

The Farmington Enterprise

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EDITORIAL

THE ONE WAY TO "SKIN
THE CAT"

There are supposed to be a good many more ways than one "to skin a cat"—and the saying is applied to many situations. But nowadays there appears to be only one way to hold taxes down. The City of Royal Oak is an example.

Royal Oak's budget was made public last week, and although Royal Oak has grown almost overnight to a city of over 20,000, its tax rate is being reduced for the fourth consecutive year. And this with extensive improvements, increases in salary, etc., which make the revenue from taxes necessary to run the city in 1928-29 greater by \$4,595 than was appropriated for the current year, according to the Royal Oak Tribune.

Nor do higher assessments form the answer, for assessments are reported as not increased, but in some cases lowered, on vacant property. The secret, if it can be called such, lies in a greater total of valuations. Annexation and new buildings brought new ratings of over \$950,000 to the city tax roll, and enabled Royal Oak to not only prevent an increase, but actually reduce taxes in the face of a constantly increasing investment in public works. Royal Oak has started on a program of paving 25 streets this year.

Here is the "handwriting on the wall" for every town, including Farmington. It must be admitted, soon or later, that government costs are going to keep on increasing, no matter how much "economy" is exercised. The City Commissioners now at work on the budget are doing their utmost to keep taxes down. But a slicing here and a shaving there will not do the work. Costs appear and mount faster than others can be reduced.

Royal Oak's experience shows that there is one way, and only one way, to keep taxes down, and that is, not by chipping off small items of expense, but by adding large amounts of valuations. In Farmington, annexation will not do it—only building will.

But to bring about the building of new homes and the business structures that follow them, Farmington must offer inducements at least equal to those offered by neighboring towns—good water, good sewers, good streets. We have good water, a comprehensive sewer system is on the way, and we must have paved streets. Old residents may tolerate mud roads out of affection for their home town—newcomers have no such sentiment, and they demand pavement in the town which they choose for their homes.

A paving program, far from being an expensive undertaking as some may fear, is unquestionably a sound investment, and probably would prove actually a tax-reducing measure within a short time.

We wonder, if it would be possible to bring about a companionate marriage between Senator Borah and the elephant until after the fall election?

HONORING SUPT. LEONARD

Citizens of Farmington School District will gather Friday evening to do honor to Superintendent of Schools Archie G. Leonard, to commemorate his seven years' service to the community. Such an expression of gratitude and esteem is entirely fitting, and is worthy of the support of all.

It is a credit to the community that is is not unkind for those who serve it well. Too often do public servants, elective and appointive, give their best and most sincere efforts toward the advancement of public welfare without due recognition.

The testimonial to Supt. Leonard demonstrates that this community is one which is far from forgetting, is eager to accord recognition to unselfish service. In honoring Supt. Leonard, the community honors itself.

BOTH INTERESTING AND
USEFUL

Once again has City Clerk N. H. Power proved himself a most useful as well as entertaining citizen. Before the Farmington Exchange Club some time ago, Mr. Power provided an interesting and instructive resume of the history of Farmington from its settlement until almost the present day.

Hardly had the article, printed in serial form in The Enterprise, been concluded, when Mr. Power demonstrated anew that his historical inclinations are more than merely interesting, that they are genuinely useful to the community at large. In the midst of the discussion about the Town Hall interests, Mr. Power, searching with a true historian's patience and energy, located the proceedings of the Township Board in 1876, upon which the present claims are based.

It is generally agreed that it would take a whole corps of "Philadelphia lawyers" to figure out the various interests in the Town Hall, and determine the legal rights of the parties, and Mr. Power's unearthing of the 1876 proceedings probably wouldn't reduce the amount of talent necessary for the job. But the value of his work lies in the fact that the parties will undoubtedly reach an agreement based rather on fair play than on strictly legal grounds. His research provides a basis for intelligent discussion of the situation.

Mr. Power's labors bring to no reward except satisfaction, to which the appreciation of his fellow-citizens should contribute in large measure.

PASADENA PARK

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. George Hall, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Cain attended a bridge dinner at Glenoaks Golf Club last Saturday. They had as their guests Mr. and Mrs. Byron Clute, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hatfield of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Owens of Birmingham.

Mrs. Harold Holmes attended a bridge luncheon at the Detroit Golf Club on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Cain entertained Detroit friends at dinner on Sunday.

The Bond School gave their annual picnic in the schoolhouse auditorium on Wednesday.

A group of Y. W. C. A. members from Detroit are holding a picnic in the beautiful woods at Pasadena Park on Saturday.

Mrs. J. F. Cain attended a bridge luncheon in Detroit on Saturday.

AUXILIARY TO MEET

The North Farmington Cemetery Auxiliary will hold their annual meeting at the West Bloomfield Town Hall, May 22 for supper. Everyone is invited.

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CHURCHES



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 Sermon by the pastor, "The Unkept Keeper."
 11:50—Sunday School. Classes for all ages.
 6:30—Epworth League, Miss Effie Scates, leader.
 7:30—Evening service.

For the evening service we are to have as our speaker the Hon. James A. White of Columbus, O., who will speak on the subject of Prohibition and Law Enforcement. Mr. White was for more than ten years superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Ohio. He is an impressive speaker and the subject should be of interest to us all.

Baptist Church
 Rev. E. W. Palmer, Pastor
 10:30—Morning worship.
 Sermon subject, "Man's Hap Is God's Purpose."
 11:45—Sunday School classes for all ages.
 6:30—B. Y. P. U. for young people.
 7:30—Gospel service. This week the pastor's subject is "Conformed or Transformed." Come and bring a friend to the evening service.

Catholic Church
 Our Lady of Sorrows Church
 Rev. E. J. O'Mahoney, Pastor
 Sunday masses 8:30 to 11 a. m.
 Sunday School after 8:30 mass.
 Daily mass at 8:00.

West Point Park Church
 Geo. E. Gullen, Pastor
 10:30—Morning worship. Sermon by the pastor. Subject, "The Loss of the Atheist."
 Children's object talk, "Shoes."
 11:45—Sunday School.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarencerville (At Switzer Road)
 Rev. Paul Graupner, Pastor
 9:30—Sunday School.
 10:30—German service.

North Farmington Independent Church

Rev. George P. Davey, Pastor
 Bond School Auditorium
 Morning worship, 10:30.
 Sunday School, 11:45.

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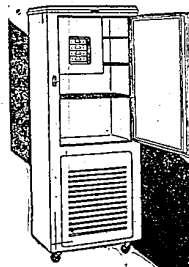
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