

# The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal of Progress" Established 1888  
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## In Our Opinion . . .

### Special Elections Not the Real Answer

In the near future Farmington Township voters will be asked to go to the polls for a special election on the pay increases that were authorized by the second trustees on the seven member Farmington Township Board for the township's three top elected officials.

Petitions were circulated and a sufficient number of signatures obtained on them by law to make a referendum vote on the pay increases granted the supervisor, clerk and treasurer mandatory. It is the right of citizens by law to demand such an election if a sufficient number petition for it and we think a date should be set and this election held as quickly as possible.

It has now been learned that another petition is being circulated calling for a second special election on the recent action taken by our township officials approving re-zoning to permit multiple housing units in a large village green type of development north of Grand River Ave. near Drake Road.

The Enterprise doesn't question the legal right of citizens to petition for as many special elections of this kind as they want. We are a little disturbed, however, to think that an unwholesome trend may be getting started that could well result in the repeated special elections of this kind again and gain in our years of development ahead.

We see it as something very detrimental to a smooth and orderly development of the balance of the community.

It is only natural that our officials will spend a substantial amount of time and effort prior to any special election of this nature to try and sell their point of view to the electorate. Setting up these special elections is both time consuming and costly. All time spent in this manner will thus detract from the amount of time and energy that can be put forth in taking care of other important matters that come up that are many and varied in nature and growing in complexity.

To prevent a trend in the direction of repeated special elections being petitioned for, on numerous different controversial subjects as they come up in the future, we feel there are a couple of steps that can be taken.

One of our suggestions would be that the Township Board act immediately in setting up special citizen study committees to delve deeper into various subjects affecting the township and of the community including re-zoning, multiple housing, water and sewer needs and other pertinent topics. Another would be that all citizens strive harder to cooperate with those officials in office who are the choice of the majority of the voters rather than doing things to prevent them from carrying out their duties to the community as a whole in the best manner possible.

Party politics seems to be causing a lot of controversies that have and are continuing to develop in our township today. Unfortunately, the township officials are elected on a party ticket and no change in this law appears to be forthcoming.

A change in our form of government does not seem to be in sight, either. We can only urge again, therefore, as we have so many times in the past, that both our elected officials and those affiliated with the party opposite to that party in power try to set aside party affiliation and begin trying to work together in the community's best interest.

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### Turn Lanes for Better School Safety

The Farmington Board of Education is to be commended for convincing the Oakland County Road Commission that a turning lane in front of the East Junior High School is needed and for being willing to go to the expense of putting in the turning lane.

It is our feeling that every effort possible should be made to do the same in front of any other schools that may be built on main artery roadways in the future. It should be done at the time the school is under construction. Our two existing schools on other main roads could also use such turning lanes to improve safety conditions and we would like to see them put in as soon as possible.

Traffic safety problems exist in front of schools just about anywhere when located on heavily traveled roadways. But in suburban areas where homes are spread out a lot and sidewalks along main roads leading to and from the schools are almost non-existent the problem of safety for the children is increased greatly.

Many children must be bused and there is a lot of confusion and problems with buses loading and unloading and getting to and away from the schools. An even greater problem is created, however, by the fact that a number of parents (either rightly or wrongly) feel they must take and pick up their youngsters by private cars if not every day at least quite frequently.

The heavy concentration of cars and buses in the vicinity of the schools along with a heavy flow of traffic on the main artery roads is a problem in itself. Added to this, however, is a number of young children who will be walking home and the chances of accidents are accelerated even more.

Even if school building construction costs must be cut and some good but non-essential features in the building itself eliminated, it is our feeling that turn lanes and other moves to provide greater safety outside and around school buildings is important.

## Looking Back in the Files

| 5 Years Ago<br>DECEMBER 24, 1959                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10 Years Ago<br>DECEMBER 23, 1954                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 15 Years Ago<br>DECEMBER 22, 1949                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>Area Responds</b><br>Due to the extremely bad weather experienced during last week's annual Goodwill Newspaper Sale, the community's goal of raising \$4,000 for needy families in the area this Christmas fell nearly \$3,000 short of the mark. Goodwill citizens of Farmington were equal to the occasion and contributions received by the Goodwill since the newspaper sale have swelled the charity fund to almost the hoped-for figure. The response was universal as one man who contributed a check for \$25 had just been out of work and helped by the Goodwill Christmas. | <b>Local Jet Pilot</b><br>Lt. Richard H. Miller, a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State College, is now a Sabre Jet pilot with the U.S. Air Force 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron. Goodfellow.                                           | <b>Falcons Win</b><br>The Farmington High School basketball team scored its fifth straight victory of the 1949-50 season last Friday evening on the Falcon hardwoods by defeating, previously unbeaten, Keene Harbor 33 to 19. The starting five for Farmington were Foster, "Smoky" Aschenbrenner, George Barron, Dave Dimever, Jim Bates and Captain Dick Tupper. Barron was high point man for the Falcons with nine Goodfellow. |
| <b>FHS Cagers Win</b><br>The Farmington High School basketball team squeaked out a 48-47 victory over Inter-Lake Conference rival Walpole last Friday on the Viking hardwoods. Harvey Chapman was high point man for the Falcons with 15 points.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>New Office Site</b><br>The Farmington Township Board has instructed Township Attorney Archie Leonard to investigate the legal steps necessary before the Board can build out a new site for the building of new Township offices.                   | <b>Safety Patrol</b><br>Rain capers were presented to the Farmington Safety Patrol this week by the Farmington Lions Club. Parking Meters<br>The City of Farmington may have parking meters in the Downtown Business Section next spring, it was revealed at the regular meeting of the Farmington City Commission.                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Ball of Fame</b><br>Russell Catherine of Dearborn grew up in Farmington and is well known to many of the older residents of the community has been accepted into the Michigan Hall of Fame.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>FARC Program</b><br>The Farmington Area Recreation Commission (FARC) this week announced that the Farmington High School gymnasium would be opened during the Christmas Holidays to provide supervised recreational activities for area youngsters. | <b>The average person spends 23 years of his life sleeping.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Girl Scout News

All the Girl Scouts of the Farmington Neighborhood thinned the tree in front of the City Hall on December 18 and sang Christmas Carols.

Attending the Regional Conference in Chicago were Mrs. Bridget Reagan, leader for Senior Troop 238; Mrs. Margaret Small, leader of Cadette Troop 804; and Neighborhood Chairman Mrs. Leona Stidwell. The subject was "Scouting - A Promise in Action."

Sunday, November 8, six girls and two leaders, Mrs. F. Reagan and Mrs. F. Papke of Senior Troop 238, hiked 14 miles of the Wilderness Trail in the Holly Recreation Area. Every one met at the First Methodist Church.

The girls walking the trail were Vicki Papke, Carol Sue Burton, Lynn Callahan, Betty Wright, Alice Niven, and Karen LeFevre.

Saturday, November 14, the troop went on a hayride with Sea Scouts from Redford to Hayride Lodge in Rochester. There were 21 people in all: five adults and 26 Girl Scouts and Sea Scouts. Four girls from Mrs. Lovett's Troop in North Farmington were also present as Joyce Ray, American Girl of our last year's German Exchange Student.

Tuesday, November 17, the troop had a "Rededication Ceremony" to formally accept Betty Wright, and Lynn Callahan as Senior Scouts and to officially welcome Janice Young, who comes from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mimi Muller, who was a former Senior Scout in the Philadelphia area, gave the commands for the Flag Ceremony. Mimi had taken Cadette Leaders' training, and will work with Cadette Troop 317. The Flag Ceremony was followed by a Candlelight Ceremony.

A Program Aide Bar was given to Carol Sue Burton who has just finished her program of training. After the colors were retired, refreshments of punch and cookies were served to parents, guests and troop members. The sides of last summer's European Trip were shown by Vicki Papke and Bridget Reagan who made the trip.

Junior Troop 1036, with leader Mrs. Cleveland and co-leader Mrs. Neumann, had their "Rededication Ceremony" on December 15.

On December 3, Brownie Troop 127 and guests of all Girl Scouts at Alameda School, leaders and principals of the school. Mr. Langen, really enjoyed the special guests, Mrs. Robert Stamps and daughter, Debra, who entertained with slides about Japan.

DEBRA STAMPS was disappointed that she could not say the A.B.C.'s in Japanese. She was to do this on a return visit.

On December 22, the girls are to Sing Christmas Carols for the ladies of the Kendallwood Home, a previously unbroken will pass out their small gifts. Following that, they are invited to Barbara Lewis' home for their Christmas Party. Their hosts will be Mrs. John Lewis.

We also gave Mr. Willy Worm to children of the Plymouth State Home.

Call in Girl Scout news to Amy Charron, 474-0713.

## Officials Meet With Students In Attempt To Curb Vandalism

BY LARRY ADCOCK  
FHS News Staff

"Of great concern to us who administer the affairs of a school is the tremendous amount of malicious damage done to Farmington Public Schools, as well as other public and private property," began Mr. Gerald V. Harrison.

This was the opening statement of a meeting of school administrators, governmental officials, and student representatives of the five secondary schools in Farmington, December 14, at the Administration Building.

The purpose of the meeting, explained Harrison, was to "harness the brains of junior and senior high school students into constructive channels of thought, thought on how to fight juvenile vandalism."

"I'm appalled every month at the report of the Township Police Chief of the amount and extent of vandalism on the juvenile level," stated Mr. Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer reported on 11 months of 1964 during which time 444 complaints of vandalism in the township were made, with malicious destruction in damages of \$30 and more.

These acts of vandalism, he said, included such things as damage to mailboxes, lawns, fences, signs, slashing of tires, and so forth, not to mention public property damage. In total, the destruction reached the \$2,000 mark. The age group was from 9 to 16 years, with no reports on or arrests of girls.

City Manager John C. Dinan, alluded to the township vandalism problem by comparing those figures to his own figures on the city. For the same period, the city of Farmington received 125 vandalism reports with 25 arrests, resulting in \$6,200 damage from juveniles 6 to 21 years. The largest number of offenses came from the 12 to 16 year age group.

The West Farmington Farm Bureau met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Tamm of 33306 W. 13 Mile Road on Tuesday, December 15, for the regular monthly meeting.

In the absence of Chairman Louis Gilson, the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Otto Rabin. Russell Carlson led the group in the salute of the Flag. Forty-one persons were present representing a total of 22 families and four guests.

Committee reports were made by the various chairmen. The topic of the month, 1965 Year of "War Baby" Crisis, was led by Discussion Leader Wendell Brown who brought on interesting comments from the various members.

After adjournment, a Christmas Silent Auction was held. Gifts donated by members of the organization gave an atmosphere of holiday cheer. The proceeds of the auction are earmarked for the 1965 Sister Kenny Fund.

The evening was climaxed with refreshments served by the hostesses, Mrs. William Tamm, and her two daughters, Mrs. Jack Lasech and Mrs. Richard Brown.

The January meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Brown of Ardmore Road, Farmington.

commented Dinan.

Mr. James Geiger, Farmington Senior High Principal, brought up the question of parental responsibility in cases of vandalism. Oppenheimer pointed out that parents were responsible for their children's damages only in cases involving less than \$250 or less.

"But you see, it's not the dollars question we're concerned with," observed Oppenheimer, "but it's the principle of the thing. As future adult citizens, these vandals' growth is somewhat stunted. It will do much easier for them to break the law when they're older because of their actions now."

Earl Oppenheimer, attorney for Canadian Grand Trunk Railways and Township Board Trustee, had offered an essay contest (in discussion now) as to whether it is to be compulsory or voluntary in order to discover the ideas and possible solutions that could be offered by students themselves.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to a general discussion about the vandalism problem. Hereafter are some of the comments.

Danny Varianian, of North Farmington, began the student discussion by stating that "the cause of vandalism and juvenile delinquency is, for the most part, the large amount of free time we have. Most extracurricular activities at present, such as athletics, do not attract the majority of students so we must establish a program which will have appeal to all students."

Gina Parsons, FHS Sophomore, called for "stricter law enforcement and more news articles in order to cause the offender and possible offenders to think twice."

Oppenheimer, by his essay contest idea, said he wished to get "all sides of this problem from all points of view."

Assistant Principal of Dunek Junior High, Mr. Robert Brown, suggested that "not all students are aware of the consequences resulting in a conviction of vandalism. The consideration of possible solutions should be conducted at the student body level, where it will be most meaningful. Creative ideas can be brought forth by a student body - if suggestions can be made and enforced by their own peer groups they will be more effective."

Mike Miller, FHS Junior, disagreed somewhat, and pointed out that "the sources of the problem and the actual vandals themselves, will offer no solutions whatsoever."

Farmington Senior High Student Council President Michael Webster, defended Brown's thoughts, though, by countering Miller. He said, "Peer group pressure is the most effective, and it takes real leadership if you don't we bring back the suggestions of these peer groups and analyze them with a group such as this one?"

Howard Broadman, President of East Farmington Junior High's Student Council, seemed to agree with Brown and Webster, stating that "Assemblies with speakers seems to me the only sensible solution to drawing from the student body their ideas. Perhaps they can record their impressions and thoughts relating to the speaker in a written report afterward."

North Farmington's Ricki Pender suggested that English classes ought to hold discussions of the problems and establish essay assignments, with each student responsible for a certain assignment of facts.

Mike Webster believed that "not just one type of student causes vandalism - many of your so-called 'upstanding' students join in on malicious destruction."

Farmington Senior High's Tom Waring had the following to offer: "You don't have to be a safe-cracker to know how to crack a safe. By the same token, everyone who is informed about the problem of Farmington's vandalism can help offer intelligent, workable solutions, valuable to those who wish them." The Student Council should take the initiative in setting ideas from the students.

In general, the group arrived at three conclusions. First, individual responses, reactions and ideas should be gathered; second, group responses should be prompted and encouraged; and third, a discussion of suggestions by a representative group of law enforcement agencies, school administrators, and students should be held after the various Student Councils have initiated a collection of possible solutions.

The results and topics brought forth at this meeting will be discussed in Student Councils of the five schools and in home-rooms.

Mr. Harrison was very much pleased with the meeting, and expressed his gratitude for the cooperation given from all five schools.

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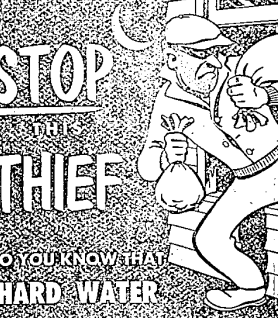
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