

The Farmington Enterprise

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It's Our Opinion:

EDITORIALS:

A Lot Of Heated Words

have been expended over the proposed rezoning from residential to commercial of the northeast corner of Farmington Road and the Cut-Off. Regardless of the decision of the Planning Commission and the City Council, there will be more discussion and debate.

There is nothing new about this controversy. It began four or five years ago, shortly after the formation of the City Planning Commission. At that time there was little if any residential development in the area. Following considerable study, the Planning Commission recommended that both sides of Farmington Road, from the Cut-Off north to the present business section, be set aside for future commercial development. One public hearing was held but unfortunately no formal action was taken.

In the meantime the Warner Farms Subdivision was developed on the east side of Farmington Road and the Alta Loma Subdivision was developed on the west side. Last year a new request was made for the rezoning of the west side of Farmington Road from the Cut-Off to the property facing Alta Loma, as commercial. This was met with strong opposition, and was turned down. Now another request has been made for the rezoning of the site at the northeast corner of Farmington Road and the Cut-Off. It too is being strongly opposed.

The feeling of these home owners is understandable. Most of them have made a life-time investment in their home and they are interested in doing everything possible to protect it. The Planning Commission and the City Council have this to consider as well as the best interests of the city at large. We honestly believe that much of the opposition to the proposed development of a commercial center on this site is based on fear of the unknown. The suggested layout of the commercial development, as presented at the hearing last Thursday evening, would in our opinion, have little detrimental effect on adjoining property. The Council has the responsibility and the authority to impose restrictions which would insure adequate protection to adjoining home owners.

Certainly the property must be made available for some type of development. Because of its location the kind of development is greatly limited. Thus it becomes a question of what is best, not just for the developer, but for the affected property owners and the city in general.

We believe that through discussion with the affected home owners, the developers, planning consultants and city officials, this proposal can be made not only workable but advantageous to everyone concerned.

Next Monday . . .

January 21 has been set as the final date of registration for the Biennial Township Election. This means that you have just three days to get your name on the list, if it isn't already there.

Democracy is a two way street. With every right and privilege there is a responsibility and obligation. Far too many of us remember the privileges and forget the responsibilities. We find time to criticize our public officials and their actions, but we are too busy to qualify as electors.

Fortunately, in the case of Farmington Township, these remarks apply to the minority of its citizens. We can be justly proud of the high percentage of voter participation in our government. Yet this minority still represents far too many of our citizens. We rarely experience any difficulty in rallying forces to a human need or a controversial situation. Yet when it comes to the very foundation of our democratic way of life, too many of us are just too busy.

So, if you are not already registered, we sincerely hope that you will find time to take care of it within the next three days. It is a vital part of the responsibility that goes along with the privilege of being an American.

The Spotlight . . .

returned briefly to former Secretary of State Dean Acheson last week as he appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee to explain how he would handle the Mid-East situation.

The appearance was sparked by one very significant statement. Acheson was quoted as saying that, "My idea is so good that I wouldn't want to kill it by having it called the Acheson resolution." This only goes to show that the former Secretary has not only maintained his confidence but is still aware of what happened a little over four years ago when the political roof fell in on him.

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

NOVI—Novi will vote February 18 on its so-called "race track rezoning" amendment unless, as appears likely to happen, an effort is made to block it because of irregularities in petitions submitted. The township board confirmed the election date Monday night.

The Board's action came after the owner of the property in question and his attorney requested the board to cancel the election because petitions calling it contained irregularities. The board turned down the request on grounds that the irregularities were not grave enough to warrant cancellation.

For most of the hour-long discussion, however, it appeared as if the election would be called on February 18. Attorney Tom Foley, representing Dr. August Holcomb, owner of the property, indicated during the meeting that the election might be challenged in court.

The election was made necessary on December 29 when petitions were submitted calling a referendum on a zoning amendment changing a parcel at Grand River and Meadowbrook from light industry to heavy industry.

PLYMOUTH—Harsh terms were used Monday night as Roderick Cassidy, owner of a farm which last year was annexed to the city, appeared before the city commission to protest a special assessment of \$3,495 for a storm sewer that is now being laid along his property. Cassidy said he owned about 50 acres of the original 85 acre farm, having sold the remainder to the Western Electric Company.

Only a year and a half ago the Cassidy family sold the site to the city to have the annexation of this portion of property to the city placed to a vote. The issue was overwhelmingly approved by city voters on November 1, 1955.

Cassidy told the commission that he had not protested a special assessment for this purpose at public hearings earlier since he did not think that the city would make the assessment until after the land had been subdivided for homes. He stated that this far from being able to sell the land to building firms.

SOUTHFIELD—The Michigan State Supreme Court has ruled that the city of Southfield cannot charge a Telegraph Road on the west side south of Eleven Mile Road is not valid.

So ends the case of Mrs. Mary White vs. Southfield Township. The White zoning case is many months old with the White family seeking to have residentially-zoned property on Telegraph changed to commercial. Mrs. White won the Circuit Court decision after which the township appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

—The Four Corners Press

BIRMINGHAM—Two sewer projects and a street widening are about ready, for city commission action, Birmingham City Manager Harold Schone indicated this week. Engineering plans are nearly done on relief sewers for the Bird-Emmons and Quanton Lake areas. Both these plans have been several years in the processing.

The street to be widened is E. Maple from Hunter to Adams. Recognized as desirable for many years, it has been only recently that additional business development on the street has made the widening financing feasible.

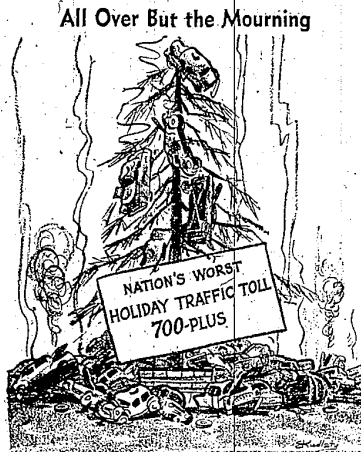
—The Birmingham Eclectic

WAYNE—A law suit, designed to stop construction of a gas station across from the Wayne High School is in the formative stage following a meeting last Sunday of people who have pledged both time and money to fight a ruling of the Nankin Township Zoning Board of Appeals to permit the erection of the station.

Norwayne Civic Association members termed the ruling of the Board of Appeals "cut and dry" and have promised to take the case to the State Supreme Court if necessary. Attorney Robert Childs and a professor of law at Wayne State University says his intent is "to restore the property in question to residential zoning thus ending all commercial development in the area. He further commented that "spot zoning" is against State Law.

—The Wayne Dispatch

WATCH FOR TURNING CARS



HIGHER STATE TAXES became more of a certainty in 1957 when Gov. G. Mennen Williams made his inaugural address. Pointing to the increased cost of government, he said taxes will "unquestionably go up."

Highest in priority, the governor indicated, are education and mental health needs. He also listed as important the need to deal with changes caused by automation, atomic energy and crop surplus; caring for the aged and the maintaining of industrial leadership.

Education is a "made to order" issue at this time. No one doubts that schools constitute an important and pressing problem. The governor has pointed this out before and has shown a continued interest in school problems.

In addition, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is one of the two remaining positions on the State Administrative Board in the hands of Republicans. It is logical to expect that Democrats would like to take over that position as well as the office of Republican Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziger soon as possible.

The election in the spring offers a fine chance.

Both incumbents for these positions have announced they are not candidates for reelection. The races are considered wide open. In fact, both parties are having trouble finding candidates. The high qualifications and relatively low salaries (\$12,500 per year) automatically reduce the applicants for the job.

While working for a solution to a vital educational problem, the Governor also works for the solution of a party political problem.

Who will be taxed? This is always the question. It is widely agreed the consumer pays all taxes in the long run, but there is always much argument about how the bill will be passed to him.

The Governor has favored a corporations profits tax for years. It is safe to assume he will make

about 10 years ago 125 interested citizens met. Their aim was to do more good with each dollar donated for charity; to spend less for collection and administration. In this group was Henry Ford II, Detroit banker Ben Young. Sixty-one of Michigan's 83 counties were

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LOOKING AHEAD

January 16, 1957
PRODUCTION—FOUNDATION OF PROSPERITY
The people who make a profession of studying the economic health of the U.S.A. are predicting that prosperity likely will continue for some time, with very little if any interruption. This is welcome news to anyone who takes the time to read and digest it. All of us have a stake in the health of the nation's economy. And yet, how many of us really understand what makes prosperity? If we don't know what makes prosperity we won't be able to share the responsibility for keeping it and thus improving the living standard of all Americans.

If we had to describe the root force in our prosperity in one word, it would be "production." There are many other vital factors. But without continued expansion of production, which creates new wealth, our prosperity soon would wither and die. Purchasing power comes only through production. So a fundamentally important thing in our dynamic private enterprise economy—and our prosperity—is the creation of a productive job.

Creating A Job
For a new job to be created someone must think up a new process, a new service, a new product or expand a present one. A plan for a new process, a new service, or a new product must be drawn up and tested for usefulness and consumer acceptance. After these two initial steps have been taken, someone then must invest an average of \$12,000 in plant, tools and equipment to create each job. Today in America we must have more than a million new jobs a year to take care of our expanding work force, our growing population.

A million new jobs each year mean that \$12 billion in new wealth must be invested at \$12,000 per job on the average. Where does this money come from? It must come from people whose net income is more than their living expenses. If a single man spends only \$3,000 a year for living expenses, he must earn a total income of approximately \$25,000 to have \$12,000 left over to invest in a business enterprise so that one job can be created. This is something to think about.

Investors Important
After a job is created and a new company or expansion is in operation, it takes some doing to keep the job operating. Tens of thousands of companies fail every year and many times that many jobs

(Continued on Page 4B)

Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 21, 1932)
Township Primary
The spring primary election date for offices in Farmington Township has been set for March 7 and it is reported that several petitions for candidates are already in circulation. Indications are that several spirited battles for offices will take place. Thus far no contests have developed as most petitions being circulated are for incumbent candidates. Candidates are reminded that they have only until February 12 to file petitions. Petitions for the re-election of Supervisor Arthur Coe are now in circulation with no other petitions for other candidates out as yet, it was indicated. Willis T. Roberts, justice of the peace, is a candidate for the office of township treasurer. Mark T. Bachelor's office. Petitions are also already in circulation for Willard Campbell, township clerk; Clayton Goers, highway commissioner; and Ernest Blanchard, justice of the peace. All are incumbent officers.

TEN YEARS AGO (January 16, 1947)
Benefit Game
A picked team of Clarenceville teachers will meet a team composed of Clarenceville varsity squad players in a benefit basketball game next Wednesday evening. Proceeds from the game will go to the Clarenceville Girl Scout troops. In addition to the varsity-faculty game, a preliminary contest between two picked teams composed of 7th, 8th and 9th graders will be held, starting at 6:45 p.m.

Farmington Band
The Farmington High School band will present a one-hour recital concert on Saturday evening, February 1, in the school gymnasium. Approximately 230 students now enrolled in the school band department will demonstrate the work that is being done in the band department. Several students will take solo parts. Also featured on the program will be majorettes who will give a twirling demonstration. A short period of dancing will follow the program and a lunch will be served.

FIVE YEARS AGO (January 17, 1952)
March of Dimes
The Farmington area March of Dimes campaign reached the half-way point this week with only approximately \$200 collected. It was pointed out, however, that this is only the amount of money which has been collected at a booth in the bank and that a substantial amount of money has probably been deposited in canisters in business places in the area which has not yet been collected. The Farmington drive is expected to be stimulated considerably by a door-to-door porch light parade to be held the last of this month.

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