

# The Farmington Enterprise

A Continuing Journal of Progress Established 1888

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## In Our Opinion . . . .

### Important Facts To Be Considered

There are still a couple of points that we feel deserve very serious consideration and deliberation before any final decision is made on what the zoning will be on the 22-acre problem parcel on the west side of Farmington Road between Alta Loma and Freedom Drive.

At one end of this problem parcel is the Huron Valley Hunting and Fishing Club and a swimming club and at the other a gas station and a couple of other small businesses and accessory buildings. On the opposite side of Farmington Road as far south as Slocum there are commercial buildings and then about 15 homes and a couple of apartment house developments nearest to Freedom Drive.

The Alta Loma homeowners' proposal is that the vacant parcel on the west side of the road be subdivided into approximately 80 lots and developed with homes in the \$25,000 price range. A big question to be determined is whether \$25,000 price range homes would be a detriment to the undeveloped area in view of the type of neighboring development, as described above, that now exists.

According to City Manager John Dinan, 80 homes in this price range would bring in about \$50,000 annually in school, county and city taxes. But, they would also bring with them some substantial additional tax costs.

On the basis of latest figures supplied by Supt. of Schools G. V. Harrison, there is an average of 1.5 school age children that come along with each new home being built in Farmington and over 10 children in the 0 to 19 age bracket. With an average of one and one-half children in the 86 new homes, there would be 120 more children to be educated.

Supt. Harrison stated that they now figure on a basis of 30 pupils per classroom and the cost per classroom at approximately \$25,000 which would mean 4 2/3rd more school classrooms to be built at a cost of over \$116,000. The local school operating cost per

child in Farmington, based on the superintendent's figures, is \$420 annually. Of this amount approximately 55 percent comes from the state. The remaining approximately 45 percent must come from local school taxes on property. With 120 school age children coming with the 80 new homes, the amount of added local school taxes that would be required to educate them would run in the neighborhood of \$22,680 annually.

Add to this the cost of the new classrooms needed and spread it over the next 25 years, taking into consideration both interest and principal payments, and you come up with an additional local school tax obligation of at least \$8,000 per year.

This means that over \$30,000 of the estimated \$50,000 worth of additional tax revenue that would come in from the proposed 80 new homes would be needed to satisfy added school expenses alone.

Since the school office or research buildings on this same 22-acre parcel of property there would, of course, be none of these added school expenses. Expenses for other community services might run a little higher although it is hard to conceive that they would.

Since Farmington Road is a main artery highway, it is logical to think that either commercial or office buildings would be practical on this property but the fact that residential homes were allowed fronting on Farmington Road on the opposite side of the street some years back somewhat clouds this line of thinking.

We can't see that there is any logical argument from a local tax standpoint in favor of residential homes on this property as opposed to a high class of office or research buildings.

The real question to be weighed, then, is how detrimental office, research or educational buildings on this property would be to the property values of nearby homeowners and the added nuisances that such development might create.

### Citizen Participation A Big Help

In a rapidly growing community, there are always a lot of regulations and decisions to be formalized as well as numerous complex problems to be solved as the community is in the process of development. A considerable amount of detailed research and study is usually involved if well founded conclusions are to be reached.

It has always been our feeling that our governing officials should not try to undertake all of this time consuming work on their own but should appoint special citizen study committees to do some of this work. On numerous occasions in the past we have urged editorially the appointment of such special committees.

The Township Board's action of last week in appointing a special 13-citizen building and grounds committee and in announcing plans to appoint still other citizen study committees was very pleasant news to us.

By having active citizens groups working on such studies and in coming up with recommendations the general citizenry seems to have a better feeling about the actions that are taken as the

result of such studies. By getting more people involved in the affairs of local government it also seems that there is a better community-wide understanding of the situation and problems that prevail in the community.

It is our sincere hope that anyone who wishes to serve on any future township committees that may be formed or has someone they would like to recommend for a committee appointment will make it known to Earl Oppenheimer, the Township Board's chairman for committees.

Should you be asked to serve on a township committee in the future, it is our sincere hope that you will accept even though it may result in some inconveniences to you.

Any real citizen community that you can find today will be one where citizens have and are continuing to take an active part not only in that community's social affairs but also in its governmental affairs. To be a real part of any community, you must take part in its activities and be concerned and willing to help in solving its problems.

### Looking Back in the Files

#### 5 Years Ago

MARCH 3, 1960  
Crash Kills Four

A Royal Oak couple and two of their seven children were killed in an accident at 12 Mile Road near Webster in Farmington Township. The victims were traveling in a car which struck a truck. A total of eight persons were injured.

Falcons Post 519

The Farmington High School basketball team closed out their regular season with a 61-55 victory over Inter-Lakes Conference rival Southfield last Friday night on the Falcon hardwoods. Bill Smith was high scorer for Farmington with 17 points followed by Harvey Chapman with 16 tallies.

Engineering Survey

Work is now moving ahead on an engineering survey to determine the feasibility of reopening the old Farmington Road route up McGee Hill.

#### 10 Years Ago

MARCH 4, 1955  
New Grade School

Progress is said to be going ahead steadily on the construction of the Farmington Township School District's new elementary school at 12 Mile Road, on 14 Mile Road at Middlebelt Road. Some confusion developed over whether the school was being built in the Township, since the site is north of 14 Mile Road, but school officials were quick to point out that school district boundaries are not township boundaries, as in this case.

City Assessment

Total assessment of real property in the City of Farmington has been tentatively set at \$4,381,410, an increase of \$230,000 over the complete real and personal property assessment for 1954.

#### 15 Years Ago

MARCH 2, 1950  
Special Election

A special election is now certain over the newly enacted Farmington Township Building Code Ordinance which gave rise to a movement, sponsored by the Farmington Township, to amend the Township Charter to give residents signed petitions in opposition to the new ordinance that a referendum vote on the issue was made possible.

Legion Festival

The American Legion, Groves-Hawthorne Post 346 of Farmington, sponsored a festival for merchants and customers last weekend which was well received by everyone. Hundreds of free samples were given away by merchants displaying their wares and potential customers came in from all over the area to visit the festival.

## Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The Enterprise must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 100 words.

### Apathy Disturbing

To the Editor:

Wednesday, February 10, our home was honored by the presence of five of the Republican candidates and a representative of one of the Democratic candidates for state senator of the 11th District.

The idea of getting the candidates to come like this was suggested to me a few weeks earlier when I inquired about some of the candidates. I later discovered this is a common practice known as "redie."

I hesitated to call these gentlemen because of their importance, but was thrilled to hear that each of them welcomed the opportunity to use our home.

One hundred, twenty people were contacted and urged to bring friends. I assumed that at the very least, 30 people would welcome the opportunity to meet with these men.

The chairs that we picked up plus the use of the hotel's ballroom accommodated a "crowd." Eleven people, including my husband and me, were interested enough to spend an hour talking with the candidates.

I comforted myself with the thought that perhaps I should have written the invitations instead of calling or perhaps have offered beer and chips instead of coffee and cookies. The apathy that exists makes me wonder.

What can we do? We could sit back and join the crowd which fills my nature anyway. While there were only a handful of us it is hard to work up our enthusiasm to spark interest in just one other person, there would be twice as many, and if you continue to multiply, the possibilities are unlimited.

You could be the most important link in this public awakening by greater depth coverage on local and state issues. Could another page on politics and patriotism be added at an annual cost to the reader?

After reading the other paper which arrived at our home free of charge for several months, I decided to do my own thing. Comparative reading was the best publicity your newspaper could receive. The editorialists prove you have both in spite of the fact that traffic broadens the use of both to be air your readers.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. (Mrs. Alan H.)

### Good Samaritan Aids Stranded Motorist

To the Editor:

May I nominate Farmington's Good Samaritan of the Year: Mr. Francis G. Hoffman of 31699 Staman Circle Drive.

On Wednesday evening, February 10, during a snowstorm, my car suddenly stalled in the midst of expressway traffic. I sat for a half hour while cars skidded past or narrowly avoided hitting me in the middle lane. Nobody offered help until Mr. Hoffman passed and stopped in front of me. He and Queen of Hearts, a dangerous position just getting out of his car and walking back to investigate. He stated he would back up and push me in spite of the fact that traffic was bumper to bumper. He did just this, forcing oncoming cars to "edge over" just enough so that he could get in back of me. Again, he might have had a serious accident in the process.

He pushed me several miles to the 42nd exit where he then, on to an exit at Telegraph, another busy highway. One good push at 12 Mile and Telegraph sent me into a service station.

He emerged from my car with a prayerful gesture, and offered assistance in getting me home.

Fortunately the station owner was able to get the car started while Mr. Hoffman waited. He could have left them, but he wanted to follow me all the way home to make sure that the car wouldn't stall.

Never in my life have I felt so panicky nor in need of assistance, and I feel Mr. Hoffman deserves the highest praise for being such a Good Samaritan. They are few and far between, when one can sit stranded on an expressway for a half hour, or who knows how long, if he had not come along.

I wish to thank him from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cyril Johnson  
23193 Shadyridge  
Farmington, Mich.

Looking For Bargains? . . .  
Look no further than The Enterprise Classified Ads.



CUB SCOUT PACK 118 of Farmington, shown by the Flanders Elementary School, held its Blue and Gold Banquet Wednesday evening, February 17, in the First Methodist Church of Farmington.

Scout officials presented advancement awards to many of the boys and a unit citation for the entire Pack which will show up in the future as an arm patch to be worn as part of the Pack's regular uniform. Merchants throughout the area provided snacks with space in their stores in which to display projects during the national observance of Boy Scout Week. Scout organizations throughout the community participated in the weeklong observance.

### 150 Cub Scouts Attend Blue and Gold Banquet

More than 150 Cub Scouts and their families attended the first annual Pack 118 Blue and Gold Banquet recently at Ten Mile School. Highlight of the program was a special torch ceremony led by Gene Chase of Pack 115.

Ten boys who were welcomed into Pack 108 during the ceremony and received their Bobcat pins were assisted by William Simons, Robert Williams, William Eide, Steve Kohns, David Donivan, Robert Boston, Thomas Donivan, Gary Hartman, Christopher Holton and Henry Burns.

AWARDS GIVEN during the ceremony were: Silver Arrow—Duke Moore, Peter Kohns, Brian Beyer, Bear badge, Silver Arrow—Larry Thompson; Bear badge, Silver and Gold Arrows, assistant Denner—Ron Maniwski; Bear badge—Ron Maniwski; Wolf badge—Ron Maniwski; Gold Arrow—Larry Kutz; Lion badge, Gold and Silver Arrows—Karl Emmert; Scoutmaster—J. A. Eide, Steve Kohns, Curtis DeMarco and Steve Whaley.

An Indian war-bonnet, donated by the Don Lord family, was worn by the chief during the ceremony. A flag stand has also been donated by Cub Scout Gary Teekhe, and his mother.

AN AMERICAN adventure pageant was presented by all these denes. Using tableaux and narrators, the boys related the history of famous "trailblazers" from the explorers to modern scientists, parades and the role Cub Scouts can take in America's future.

Thirty-three boys now belong to the Pack. Next pack meeting will be on the regular night, Friday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Ten Mile School.

### Dunkel Choirs Sponsor Dance

The annual Valentine dance sponsored by the choir of the Dunkel Junior High was held on February 12.

The beautifully decorated gym provided a perfect setting for the crowning of this year's Queen and King. The excitement grew with the appearance of Wayne Huber and Kathy Grealey, the 1964 King and Queen of Hearts.

The silent hush of the audience was quite apparent when the contestants were in their places and the realization that the amounting of the winners was at hand. Wild cheers were heard as Dave Douglas and Linda Hayland were acclaimed the 1965 King and Queen of Hearts.

THE OTHER contestants were Diane Crump, Judy Dickson, and Diane Garcia, Jan Fagan, Cindy Newland, Chuck Hill, Robin Murphy, Dennis Spencer, Jack Threlkeld, and Gary Zerban.

The Angry Young Men, a folk song team from the North Farmington High School provided entertainment during the dance. This vocal group is composed of Bob Fisher, Art Marshall, Mike Maloney, and Marshall Slocum. Songs performed by the group included "Tom Dooley," "Bad Man's Blues," and "If I Had A Hammer." "Garbage," a number written by the Angry Young Men, received enthusiastic response from the Dunkel students.

### Farmington Coed On MSU Honor Roll

Mary Jane Carpenter, daughter of Nyal Carpenter, 2806 Longacre, Farmington, was one of 289 students placed on the Michigan State University honor roll in recognition of highest attainment in scholarship for earning an all-A record during the last year.

Miss Carpenter is majoring in home economics.

### Statements, Facts On City Council Candidates

(Between now and the April election The Farmington Enterprise will be accepting statements from the seven men seeking election to the three seats to be filled on the Farmington City Council. All candidates are being invited to submit statements or information about themselves for publication.)

(The Enterprise will reserve the right to edit or delete any portion of the information that may be submitted by any of the candidates. Since space limitations exist, all candidates are urged to keep their statements as brief as possible.)

**RALPH YODER**

Ralph Yoder has been a resident of the City of Farmington for 14 years and prior to this was a resident of Farmington Township for ten years.

"I have been educated, married and wish to be buried in Farmington," he commented that he did not make this statement facetiously but as an honest illustration of his deep-seated interest in this community. He added that he definitely has a "vested interest in the City of Farmington and that it is civic pride."

Since his past, present and future are in Farmington he feels this concern is justified and has been demonstrated by his past performances. Yoder has regularly attended City Council meetings since 1957 and has been an active member of both the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He points out that this close association with city affairs has made him very much aware of Farmington and its problems, hopes and possible solutions.

Yoder emphasized that he seeks the office of councilman as an individual not associated with any group, faction or date. He stated further that he feels that to serve citizens, whether they are older or newer residents, it is necessary that they be considered by their council representatives individually and without worry about pressure as the result of previous group commitments by any council member.

**SANDY BROTHERTON**

W. V. "SANDY" Brotherton, councilman, seeks another term on the Farmington City Council which he has served for the past 7 years, the last 4 as Mayor-Pro-Tem.

He has been a leading member of the Planning Commission for 8 years and chairman for the past two years. He has also been active on the Farmington City Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees of which he is the present chairman.

Sandy stated, "We have been engaged in a dynamic program in Farmington to take care of its future needs. I am asking my fellow citizens to give me the opportunity to put my experience to use and help bring this program to a satisfactory conclusion."

This program has included the building of a new City Hall, park improvements, a new P.W. building, rejuvenation of the downtown area, getting Detroit water and elimination of sprinkling basins and increased fire and police protection. As chairman of the Planning Commission he played an important role in the development of stronger zoning and building codes designed to limit apartments and of a new Zoning Ordinance to protect the rights of all property owners.

Since 1954 at 2822 Beacon Drive with his wife Yvonne and two children, Lynn, 7, and Bill, 3, he was born in Chicago, Illinois, flew 25 missions with

### Name Chairman of MSU Rally

Kenneth L. Houghton of in length. Contestants are to travel the course following national committee chairman for the first all-university road rally to be held at Michigan State University.

Houghton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester O. Houghton, 33619 Bernadine Drive, Farmington, was a 1962 graduate of Farmington High School.

A junior, majoring in advertising, Houghton was appointed to the chairmanship by Theta Chi fraternity, sponsors of the event.

Responsibilities of the rally include establishing a steering committee, securing regulations, participation requirements and course directions.

Houghton defines the rally as a pre-determined Interfraternity Council home-course approximately 100 miles coming committee.

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