

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## It's Our Opinion:

### EDITORIALS:

#### The Subject . . .

of Township Planning is always conducive to discussion and argument. So it was at the recent public meeting held at the Farmington high school under the sponsorship of the Farmington Township Civic Association.

It is unfortunate that more citizens could not have attended the meeting. A great many interesting and informative opinions and observations were presented. If any general conclusion is to be drawn from the discussion, it is that everyone favors community planning, but many disagree on just how it can best be accomplished.

The fact that planning is a recognized necessity is of the utmost importance. With this phase of the problem out of the way, we are in a position to proceed with the general mechanics. In our opinion, it would be most unfortunate if the basic idea of planning was snowed under because of conflict over the methods to be used. The principal idea is to get a plan that is acceptable, that is practical and that will do the job. The mechanics are a lot less important than the results.

If a workable plan for the orderly development of the Township is to be realized, a number of things are going to have to take place. There is going to have to be a more thorough understanding of the purposes and objectives of the planning program on the part of the general public. This can be accomplished through an organized publicity program including additional public meetings and discussion groups. Officials of the Planning Committee have indicated that these steps will be taken.

There is nothing strange or mysterious about planning. All of us practice it to some extent in our everyday life. Planning is a recognized tool of progress. . . our job is to put it to work.

#### The Addition . . .

of another name to the auto fatality list as a result of the condition of McGee Hill points up ever more graphically the need for action in the elimination of this dangerous section of Farmington Road.

Frankly, we don't know why there have not been more fatalities. Just plain luck has intervened in a score of accidents at the bottom of the Hill. This, coupled with an ever increasing number of safety devices and general knowledge of the condition by most people, has helped to cut the toll. City officials are working continually on new measures to make the Hill safer for motorists.

But, unfortunately, this is not enough. In our opinion, all the safety devices in the world will not make this section of road safe to traffic. Death and injury will continue as long as the road is allowed to exist as is. The big question seems to be, how bad will it get before something is done? In all fairness, the City has tried. Safety markers have been erected, speed limits have been imposed and when necessary, barricades have been erected. Yet the basic problem remains unsolved.

The ever increasing flow of traffic on Farmington Road and Ten Mile Road both into and out of the City makes this more than just a local municipal problem. In our opinion, the County and even possibly the State, has some obligation in the matter. The necessary widening of the road, the reduction of the slope and the construction of an adequate bridge is a major undertaking. Yet the City, thus far at least, has been unable to obtain any assistance.

It is a project that must eventually be done . . . why not now—before more names are added to the fatality list?

#### The Budget Figures . . .

being tossed back and forth across the tables in Lansing and Washington are simply out of this world, even in an age of flying saucers and atom bombs.

While these astronomical figures may seem to reach far into outer space, we can hardly expect the citizens of Mars or the Moon to take care of the top few rows. The burden must be assumed by the lowly taxpayers of that portion of the planet Earth called the United States of America. How this feat is to be accomplished is still unknown, but if past experience is any measuring stick, it will be done.

The big question in many minds is, how high can you pile a stack of figures before they come tumbling down and bring everything with it? This is still a mute question, but one thing seems to be certain: we're going to keep trying until we find the answer. All we can hope for is, that somewhere along the line we will see the light before the boom plunges down around our ears.

## What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

**DEARBORN**—The Dearborn Library Commission has taken issue with the mayor and city council and has charged that the council's resolution of December 26, 1956, is "in the opinion of the commission, a violation of the City Charter."

In a communication to the mayor and council, the commission requests a reconsideration of the City's action in picking a library site not approved by the commission.

A portion of the letter points out that the Charter of the City of Dearborn under which our City must be administered, provides in a portion of Section 823, as follows: "The Library Commission shall have charge of the administration of the libraries of the City and, within the provisions therefor in the City budget for each fiscal year, to acquire or provide in the name of the City all necessary grounds, buildings, books, periodicals, newspapers, equipment and other things necessary to maintain and operate a library and free reading room and such branch libraries and reading rooms as may be authorized."

—The Dearborn Independent

**NOVI**—An attempt by the Novi Board of Commerce to hold an open meeting for the purpose of fielding questions at township officials felt somewhat short of its mark Thursday night at the Novi Community Building.

Although approximately 90 residents were on hand for the question session, Clerk Hadley Bachert and Treasurer Charles Trickey were the only officials there to answer the questions. Board of Commerce Leo Harrowood stated that he had invited eight officials to attend and that "all had accepted."

One official denied getting in invitation and at least two others stated that they had not accepted invitations. Lack of officials did not discourage the questions. The first question, "What has been done to provide water and sewers?" was answered by Trickey. He stated that he knew "only what I read in the Novi News and hear by rumor."

Bachert, in answer to a question regarding the location of the sewer main, stated that he could find no record of minutes being taken "prior to July, 1956."

—The Novi News

**SOUTHFIELD**—Amendments to the Southfield Zoning Law have gone into effect which it is hoped will clear a controversial issue which has clouded the validity of a zoning board in the past.

Now spelled out are the rules under which the zoning board shall be appointed, terms of office, qualifications and other associated details. The revised ordinance came into effect at the appointment of a seven board appointed by the Township Board without consideration for political loyalties. To place the board on a staggered basis, three of the first appointees shall serve for two years and the remainder for full four year terms. In the event of vacancy, it is stipulated that appointments by the Township Board shall be for the remainder of an unexpired term.

It is also stipulated in the amended ordinance that in the event of dissatisfaction with a zoning board member and refusal to resign, dismissal shall be at the discretion of the City Council.

—The Four Corners Press

**ROMEO**—Whether to allow additional gravel pits in the west part of Washington Township remains a controversial subject.

In a closed meeting Friday night, the zoning board voted to recommend the rezoning of two parcels of land to permit the taking of gravel from them. The zoning board's recommendation must now go to the Township Board for approval or disapproval.

Area residents who strongly protested the rezoning of these parcels from agricultural-residential at a public hearing the previous week are now studying means of appealing the rezoning action in the Township Board goes along with the zoning board's recommendation.

—The Romeo Observer Press

Dublin, Georgia, "Courier-Herald": "The average American boy in his early teens dreams of driving the family car. When he reaches the legal age and is given permission, he learns rapidly and quickly the mechanical maneuvers that go with the operation of a modern vehicle. But apparently the adeptness of American youth at a time when the United States is automobile driving because reports of automobile insurance companies state that boys 16 to 25 years of age comprise 11 per cent of the nation's drivers yet are the cause of more than 34 per cent of the accidents."

Franklin, Indiana, "Republican": "Independent of all alliances and other division of the world into blocs, the United States and India together make strong case in behalf of a higher world morality."

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## Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

**YOU CAN INFLUENCE LEGISLATION IN MICHIGAN** more than you realize. Your State Senator and Representative are men from your area. State lawmakers must vote on hundreds of bills each session. They cannot know everything contained in all of them.

This gives your views real meaning. Legislators want to know what you think about proposed bills. An explanation of facts and your sincere opinion are therefore welcome.

Laborers can be contacted several ways. A common but efficient method is a letter. Literary diligence is not important. He values your message most if it weighs pros and cons of a matter under consideration; gives him facts and your thinking.

Short telephone calls and telegrams are also effective. Least important are the signed form letters that are distributed for your signature. Even these have some value, particularly if he receives large numbers of such messages.

One important "Don't." Do not demand that the legislator vote a certain way or threaten him. Lawmakers are human and it is human nature to react negatively when someone tries to say "you must vote this way or else."

Lawmakers like to speak with authority. A single fact from you can give him that authority. A letter is often expanded by the legislator into the impersonal, but larger "they say."

Letters to your legislator will reach him addressed to the State House of Representatives or the State Senate at the Capitol. Direct telephone calls can be made through special legislative switchboards. To reach your Senator, call Lansing, IVanhoec 4-5464. The House number is IVanhoec 4-4161.

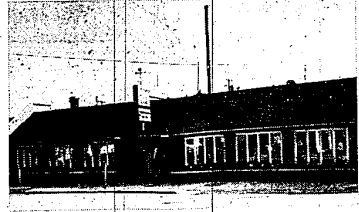
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## LOOKING AHEAD

By Dr. George S. Brown

EDITOR - NATION'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

Samuel Adams

**GOVERNMENT—HELPMATE OF PROGRESS**

The hardy, courageous pioneers who settled and colonized this new world, and the founding fathers who years later built its unique political and economic system, knew that government could be a help or a hindrance to progress. The wrong kind of system at the Jamestown and Plymouth colonies caused the people to the verge of starvation before it was changed. And the Declaration of Independence testifies eloquently to the hindrance and injury which came to the American people through the harsh, autocratic government administered from England in the mid-1700's.

Jamestown and Plymouth Colony the communal, or collectivist system was first used, with the government held responsible for the citizens' economic welfare. Within a few years this was changed to a system of citizen responsibility and private enterprise. A century later the 13 colonies, now progressing toward the status of a nation, were virtually paralyzed by heavy taxes enforced without recourse by the government of Great Britain.

**Record of Hindrance**

The record of government's hindrance or help to a people's prosperity and the progress can be found throughout history. Throughout Asia and Europe I have seen firsthand the great burden imposed on a people's struggle to advance, in nation after nation, in some parts of China I saw autocratic government imposed on sometimes a million people by a single man who happened to be the leader of the most powerful bandit gang in the region.

In Western Europe I saw various forms of socialism retarding a people's progress, and in East Europe the tentacles of Marxism Communism reaching out from Russia, confiscating privately owned property, and establishing communal farms like the one that brought Jamestown and Plymouth colonies to the brink of starvation. Wherever government has played the B.C. parts, and the citizen has been insignificant, human progress has sooner or later stagnated.

**Two Great Needs**

The American pilgrims and the early statesmen of an infant nation had found through experience that two great ingredients of human happiness and progress were individual freedom and individual responsibility. So they wanted to create a government that would protect freedom and require citizenship responsibility and self-reliance. Thomas Jefferson wrote in the (Continued on Page 8B)

## Looking Back Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (January 21, 1932)

**Primary Election**

Spring elections for officers in Farmington Township are in bloom close, with petitions for nomination beginning to circulate throughout the Township. The date for the primary election in Farmington has been set for Monday, March 7. Officers to be elected this spring include a supervisor, clerk, treasurer, constables, justice-of-the-peace, highway commissioner, a board of review member and an overseer. Petitions already in circulation for four incumbent officers, including Arthur Coe, supervisor; Willard Campbell, township clerk; Clayton Giers, highway commissioner; and Ernest Blanchard, justice-of-the-peace. Petitions are also being circulated for three candidates for four constables' positions. Being circulated are petitions for Henry DeHenke, William LaForge and Fred Menke.

**TEN YEARS AGO (January 23, 1947)**

**City Fire**

Fire of an undetermined origin swept through the Warner block in the heart of the City of Farmington early Tuesday night, causing an estimated \$125,000 worth of damage in one of the worst fires in Farmington's history! For a time it threatened the entire center of the city. Five apartments, the Twin's Beauty Parlor, Irene's Apparel Shoppe and the Farmington Post Office were all completely destroyed. Dickerson's Hardware, Oak Pharmacy and eight apartments over the two stores were badly damaged by water and smoke. The fire was first discovered by Roy Rudberg at about 8:10 p.m. The Farmington City and Township Fire Departments responded to the call immediately but were unable to bring the blaze under control. When the blaze continued to spread, fire departments from the surrounding area were called in. Redford Township, Novi, Livonia, Northville and a unit of the Redford fire department answered the call. Firemen and volunteers fought the stubborn blaze for over nine hours before it was brought under control. A strong wind, bitter cold and smoke made fighting the blaze extremely difficult.

**FIVE YEARS AGO (January 24, 1952)**

**City Manager**

James Tennant was appointed new city manager by the Farmington City Council at its regular meeting Monday evening. He has served as assistant city manager since December 18. In recommending Tennant for the position, Mayor Ken Loomis commended him for the work he has accomplished in the past month. It was moved by the Council that he be hired at a starting salary of \$5,000. Tennant came to Farmington from Kansas, where he had been employed at the Beach Aircraft Company in personnel work. Prior to that time he was assistant city manager at Junction City, Kansas.

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