legal measures seem to be the only means of real communication can best be summarized by a quote from Thoreau in "Civil Disobedience": "Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil. But it is the fault of the government itself that the remedy is worse than the evil. It makes it worse. Why is it not more apt to anticipate and provide for reform? Why does it not cherish its wise minority? Why does it cry and resist before it is hurt? Why does it not encourage its citizens to be on the alert to point out its faults, and do better than it would have them?"

What citizen has asked for more than this? COOKIE FRENKEL Birmingham (Note: The board has replied verbally but no reply will be operated at Beverly, Westchester and Bingham Farms next fall.—Editor)

Thanks for action

Editor: Thank you for printing my letter in the Troy Observer & Eccentric of Thursday, May 22. In a short period of time or 10 days of the two theaters, Bloomfield and Birmingham, announced a new policy of reduced ticket rates from \$2.50 to \$1.25 when purchased between the hours of 4:30 and 7 p.m. Yesterday, at the first showing of the Bloomfield Theater, we noted that 73 per cent of the audience were senior citizens. On behalf of all the retirees in metropolitan Oakland County I thank you for your community-minded spirit in printing the initial letter written by me, titled "Reduce Movie Rates." DUVA TATE, Birmingham

Meaningful business

Editor: To: Dr. Elvekrög: I would like to let you know that I enjoy your column. It is clearly written, to the point without being simplistic, meaningful and accurate. Usually at least two of the above children I understand the following evening at the board meeting where a report of the meeting at Valley Woods was read no mention was made of the statement and as of this date the parents have received no reply. My second concern regards a line in a letter to the editor stating, "If the