

The Farmington Enterprise

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—Novi Township has won the first round of a legal fight to keep another part of its territory from annexing to the City of Northville. The victory came November 13 when Oakland County Circuit Court upheld the legality of a Novi Township suit contesting an election three months ago in which residents of the disputed territory voted to annex to Northville.

The land in question lies adjacent to the northern limit of Northville and includes some 82 acres surrounding the American school. Residents of the area voted unanimously for annexation on August 7.

Novi Township filed suit shortly thereafter to have the election invalidated on grounds that the rest of the township should have been allowed to vote in the election. It is claimed in the suit that the township would be deprived of part of its tax base without having a voice in the matter.

Northville now has two choices in the matter: (1) fight the suit in the courts or (2) appeal to the State Supreme Court.

—The Novi News

Always Willing to Help

Michigan Mirror
INTERPRETING THE NEWS

HOT ARGUMENTS ABOUT SCHOOL ANNEXATION are developing in many parts of the state. Crowded schools, new laws and court decisions are forcing parents and taxpayers in districts without adequate schools to become part of better equipped school districts.

Previously, things ran rather quietly. The better developed school district operated a high school with a capacity for more students than it numbered within its own borders. The less populated district sent students into this area. The district where the school was located was paid by the student's school board at a rate determined by a state formula.

There were advantages for both areas. The "poorer" district got by without taxing its residents for school buildings. The district with the school found a source of revenue in "tuition" students with little extra expense in capital outlay.

Recently districts with schools found themselves in a new situation. Increased enrollments from within their area left no room for students from outside.

Districts with no schools now have no place to send their children. They are faced with prospects of building expensive structures for relatively few students.

To help remedy this, a law was passed which requires that some 1,300 closed districts (those having no schools) join with a nearby operating school system by July 1, 1957. Alternatively, the County Board of Education will designate new district lines.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Clair L. Taylor states that his office is receiving notification of annexations at an average of one per day. Remaining, however, are about 500 districts which must take action before the end of June.

In some of these, there is bitter controversy about what steps to take.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Searles
OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Editor, Farmington Enterprise

WILL HUNGARY DIE IN VAIN?

What will be the attitude of the United States government towards the Soviet Union now that its true nature has been displayed in all its naked brutality in tragic Hungary? You and I and the other 168 million citizens will decide that question by doing something or not doing something about it. Here are some questions we first must ask ourselves: Should our governmental leaders continue to clank highball glasses with the Communists at gay festivities? Should our foreign policy be one of prostrating the U. S. before the Red Masters, pleading again for "co-existence?"

Should Bulganin, Khrushchev and Malenkov be invited to America and be feted at official governmental functions, as they were in England recently (and as has reportedly been planned by our State Department)? If you think the answer to these three questions should be No, then you had better write the President of the United States, the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Hoover, and your representatives in Congress and tell them so.

We Need To Write

Our governmental leaders are sensitive to the wishes of the people, but only if those wishes are expressed. The President, under our American political system, makes the foreign policy; and the State Department carries it out, but the Congress wields a powerful influence on it. If sufficient Americans do not express themselves, we may drift for a while in our present official attitude of shock and injury and then slip back again into the "brotherly" acceptance of the Soviet Union and its Masters. This would be tragic to all the world.

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Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

Welfare Truck

Twenty-five years ago (December 3, 1931)

Farmington Township is the first section of the County in which the Oakland County Poor Commission's new system of distributing food for public welfare aid is being tried out. The system was put into operation in the Township Thursday morning. Food was distributed at three points in the Township and heads of families picked up their week's supply of food at these points. Crates of food packaged for families earlier because of their need for welfare assistance as proven were left at each of the pickup points. Also left separately were perishable items including beef, potatoes and eggs. Heretofore, the supervisor of each township and the mayors of cities had issued welfare orders directly to the families who took them to stores and obtained their requirements. The storekeepers would then send the orders into the County for payment.

Poor Barrel

"Drop a little something in the barrel for those in need." This will be the campaign in Farmington starting Friday for people to aid others in the community less fortunate than themselves. Barrels will be placed in three grocery stores in the City of Farmington so that shoppers can conveniently drop in one or two food items for the needy after having completed their own shopping for their families.

TEN YEARS AGO (December 5, 1946)

Coal Shortage

Early reports from the schools in the Farmington area indicate that a number may be forced to close at the beginning of the Christmas holidays if the present coal strike continues. Superintendent O. E. Dunekel indicated that the situation is serious at the Farmington High school, grade school, gymnasium and band house. Curtailment of activities in the various school buildings is already in effect, he said. Only activities which can be conducted under reduced temperatures will be carried on.

Postal Restrictions

Postal restrictions, necessitated by the lack of fuel with which to operate trains, will go into effect on Friday of this week. No article of first class mail weighing in excess of five pounds and no parcel of four class mail exceeding five pounds in weight or 18 inches in length or 60 inches in length and girth combined will be accepted for mailing.

FIVE YEARS AGO (December 6, 1951)

Zoning Petitions

Next Tuesday, December 13, is the deadline for the filing of petitions calling for an election on the new Township Zoning Ordinance. Harry McCracken, township clerk, stated this week. The clerk added that four or five petition forms have already been obtained from the Township office and are reportedly being circulated. The only petitions being circulated, he added, are those calling for a vote on the new Ordinance. No petitions are required for adoption of the ordinance as it has already been approved by the Board.

High School Plans

Initial planning work is now underway for the new high school to be constructed on Shiawassee Road near Orchard Lake Road. Superintendent O. E. Dunekel met Tuesday with the various high school department heads to discuss plans and layouts for the new building.

It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

The Proposed Plan . . .

to create a joint City-Township Parks and Recreation Department under the provisions of the State Enabling Act is a realistic solution to an ever increasing problem.

We have followed with a great deal of interest, the development of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission from its infant beginning to the present day. Few organizations in the community have enjoyed such a terrific growth. This in itself, is a tribute to the civic minded men and women who have devoted long hours of time and effort in developing a program which will meet the needs of our boys and girls.

However, the demands have now become sufficiently great to warrant something more than just a volunteer organization. The recreation program needs the financial aid and stability that comes with governmental support. Since its beginning the F.A.R.C. has depended to a major extent on the financial assistance of individuals and organizations. In recent years this assistance has centered around the United Fund and Community Chest Drive. At the same time, the City, Township and School District have contributed money and facilities to assist the program. In spite of these efforts, however, the commission has experienced continual difficulty in meeting their minimum budget. By placing the parks and recreation program in a separate department of the City-Township government, this problem would be solved.

While the financial aspect of the program is one problem, permanent organization is another. Through the formation of a joint governmental department, a full-time director and staff could be appointed to organize and supervise the program. Farmington has been fortunate in having capable and enthusiastic supervisory personnel connected with the recreation program. They have done an excellent job, but unfortunately they have been unable to devote as much time to the program as necessary. Under the organization of a governmental sponsored recreation department, a full-time director could be hired to organize a year round program of benefit to all youngsters.

The providing of recreation programs and facilities are an important part of our community life and they deserve the attention of all our citizens.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

PLYMOUTH—An attempt to restore employment lost by the gradual movement of Wall Wire Products company operations to Farmington is being made by the Chamber of Commerce and its members.

The plant once employed 175, but now owned by the Bullard Industries, Inc., employs only 40.

Bullard Industries has been attempting to sell the building but so far has found no buyers.

The Chamber of Commerce, along with an industrial realtor, met last week and decided to raise \$800 to advertise the building weekly in The Wall Street Journal and other trade publications. Money for this advertising will be solicited from businessmen and businesswomen.

Though most of the employees of Wall Wire have been employed elsewhere, it was indicated, it is hoped the sale will be made in order to create new jobs in the community.

—The Plymouth Mail

WAYNE—The Wayne Department of Recreation opened the artificial ice rink last week. A concession stand serving hot dogs and hot coffee was also opened and an ice skate sharpening put into operation.

Plans are being made in the city for fast skaters and hockey players.

—The Wayne Dispatch

BIRMINGHAM—A \$127,800 special assessment roll for financing a 50-plus car municipal parking lot at the intersection of Broadway and Forest was approved this week by the Birmingham city council. A \$22,500 alley along the lot's western side also was confirmed.

City officials say construction will begin in the spring on this fourth lot in the city's parking system. Two others on Hamilton avenue in the northeast business quadrant are being finished up now.

—The Birmingham Eccentric

SOUTHFIELD—Water from the Metropolitan Detroit system is scheduled for three streets in Bedford Villas and Bedford Villas No. 2 subdivisions in Southfield Township. Cost is tentatively set at \$3 per foot.

The plan calls for the setting up of a special assessment district.

A request for water mains in Hyde Park and Hyde Park subdivisions has been referred to an engineering firm for estimates. The engineers will also set a price on water mains requests in Washington Village and Washington Heights subdivisions. Public hearings for the latter requests for improvement have been set for December 11.

—The Four Corners Press

BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield township's zoning ordinance was amended last week when a resolution was passed requiring lots without water and sewer lines and with adequate percolation to be not less than a half-acre in size. The township's zoning ordinance needs a complete revamping, board members indicated. "We had better get busy on a new ordinance in a hurry," Supervisor Arno Hulet said.

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(Continued on Page 4C)

LAVERY INSURANCE AGENCY

FIRE — LIFE — AUTO

30760 Grand River (Near 9 Mile)

Phone GR. 4-6993

Voting Day . . .

in the Township's Biennial Primary Election is still better than two months away, and yet a lot of conversation is already being devoted to this important coming event.

The Enterprise has been asked frequently what stand it intends to take in connection with the election. Obviously it is impossible to be specific on the subject at this time, since no one knows who the candidates will be. However, we can be pretty definite on several points. First, we will do everything in our power to stimulate interest in the election. Second, we will attempt to encourage active contests for all Township offices by qualified candidates.

It is particularly essential in this coming election that we not only have contests for the various offices but that we have active participation by the voters. Too often in the past both of these important elements have been lacking. The right of choice is fundamental to our democratic way of life. It stimulates interest and promotes better government. While on the other hand a lack of contest breeds apathy on the part of both the candidate and the voter.

Where does the Enterprise stand? For the moment at least we stand on this line . . . capable candidates and assured contests!

Living Within One's Means . . .

is a basic problem which every family is very familiar with. Some people, at least, meet it by buying only what they can pay for over a reasonable length of time. This is a simple law of economics.

It requires a great deal of study including the doing without some things and the introduction of greater efficiency in others. But when it comes to state government, a strange transformation takes place. Instead of living within a budget, instead of doing without some things, instead of thinking about efficiency, we dream up new taxes.

Such will be the perennial problem facing the new State Legislature when it convenes in January. The wheels are already turning with the discussion centering around the lifting of the present tax ceiling. We have yet to read anything about the lifting of the present ceiling on efficiency and economy.

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SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON

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