

Closing Race Track Would Be Big Blunder

EDITOR:

I see where Livonia's sweet mayor has the backing of the Livonia Federation of Civic Associations in his effort to get more money from the race track.

While this could be a nice windfall if it comes off, I feel that the civic association is completely out of context with their desire to close the track. It sounds like the civic group is mostly composed of church people.

May I stress a point that

happened in Little Rock, Ark., where a man had a hotel with gambling in it. One association forced a vote by the public to stop all gambling.

Consequently the hotel was closed and a lot of people were put out of work. I wonder if the point of threatening to close the track wouldn't be far out.

Who would benefit from it? I suppose all city employees or the council, and let's not leave out a bigger salary for the mayor.

Would the taxpayers of Livonia reap part of the goodies? I doubt it. It wouldn't be long before they would be asking for more money.

If the civic associations were to force the track to close and we lost the \$600,000, who would support the loss of the money? Maybe the Livonia Civic Associations.

I think that a good part of

the traffic jam can be laid at Ford and GM. Also, let's take Wonderland and Shoppers Fair in there, too.

I for one have never seen a bad traffic jam, only on days when they have a big race like the Michigan Mile. These are things you will have to live with. I run into traffic jams every day and the track isn't open.

I have learned to stay off Middle Belt when Ford employees are going to and from work. Why not get some of the money back that GM saved a few years ago on their property tax?

I will say that if the track closes it would be one of the biggest blunders of the century. In plain English, leave the track alone and go do your racing in Lansing.

HAROLD TUCKER
Livonia

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

Tax Hike Irks Livonian

EDITOR:

I see by the Observer that the Livonia school board is again figuring how after they slap it to us poor taxpayers.

One thing I know for sure: They had better not ask for any additional millage as far as I am concerned. Last year they collected \$29.04 more from us just because of the Wayne County raise in the evaluation of our home.

That amounts to an additional three mills that I didn't have any say over. Multiply that by the number of homes and businesses in Livonia, and it comes to a tidy sum. What I would like to know is: What are they doing with all this extra money?

HAVEN'T you people of Livonia checked your tax bills to see where your money is going? When Wayne County raises the evaluation of the county, city, school and even the drainage gets a cut of the pie.

This is money that we have no vote or voice over.

The way the pie was cut this time is as follows: county, \$3.07; school, \$29.04; city, \$2.99, and drainage, \$3.89. These figures were the additional monies taken for 1970. This makes a grand total of \$40.99 our taxes went up last year.

When is it ever going to stop? Our homes get older and our taxes go up.

DOUGLAS D. STUART
Livonia

Reader Likes Power Article

EDITOR:

The papers have been saturated with one article after another on William Ford's "better idea" about a new stadium for the Detroit Lions football team. And I have read Joe Falls' and Pete Waldmeier's columns on the subject.

However, I found your editorial on the Lions' decision the most definitive of the real consequences of such a move.

(EDITOR'S NOTE:—The writer refers to an editorial written by Philip H. Power, Observer Newspapers publisher, that appeared in the Observer on Feb. 3, 1971.)

My husband and I congratulate you on another terrific editorial and factual observation. It only makes us wonder why the major newspapers can't have this kind of meaningful appraisal of the situation.

SUSAN SCHOEHLER
Farmington

Parents Lose Control Of Girl

EDITOR:

How can parents be held responsible when we can't get help when we need it?

The Garden City police will not help any parent when a child reaches 17. The school counselors work against the parent.

I know. I've tried. The only thing the Garden City police did was give her an escort to the home to get her clothes.

The people with whom she is living have seen to it that she drives a car without insurance without our permission. She's also living away from home without our permission.

Why neighbors encourage children to leave home to keep their own child out of trouble is beyond me.

With police who will give parents no help because a child reaches 17, it's no wonder they have so much trouble with teenagers.

School authorities and counselors tell the child her relatives are trying to put her in a mental institution, and the principal tells her she doesn't have to listen to her parents when she reaches 17. With all this, how can parents be held responsible?

A GARDEN CITY MOTHER.

Bus Service Needed Here

EDITOR:

I know that I speak for patients, relatives and employees of Northville State Hospital when I stress how heartened we are to note the real possibility that the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) will be providing a regular bus line between the City of Northville and Detroit.

Such a route traveling Seven Mile Road, Grand River and the loop on a regular, dependable basis certainly would win the patronage of many of our employees, our patients and their families.

With our growing interest in encouraging patients to complete educational and employment opportunities in the Greater-Detroit area, nothing proves more frustrating to them than the need to break appointments because buses break down and aren't running.

Or, when stranded at a transfer point in Detroit and a responsibility to return to the hospital, they need to call our receptionist and ask for emergency transportation. All agree that a dependable bus line indeed would prove to be invaluable!

LOUIS J. SCHULTZ
Community Relations
Northville State Hospital

'Update' Insults

EDITOR:

Both my heart and mind were insulted to read such trash as Religion Update (Jan. 23, 1971).

I can remember when it was a real pleasure to read your paper and I looked forward with anticipation to receiving it, but not anymore.

The Observer could stand a lot of revision, but as a starter, leave out the filthy trash. MARGUERITE AND JACK STOUT
Plymouth

Chance For Improvement

EDITOR:

Last fall I sent the Michigan State Highway Dept. a suggestion to greatly improve traffic conditions on the corner of W. Chicago and Inkster roads. I guess they are not very interested in a corner that won't get them a lot of news coverage for improvement.

Right now, that corner already has turn-off lanes on all four sides to traffic going in a right-handed pattern. This means that the center four lanes can be tied up to only two lanes when two cars want to turn in opposite directions.

For the total cost of a dozen signs, Redford pays half, the turn-off lanes could also handle the left turns with very little trouble. This would make Inkster and W. Chicago four lanes under the light and possibly save some cars from becoming involved in accidents by drivers who change lanes only a hundred feet from that intersection.

It is possible that some improvement-minded official from our city will read this item and see the possibilities for improvement to Livonia and Redford. We have many such situations, and all we have to do is see the potential and do something about it.

WALTER MARYTNOW
Livonia

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