

# Parks: A Contrast In 'Decision' Making

It was only five months ago this newspaper endorsed candidates for office in Farmington Township. Two of the candidates not endorsed were elected and have, within four months, already reinforced our reasons for not supporting them.

Tom Nolan was elected treasurer over our choice of Harris Berger, and Earl Oppertbauer nosed out our choice of Burton Levy. This is not an "I told you so" column but a discussion of one issue which would have been approached entirely differently if Levy and Berger had been victorious.

**THE ISSUE** is parks and the discussion will deal with the political blarney and fuzzy thinking of friends Nolan and Oppertbauer.

A group of township residents who have volunteered their time to study recreational needs submitted a request for the township to make application for some \$100,000 in recreational funds from the State of Michigan.

The money will come from the state grant approved by voters, including Farmington Township voters, in 1968.

In order for the township to get the \$100,000, the board must come up with \$20,000 for a total recreation program of \$120,000. This is a relatively modest project and will be sufficient to purchase and develop but one site.

The need for community parks in the township is great. The master plan just approved shows the need, and anyone who thinks the "open space" (bare fields) parks in subdivisions is meeting that recreational need does not understand recreation. The undeveloped subdivision parks serve little purpose other than as a flood plain.

Nolan and Oppertbauer take the position the township should not spend money for community parks without a vote of the people because a decade ago voters rejected a parks millage question.

**THE LOGIC** behind this stand escapes me.

Are we to believe it is wise to have an election before deciding whether to spend \$200,000 to get \$100,000? Are we to avoid taking action in 1971 because of a vote in the 1968 when perhaps more than half of the persons voting on the last park's question no longer live in the township?

But ignore all that has been said thus far and consider this very basic proposition of how governments function. If the township lacks \$200,000 in its operating budget to participate in this program, the only alternative is to put a millage question on the ballot or not participate. If the money is not there, the people will have to vote because the township is at its millage ceiling.

If the \$200,000 is available in the budget, then a policy decision is made on what priorities of the township are and whether the money should be spent to develop a park site. And the decision of how to

## Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

spend money on hand is a basic responsibility of the township board. To refuse to decide how to spend available money without a vote of the people is irresponsible.

I've yet to hear Oppertbauer and Nolan suggest a vote of the people be taken before \$200,000 is spent on police cars, or computer services, legal expenses or postage machines. There are many times the board spends \$20,000 without an official public hearing or decision by ballot. So why not on parks?

Nolan and Oppertbauer both were on the township board during the period which the township collected \$300,000 from its operating funds to build the new township hall occupied in August 1969. Each year money was pulled from operating funds and transferred to a building account, until more than a quarter of a million bucks was collected, all without a vote of the people.

If Nolan and Oppertbauer are opposed to community parks per se, then they should simply vote "no" and decide which other area the \$20,000 can be spent. Oppertbauer, especially, has confused the issue by talking about having to spend \$1 million because the master plan shows the township having an ultimate need for 500 acres of parks, or something like that.

**THE ISSUE** is more like

three acres and \$20,000. A lot of things the township needs will require millions of dollars to be invested before ultimate development is reached. But that does not mean a beginning is not made because it will cost more money before the goal is reached.

Nolan and Oppertbauer will reply they are protecting the interest of the taxpayer by insisting this \$20,000 expenditure be placed on the ballot because it is (using a political cliché) "a Pandora's box which, if opened, will result in thousands of tax dollars being spent for parks in other areas of the township which could be better spent for other needs," or something like that.

But while being so vocal about this small investment, these two have not been as vocal about the thousands of dollars which have poured into the township treasury since the parks millage was rejected because of rising state equalized assessments.

The 1971 six per cent increase in SEV will bring into township coffers much more than \$20,000 without a vote of the people.

The SEV can be blamed on the state and the tax burden blamed on the schools. But we are to believe that the township is being the wisest because the money it collects it doesn't spend.

Let Nolan and Oppertbauer tell us how much additional tax money since 1967 has been collected by the township without a millage vote. Let them tell how much more money the township will have to spend in 1971-72 than this year. Let them explain that although voters approved two mills for police and fire protection, the equivalent of at least four mills is now being spent for this service.

Their stand on the parks question is political hogwash. If more millage is needed, the law says an election must be held. If money is available, then it's the duty of a trustee to make that decision because policy-making is why his office exists.

But, it's this kind of thinking and this type of politics which make townships unique. Maybe it would be more entertaining to ignore what's going on and write a fairy tale about a township board junket to the City of Dearborn for a fact-gathering mission, or something like that.

## CLIP AND SAVE FARMINGTON LUNCH MENUS

APRIL 19

Meat Loaf with Tomato Sauce, Tater Tots, Bread and Butter, Applesauce, Chocolate Space Stick, Milk

APRIL 20

Hamburger on Bun, Mixed Vegetables, Pineapple Tidbits, Vanilla Pudding with Peach Slice, Milk

APRIL 21

Pizza with Meat and Cheese, Cole Slaw, Cake, Fruit, Milk

APRIL 22

Hot Dog on Bun, Buttered Green Beans, Potato Salad, Fruit, Chocolate Pudding with Marshmallow, Milk

APRIL 23

Fish Stick with Tartar Sauce, Parsley Buttered Potatoes, Apple Cinnamon, Muffin, Fruit Cup and Cookie, Milk

Gino DeRoma Barber Shop The Family Shop Hair Cutting — Styling Men, Women, Children 476-2211

20764 FARMINGTON ROAD Near Eight Mile Road Just South of the Big Bay

## Farmington Calendar

News items for the Farmington Community Calendar should be typewritten, double-spaced, and contain the type of event, date, time and place. Mail to the Farmington Community Calendar, 36551 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48151, at least one week in advance.



### Heerney - Sundquist

A Funeral Home For Over 75 Years  
23720 FARMINGTON ROAD  
PLENTY OF PARKING IN OUR NEW LOT

### Springtime is ... the

time for a new you-a new hairshade can do it at ...  
Farmington's most elegant beauty salon.

### Bé Lynn Coiffeurs

38255 WEST TEN MILE ROAD  
in Industrial Park  
FREEWAY SHOPPING CENTER  
MON. - THURS. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
WED. - THURS. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. SAT. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Frank and Bob say:



BEWARE of all enterprises that require new clothes



Keep us in mind - we're easy to find  
DEDICATED SERVICE FOR OVER 100 YEARS  
**FARMINGTON INSURANCE AGENCY**  
CLAPPISON AND CONROY  
33215 Grand River GR 4-3511



### THAYER FUNERAL HOME (NEW CHAPEL)

Grand River at Liberty Street - Farmington - GR 4-4131

### EARTH WEEK

Monday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m., a special program opening Earth Week activities will be held in the board meeting room of Farmington Township Hall on 11 Mile just west of Orchard Lake Rd. The Farmington environmental action group, "Earth Alive," will present Dr. Robert Douglas, Farmington Naturalist Club president, speaking on "The State of Ecosystem: Earth Week II." Discussion of ways individuals and groups can curb pollution will follow.

### WOMEN OF ST. FABIAN

Monday, April 19, at 8 p.m. the Women of St. Fabian will meet in the St. Fabian Catholic Church social hall. A panel of students from Eastern Michigan University will discuss campus life. Public invited.

### FALCON BOOSTER CLUB

Monday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. the Farmington Falcon Booster Club will hold its annual meeting in the cafeteria of Farmington Senior High. Business will include election of additional board members and reviewing the past year's activities. Members and parents interested in high school sports are invited.

### STORY TIME HOUR

A series of six story hours for four-year-olds and preschool five-year-olds will be held each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. beginning April 20 through May 25 in the Farmington District Library at 23333 Farmington Rd. Mothers can register in the library. Enrollment is limited so sign up early.

### YMCA MINT SALE

Friday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. the Farmington Area YMCA will hold its Mint Sale meeting in O.E. Dunkel Junior High. Young persons selling candy for \$1 per box will be keeping the profit of 50 cents per box to pay their way to YMCA summer camp. The sale will last from April 23 to May 8. Information about the sale will be given at the meeting plus a slide presentation and talk about the "Y" camping program.

### WOODDALE ELEMENTARY PTA

Friday, April 23, at 8 p.m. a fund-raising card party will be sponsored by the Wooddale Elementary PTA in the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Tickets of \$1.50 per person include prizes and refreshments.

### CCY TEENS

Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the CCY teens of St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington will sponsor a car wash on the church parking lot at 32200 W. 12 Mile. Proceeds will defray cost of volunteer service projects. Donation is \$1.

### FOREST ELEMENTARY PTA

Wednesday, April 28, at 8 p.m. the Forest Association of Parents and Teachers will hold its last meeting of the school year in the Forest Elementary School at 34545 Old Timber Rd., Farmington. There will be an election of officers and Weldon Petz, international authority on Abraham Lincoln, will speak on "A Pilgrimage with Abraham Lincoln."

Thursday, April 29, at noon the Franklin Knolls Women's Club will hold its 13th annual luncheon and fashion show, "MontMarte," in the Raleigh House in Southfield. Proceeds will benefit Farmington Community Center.

## Operatic Highlights

A program of operatic highlights in costume will be presented by the Farmington Musicales following its monthly meeting April 28 at 12:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center.

The program's theme will be "Opera: Spies and Dungeons and Wild, Green Water."

Soloists, all Musicales members, will be: Barbara Carpenter, Astra Kalinas, Mary Dulmage, Margaret Savelly, Joyce Bigelow, Karen Kelly, soprano; and Marilyn Truitt, contralto.

Mrs. James Bigelow will be program chairman and Mrs. George Kastan tea chairman.

The Farmington Musicales is a member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

### Clock Repair

Antique Clock Specialists

### Sales and Service

Ashdown

Clock Service

33436 OAKLAND

at Grand River

GR 6-3333

### CENTER DINNER DANCE

The annual fund raising Dinner Dance for the Farmington Community Center will be held in the Glen Oaks country club Friday, April 30. Reservations can be made by calling the Center at 474-2990.

### CENTER CLASSES

There is still an opportunity to sign up for two classes to begin soon in the Farmington Community Center. Comparative Religions, taught by Dr. Thelma G. James, will begin April 22. Japanese flower arranging, taught by Mary Takahashi, will be held April 19, 20, 21. Call the Center at 474-2990 to register.

### SENIOR DROP-IN CENTER

The Farmington Senior Drop-In Center meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Masonic Temple on Farmington Rd. at Grand River. Bring a sandwich.

### INDIAN GUIDE PANCAKE SUPPER

Friday, May 7, from 5:30-8 p.m. the Farmington YMCA father and son Indian Guides will hold a pancake supper in the North Farmington High cafeteria. The menu is all the pancakes, sausage and applesauce you can eat for \$1 per person or \$4 per family.

## Visit a House of God

### Judson Baptist Church

28301 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington  
(Between 12 and 13 Mile Roads)  
Rev. Fred G. Farris, Pastor  
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Bible School 11 a.m.  
Sunday Services Youth Meetings 5:45 p.m.  
Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m.  
Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Thurs. 7:30 p.m.  
Praising the Heart of the Gospel for the Heart of Man

### Highland Park Baptist Church

28600 Lohser - Southfield  
A.M. REV. GEORGE H. SLAVIN  
P.M. PASTOR  
Sunday Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Honey Facilities at All Sunday Services  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Home of Southfield Christian School  
357-3739

### SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oakland at Grand River Farmington  
WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:15 a.m.  
(Nursery)  
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.  
Parsonage GR 6-0487  
Church Office GR 4-6880  
Carl H. Schultz, Minister  
Organist - Audree Greenwald

### CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

30300 Middlebelt Rd., Livonia, Michigan  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Church School  
11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. Youth Groups  
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service  
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister  
GR 4-3563 GR 4-6902

### Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday Service and Church School 10 a.m.  
What we no longer need, we no longer love!  
Northwestern Hwy. at Main Street 354-4488

### First Assembly of God

25228 West Twelve Mile Road  
9:45 Sunday School 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Worship Services  
7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY - Family Night  
Norman W. Muhling, Pastor Phone: 353-9222

### Emmanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lohser Rd. nr. 9 Mi. E. 7-1848  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP 10:45  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS 9:30  
Rev. Donald W. Muehlnickel  
Pastor  
WORSHIP WITH US

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

21200 SOUTHFIELD ROAD AT EIGHT MILE ROAD  
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN  
SUNDAY: 11 a.m. Morning Worship  
6 p.m. Baptist Youth Fellowship  
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m. OASIS HOUR  
8 p.m. Vesper Fellowship  
R. Merrill Jensen - Pastor

### The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
Southfield Road between 8 and 9 Mile  
The Rev. John Osgood Hart, Rector  
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon  
Church School and Nursery  
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. on First Sunday

### VISIT THE Church of Christ

of Southfield  
22355 W. 11 Mile Road  
353-2648  
Sunday  
10 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m. Eve. Worship  
Wednesday  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study  
G.E. Montgomery, Minister

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Shawwassee at Farmington Rd., Farmington, Mich.  
Rev. Walter C. Ballagh, Minister  
11 a.m. - Morning Worship  
9:45 a.m. - Bible School  
5:45 p.m. - 3 Youth Groups  
7 p.m. - Evening Worship  
7:30 p.m. - Wednesday Prayer Service

### Our Faith Is:

"Jesus Christ Himself  
Became the Chief Cornerstone"  
Eph. 2:20  
COME AND WORSHIP  
Telephone: GR 4-0350

### Evangelical Covenant Church

24231 W. 8 Mile, Farmington  
Church: KE 5-0225 Detroit  
Edwin T. Cernia, Pastor KE 5-9363  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP  
5:30 p.m. Evening Service

### A young church in an old house serving the contemporary world.

### St. Stephen Presbyterian

Maple at Drake Road  
West Bloomfield  
Celebration Worship 10 a.m. Sunday  
Dialogue - Education 11 a.m. Sunday  
Hugh V. Stewart, pastor  
626-2400

### Nardin Park UNITED METHODIST

29887 W. 11 Mile Road Farmington 476-8860  
William Mercer, Senior Minister  
Margaret Musicales, Associate  
John Butler, Minister of Music  
9 Teachers' Ministry of Leadership  
9:30 and 11 AM  
"WAITING FOR WINGS"

### Rev. Mr. Mercer

CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30 AM

### OR INFORMATION CALL

KATHY PORTER  
261-8800 Ext. 250