

# The Farmington Enterprise

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## In Our Opinion

### Consider the Facts Before Criticizing

In a letter to the Editor last week, Warren Bopp of Farmington Township leveled sharp criticism over the fact that half the proceeds from the Old Yule Log football game between Farmington High and North Farmington were going to be used for Christmas decorations in the community.

It was his contention that the money should go instead to the Goodfellow fund, to the Elks Club for toys for kids at Christmas-time or similar other types of worthy local charities. Further on in his letter he stated that if extra money for local charities of this kind were needed then he would propose that it go to help provide a lighted athletic field at one of the schools or more seating at the athletic fields.

The letter writer and others who might have been swayed by his comments should consider some facts before they take the time to get before writing.

First, Mr. Bopp should know that changing the local rivalry football contest from Friday to Saturday was not thought up merely to benefit the Board of Commerce Christmas Decoration Fund. Half the proceeds from ticket sales will go to the school athletic fund and all the adult ticket sales and promoting was done by the Board of Commerce.

The school system's athletic department as well as Board of Directors saw this as an opportunity to raise more funds to benefit both the community and the school athletic fund and still accomplish a third worthwhile objective—a greater adult turnout at this local affair and create more united local community interest.

The letter writer should also know that none worked harder for a lighted athletic field in Farmington than many of the same people who worked exceptionally hard to make the Old Yule Log benefit football game a big success this year.

The fact is that the Farmington Board of Education and the school system's administrators have turned "thumbs down" on night football.

Mr. Bopp states that the reason for decorating a town is primarily to attract business for merchants. We would agree that this may be the reason why some merchants want to see a town and their stores well decorated but still feel there are a lot of business people and professional men and women in town who don't just have \$\$\$ signs in their eyes. They are proud of their community and want to see it attractively decorated. Citizens should feel the same way.

Perhaps Mr. Bopp would explain to us why he spends money to have a Christmas tree in his home and to decorate it and also why he would spend his time and money to provide other Christmas decorations both inside and outside his home. He might better donate this money to the Goodfellow or Elks to help the needy, if his criticisms have merit.

The Enterprise might also point out that many of the businessmen who worked hard to make the Old Yule Log benefit game a success are the same men whom you will see out selling Goodfellow papers, helping collect toys for the Elks and who contributed dollars and products to help get the Goodfellow baskets filled for needy families of the community.

We do not recall having seen Mr. Bopp out selling Goodfellow papers locally nor have we heard his name mentioned as one of those who spent countless hours working for the annual Elks Club toy drive effort.

A good citizen doesn't just take pride in his quarter acre or half acre of property he owns in that community. He is interested in the whole community and supports the business and professional people seeking to make this a better community for all to live in rather than knocking all their efforts.

### A Very Valuable Educational Program

In recent years the major emphasis of our school system's programs has been placed on preparing boys and girls to go on to college or to other schools of higher learning.

There is no denying that as our world changes and more and more technological changes are made in methods of operation in all lines of work, it is important that boys and girls and their parents see the need for obtaining training beyond high school classroom work.

But, neither educators or parents can lose sight of the fact that not all students are or want to be mentally equipped to hold professional positions or work on highly complex machinery in big business operations.

It is our feeling and sincere hope that machines will never replace clerks in stores, always waiting on patients in hospitals, tailors and dressmakers, professional cabinet and furniture makers and many other related positions of this type.

There are a certain number of young people today, and there will be in the years to come as well, who can be best trained for a happy and prosperous way of life for themselves through on-the-job-training rather than by going on to schools of higher learning.

The cooperative occupational training program that has been included into the framework of the Farmington school system's curriculum fully recognizes this fact and has, and will continue to have, our wholehearted endorsement.

In our own personal field of business, printing and publishing, there is a crying need for more production personnel and with the technological changes that are taking place, women as well as men are needed badly. Many of the store owners in Farmington and its environs have bemoaned the fact that they can not find good people to start training as clerks or helpers and to work on up the ladder to a position as an assistant to the owner or manager in a department or overseeing the total business operation.

We see no better way to correct this situation than to get a young boy or girl interested in a particular business operation while they are still in high school and then bring them along in this line of business after they have graduated from high school.

When this is done through a well organized program in full-cooperation with local educators then it has the best chance of being successful.

As much money as can possibly be expended to broaden and improve upon the cooperative occupational training program in the Farmington school system should be allotted. It would also be well for every businessman and industrialist in the community to consider seriously how he might bring a student enrolled in this program or wishing to enroll, into his organization's operations.

Not only will it help a young boy or girl get off on the right foot in the work-a-day world but it will also help each business person in his own field of work.

## Looking Back in the Files

**5 Years Ago**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 1959**  
**Lay-Sidewalk**  
New sidewalk was laid in the City of Farmington last week between the branch of the Rouge River to Lakeside Avenue along the north side of Grand River Avenue.

**Grid Captains**  
Farmington's versatile quarterback, Harvey Chapman, and stalwart lineman, Gary Tinkle, were named Co-Captains for the Falcon football team last week. Tinkle was also voted "Most Valuable Lineman" honors by his fellow teammates.

**10 Years Ago**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 1954**  
**New Grade Schools**  
Three new elementary schools will be put under construction in the Farmington School District, soon as the Board of Education approves the awarding of the building contract to the Wallace Construction Company for \$286,000.

**Blood Bank**  
The recent blood bank drive in Farmington netted a total of 109 pints of life-giving fluid.

**United Fund**  
Farmington contributions to the 1954 United Foundation Torch Drive are expected to reach \$15,000.

**15 Years Ago**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 1949**  
**Hit 85 Per Cent of Goal**  
Farmington's 1949 United Foundation Torch Drive fundraising campaign has reached the 85 per cent mark of the goal set for the community.

**Hunters Go North**  
Farmington has been awfully quiet this week with the opening of deer hunting season and the annual trek of hunters north.

**PHS Cagers**  
The Farmington High School basketball team this year has four lettermen returning to the squad. The team captain is Dick Tupper.



**FREE THROW** newspapers that get through doorsteps whether wanted or not, along with other scraps of paper that are thrown about carelessly by citizens can make any section of a community look bad. This was the unsightly view of the street at the corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road last Thursday morning. The message on the side of the trash barrel says: "Help Keep Farmington Clean and Green; and it is a message directed at all business people and citizens. The city can only provide the containers to put trash in. Concerned business people and citizens are needed if the objective called for on the side of the barrel is to be fulfilled.

### PUBLIC LETTER BOX

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

### Wants Twp. to Provide Community Center

To the Editor: Where is our community center? Our township officials have stated that they are greatly concerned with the problem of providing a community center for this township, but they have given indication of their interest with excuses and deceptions, not been the tools for delusions, not actions; for their concern and imagination have been mainly directed towards the sewers. The public's interests towards human directed affairs have been largely ignored. As a group, our youth are the ones who are most painfully aware of this. They have invaluable enthusiasm and energy. They have a great awareness of themselves as social beings. And we are belittling them. Moreover, these special qualities are the ones which, as a group of people, need, we ourselves, would have a vital and growing community spirit. We must give them consideration, and we must realize that they need an area where they, themselves, would have an opportunity to channel their interests and energies.

OUR FARMINGTON Township Officials have given indication that we could reasonably begin to plan for such a community center. Township funds must be available. Would they otherwise raise their salaries by a total of \$11,000 a year? And would they also consider the erection of a utility building, at the cost of approximately \$10,000? The sum of these amounts is impressive.

Our young people can wait no longer. With vague hopes, no needed attention. They have already said: "Let's Keep Interest In Gov't Active Here"

To the Editor: Several weeks before the last election the Farmington Enterprise printed an editorial mildly chastising its readers, or rather, "To The Editor" type letter writers. It seems that as the election approached, the paper received an unusually large amount of correspondence on local issues and candidates. The Editor suggested that the public send in comments regularly rather than just shortly before Election Day.

All of us should mark this point well. Elections normally place an extra burden on any newspaper. During this campaign, however, the Enterprise rendered additional services which Detroit newspapers were failing to provide. In spite of this extra service, the Enterprise managed to find sufficient space in its columns to cover the campaign thoroughly, and place both sides of the issues prominently in the paper.

I feel that this kind of journalism has helped to raise public interest in local civic affairs to a very high in this community. Let us hope that, with your continued fine reporting, citizens' interest and curiosity will reach the point where more of us will attempt to learn how our elected officials function, and more of us will make our desires known to these elected officials who seek to serve us in our local government.

Sincerely,  
R. DeWitt  
29705 Ravenscroft

### 60 NF Students Participate In Math Quiz

Sixty North Farmington students participated in the first of a two part Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition test held November 3. One hour and forty minutes was given for answers to forty multiple choice questions, most of which required some computation.

December 10 is the date set for the second part of the test, which will be composed of six original problems compiled by the top mathematicians in the state. Only those who score in the top percent on the first test will be eligible to compete in the final examination.

Seven North Farmington students participated in the final testing last year, with Roger Mingo placing among the top one hundred applicants in the state. 1961 and 1962 each saw only one participant from NF progress to the final section of the test.

The increased success of NF students can be partially attributed to Mr. Richard Frankel, a former mathematician and graduate of the University of Michigan, conducted several math seminars for the benefit of interested students.

Students in grades 912 are eligible to take the test. It is sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematics Association of America, Michigan colleges and universities, and various professional organizations and industries.

Scholarships are awarded to ranking students. Mr. R. McCreight, math teacher at NF, points out that recognition from colleges and valuable experience are also significant assets to be gained from the test.

Blade condition and arm pressure? No, these aren't phrases from a handbook on the art of fencing. They have to do with traffic safety recommendations of Farmington City Police Chief Maxime D. Felt and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. They refer to windshield wiper blades, which should be replaced when worn and streaking; and to wiper arm pressure against the windshield, which should equal at least one ounce for every inch of blade length. Follow their advice. Replace your windshield wiper blades when they start to streak and you'll never be sorry. You'll see!

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### Diabetes Tests To Be Given November 15-21

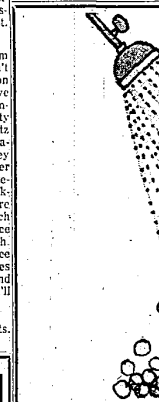
Testing Centers for the 1964 Diabetes Detection Drive will be located at numerous metropolitan hospitals and clinics. Farmington's testing program will be held at the William Beaudette Hospital, 3201 W. 15 Mile Road, Royal Oak, Mon. thru Fri., Nov. 16-20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, 3071 W. Outer Drive, Detroit, Tues. thru Fri., Nov. 17-20, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; and Sinai Hospital of Detroit, 6767 W. Outer Drive, Detroit, Sat. and Sun., Nov. 16-21, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Directions for reaching the Testing Centers may be obtained by calling the Michigan Diabetes Association, TE. 2-5819 (A Michigan United Fund Agency).

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**Program Announced For W'm Grace P.T.A.**  
The next meeting of the Farmington P.T.A. will be held next Tuesday evening, November 24, at 8 p.m. Special Education teachers and consultants in speech, physical education, music, art and band will speak on their individual programs at William Grace School.

A film about fluoride treatment will be shown also. Dr. Sam Gracino from the Oakland County Department of Health will be present to discuss the fluorine treatment program and answer any questions about it.

**MRS. EARL COMPEAU, W. Eight Mile Rd., who has been seriously ill is reported feeling much better.**

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