

# editorial opinion

## Senior citizens—apply now for property tax rebates

Senior citizens and others who qualify for state property tax rebates should apply now for a deferment of summer payment.

The Michigan Legislature solved a problem for senior citizens when it passed a law allowing payment to be deferred.

Under the old system, those qualifying for property tax rebates paid tax bills, then later received the money back.

Now they will never have to pay.

**THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM** was confusing for many. But just as it became understandable, the state changed to the new "no pay" system. Even though the new system is better, still it is a change.

Property tax problems are acute especially in the Farmington-area, where the Farmington School District has gone to twice-a-year collections.

All school district taxes used to be collected on the December tax bill. Since school district taxes account for the largest part of local taxes, the December bill was much larger than the summer bill.

Now, one-half of the school tax is collected on the summer bill.

Allen writes

## Writer has mixed emotions about Farmington pageant

Remember the joke definition of mixed emotions? That's watching your mother-in-law drive over a cliff in your new Cadillac.

So, I have mixed emotions about beauty pageants—Miss Farmington 1975 for one.

All of the fold-rol, the trappings of elegance, the emphasis on poise and posture don't negate the fact that once in a while all beauty pageants smack of horse auctions. Only instead of bidding, the judges are appraising and scoring.

A slight dent in that rather unfortunate, but widespread, impression was made last week by three Miss Farmington contestants. None of whom won; in fact, not all made it into the finals. Yet, they are reasonably certain they will be back next year for another run for the crown.

Why?

Well, they said it was because they had a good time and made lots of new friends.

A NICE WHOLESOME answer, but surely there is more.

Try recognition, for one. Prizes for another—a four year scholarship is no small thing. I personally place a lot of credence in recognition. After all, isn't that what the young men want when they go after those athletic letters, trophies and publicity?

How many such outlets are there for young women born with an attractive set of physical attributes? Only in the last few years have we begun to recognize our young women achievers in any field—professional, athletic or otherwise.

Senior citizens living on social security, and others living on fixed incomes, might have trouble paying the unexpectedly large summer tax bill. Under these circumstances, it is more important that qualifiers apply for deferments.

If your household income is less than \$10,000, you can qualify for a deferment if you fall under one of the following categories:

- You are a homeowner who is 65 or older; or the husband or wife of a homeowner who is 65 or older; or the survivor of a spouse who died after age 65.
- You are a paraplegic or quadriplegic.
- You are an eligible veteran; eligible widow of a veteran; or eligible serviceman.
- You are blind.

**SENIOR CITIZENS** should not feel reluctant to ask for a deferment. People who have paid taxes for years have earned a release from the burden. And the forms are easy to fill out. Mrs. Winona Woods, City of Farmington treasurer, says they are "the easiest forms we've ever had."

It's not just up to senior citizens to apply for deferments, however. All Farmington area residents should ask senior citizens they know if an application for deferment has been filed. It's a neighborly consideration which will help ease the mind of a senior citizen.

But since the first harem dancer started swinging her hips there has been an appreciative audience for displays of feminine pulchritude.

So if not to the beauty pageant, where does a pretty young woman with ambitions, decent measurements, and a modicum of intellectual savvy start? Womansport magazine's athlete of the year is a professional female football player from Toledo, Ohio—a tough route unless you favor grid-iron-type contact sports.

Well-endowed young women by the thousands make the rounds of the modeling and casting offices on the East and West coasts—maybe one per cent get through the doors.

**THE LOCAL PAGEANT**, even for the losers, offers some satisfaction. There are those exciting moments in the spotlight, the roar of the crowds, the applause, approval of friends and relatives.

We have given our young women few options for recognition. If it's a cattle auction with an overlay of respectability and glamor, then that's what it is. But, the young women themselves didn't dream it up. They're going one of the few routes open to them if they're shooting for an American-made moon. And, if along the way, they pick up some poise and maturity, then maybe until something better comes along, it will have to do.

Dan McCosh writes

## Work: the real unknown

A surveyor's art is one of delicate combinations of intellectual exercise and physical skill common in the construction trades.

The mathematics of laying out a line, offsets and depths which eventually translates into a highway exist mainly in the head of the chief instrument man. The rest of the crew swings brush hooks, axes and six-pound sledges.

You cut a narrow path through the underbrush, sight down the path to a pole, and note the measurements in a notebook.

Every 25 feet you pound about six stakes in the ground, move the setup, cut more brush, take more sights and then pound more stakes. This can go on for miles, as far as the road.

The routine breeds a propensity for outdoorsy, practical jokes, and the precision required generates a kind of in-group oneupmanship.

A graduate engineer comes into a routine like this with the mathematics in his head, but none of the needed skills in his hands.

So for days, the tangled chains, broken stakes and toppled instruments need him. The crew eggs him delib-

erately, both as a kind of test and as more relief from the boredom of routine. When the recovery is made to a more orderly kind of work, the balance is retrieved, the working out of calculations on a pad balanced on a fresh cut tree stump. A mistake in the numbers means more trees to cut, days lost, grumbling and money.

**SCHOOLS RARELY** convey any of the reality of a work situation. Learning while being ridiculed, even in fun, and the sheer costliness of mistakes are not part of a standard curriculum.

A commentator on the new role of the American male referred to "glass-eyed youths not dimly aware of what their fathers did in their cities." Is it possible, even, that there is nothing more irrelevant in education than an attempt at being relevant?

Imagine the confusion of the student mildly bewildered by the physical and social world around him. He is aware of the way adults deal strictly in written contracts, but both the form and the content of such contracts are alien to him and his peers.

The teacher delayed the start of his

school year in a fight for this piece of paper then drops into the student's own, familiar vernacular the day the teacher walks into the classroom.

The student is presented with a replay of his day-to-day world, an imitation of his language—he is being related to, but the piece of paper and its importance remain a mystery.

**STUDENTS ARE** curious about jobs, money and skills, a study compiled recently in West Bloomfield indicates.

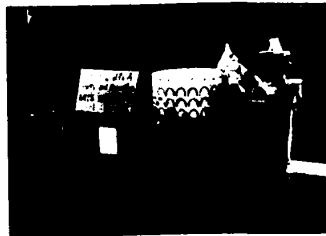
Is this really surprising? Jobs, money and skills are the most mysterious parts of a suburban kid's environment.

In a tree-shrouded, but mainly workless world, it is no great mystery how people relate to each other. Self-worth may bother a child servant earning a quarter of the kid's parents income, but not the kid who has latched onto the proper kind of jeans.

Ab, but what do those adults do with those pencils, calculators and tools which make other adults come to them and give them money?

That's the mystery to the kids. That's what they want to know. It's part of growing up.

## LIVONIA PARKS & RECREATION HANDICRAFTS DISPLAY August 6 thru 9



**COLLIE CLUB FUN MATCH August 9**  
Sears - Chatham Court

**HAVE FUN!**

Play Miniature Golf in the Mall

**Livonia Mall**

7 MILE ROAD AT MIDDLEBELT

OPEN DAILY TIL 9 P.M. SUNDAY NOON TIL 5 P.M.

**Why Pay More!**

**CHROME AND GLASS TABLES**

COCKTAIL TABLE \$49.95 ea.  
END TABLE \$39.95 ea.

**COMBINATION TABLE SALE**

One Cocktail Table and Two End Tables only \$99

**CONTEMPORARY ETAGERE**

by Bassett  
Chrome and crystal look etageres. Chrome frame and glass shelves. Why pay more!

**FAMILY ROOM FURNITURE**

by Imperial  
Handsome English club group, upholstered in a heavy supported easy care vinyl. Reversible cushions. Choice of colors.

**SOFA** Our Reg. \$359.95 **\$298**

**LOVE SEAT** Our Reg. \$279.95 **\$218**

**CHAIR** Our Reg. \$179.95 **\$138**

**OTTOMAN** Our Reg. \$74.95 **\$58**

**MEIJER**

thrifty acres

**OCCASIONAL TABLES**

by Bassett

Beautiful pecan finish made of selected hardwoods and simulated wood components. Your choice: Cocktail Table, Hexagon Table, Lamp Table.

Our Reg. \$79.95 **\$58 each**

**EXTENDED TIME CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE!**

**MEDITERRANEAN CEDAR CHEST**

by Lane

The top is upholstered in a nee-point velvet to give it a rich look. Four casters for easy moving. 48"x18"x18"

Our Reg. \$149.95 **\$118**

**CONTEMPORARY CEDAR CHEST**

by Lane

Rich walnut finish. Matched parquetry front. Selected hardwoods. 42"x18"x18"

Our Reg. \$179.95 **\$88**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT**

PRICES GOOD THRU SAT. AUGUST 10, 1975

**MEIJER THRIFTY ACRES — 45001 FORD RD. AT CANTON CENTER RD.**

SHOP MON. THRU SAT. 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. SUND. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

DIVISION OF SUBURBAN COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

WYLLIE GERDES, Editor  
352-5400

HENRY M. HOGAN, JR., Co-Publisher  
PHILIP H. POWER, Co-Publisher

JOHN REDDY, Executive Editor  
ARTHUR SHAFER, Marketing Director

Member of  
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION  
SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION