

Editorial Page

Downtown Shopping . . .

Other events are already indicating probable soundness of the proposed Farmington City downtown shopping improvement project. So far it's only a drawing made as a result of studies by the planning consultants hired by the city council.

We've heard no very important reasons advanced why the proposed improvement plan shouldn't be attempted. In the weeks since the tentative plan was first presented, it has seemed more sound upon consideration.

Just recently Grand Haven, which isn't a heck of a lot larger than Farmington, set up a shopping mall along two blocks of its main street, gave it a ten-day trial, and has just found it to be such a success it may be extended awhile.

The two block strip of the downtown area was closed to all but emergency vehicles. Normal traffic was routed around the mall by one way streets, and pedestrian shoppers given free run of the area. Shrubs, trees and park benches dotted the pavement, and with no vehicles to control, traffic lights were shut off.

Response was enthusiastic, and retail sales in most instances were reported up quite a bit. There were a few minor problems, and few people are yet certain about long time benefits.

Kalamazoo recently announced an ambitious plan, not yet adopted, which would make a mall out of a large section of the downtown business area, circled by one way streets back of which would be huge parking areas. Shoppers would have to walk only a couple of blocks to get to the center of the business district.

Traverse City and Elkhart, Indiana, have been discussing somewhat similar plans. At Davidson, where most businesses are on one street, merchants went together to provide attractive permanent covers the length of Main street, each side, and firms are urged to remodel so the business district looks like one large arcade. At Flint trees have recently been set out along Saginaw street, and numerous benches are available.

All these projects are right in line with the thinking of the planning consultants for a Farmington downtown shopping area with three large parking lots available back of stores, and direct rear entrance to stores and nearby shops.

We hope the planning consultants will soon have ready further reports and that they will bring out more enthusiasm among the business men than that thus far shown. We feel some such plan is very necessary to the "four corners" area, or the so-called downtown shopping district will soon lose identity, and all the city will suffer. But the merchants and property owners will suffer most, and they should be pushing this or a similar plan, not showing an almost utter disregard.

Sure, it will take a few years to get a good start, but the PLAN has to be studied and approved first. We think the city council has taken a most constructive step and that, unless they can come up soon with a better plan, other groups in the city should step forward with some real support.

WATCH IT
"My, what a pretty watch," said the man admiring a small boy's new time-piece. "Does it tell you the time?"
"No, sir," replied the little fellow; "you gotta look at it."

The Farmington Enterprise

23223 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan
Telephone
Greenleaf 4-6225

Established in 1888 by Edgar H. Bloomer
as "A Permanent Journal of Progress"

Published Thursday of each week at the City of Farmington and entered at the Post Office in Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, as second-class matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

RUSSELL S. STRICKLAND, Publisher
J. DEE ELLIS, Manager
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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBER

What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS



BIRMINGHAM - Schools in the Birmingham district will be operating in the red next year for the first time in the 16 years Dr. Dwight B. Davis has been superintendent of schools here.

To stem the flow of red ink, Ireland announced this week that drastic cuts would be made. They include reducing the number of teachers and cutting teaching supplies.

The financial trouble stems from the Oakland county tax allocation boards recent reduction of millage for school operation from 8.81 mills last year to 7.98 mills for next year. Schools will be ten more than that because the tax allocation board also applied an equalization factor which reduced the expected Birmingham property valuations.

The net result creates a total loss in school revenue expected for this year of \$300,000, Ireland revealed.

Ireland criticized the current tax set-up whereby the allocated school millage is continually cut to provide raises in county and township rates.

In 1957 Birmingham district voters approved an extra six mills outside the 15-mill limitation by a 5-1 vote for city operations, school and township taxes.

Since the extra six mills was voted, 124 mills have been taken away, Ireland pointed out. Last year, millage under the 15-mill limit was reduced from 9.32 to 8.51 mills for schools. Now it has been reduced again to 7.98 mills.

—The Birmingham Enterprise

WIXOM—The City of Wixom's first budget is a \$106,493.92 bundle covering two years' expenses—was approved by the council without change of opposition.

At the same time, the city council adopted a resolution setting the tax rate at eight mills for the coming year. The budget covers expenses incurred by two charter commissions and the former village government as well as the city's expenses for the coming fiscal year.

Nearly \$11,000 of the total budget will go for past expenses. The eight mills will be applied against the 1957 Wixom assessment of \$2,964,040 to provide \$11,122 in general property tax receipts. Other monies will come from state taxes, tickets, licenses, fines and permits.

The first tax bills will be mailed shortly after the first of July.

—The Novi News

PLYMOUTH—A "professional growth" salary plan approved by the board of education last week in place of the usual general salary increase has been denounced by the Plymouth Education Association with the warning that the plan is liable to lose some of its teachers unless wages go up.

The salary schedule as approved is aimed at giving teachers working for higher degrees. They would be compensated for credit hours earned. The PEA terms this type of encouragement for very few teachers.

Spoken for by the PEA, did not show too much hope for the opinion expressed by Board President Harold Fischer that the salary schedule would be effective by September. He stated that teachers are unhappy with the fact that the board has consistently avoided raising the salary schedule. The only thing teachers would take as good faith is a raise in the starting schedule, it was indicated.

—The Plymouth Mail

SOUTHFIELD—A budget totaling an estimated \$861,353 for 1958-59 was adopted by the City of Southfield council.

Based on a valuation of about \$75 million, which constitute the real and personal wealth of the city, the budget provides a five mill or \$5 per \$1,000 tax on valuation as assessed.

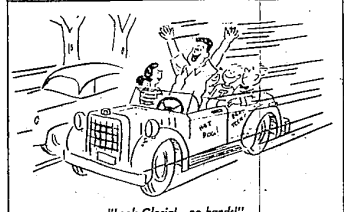
This is an increase over last year's assessment which was valued to \$1.81 per \$1,000 but is \$2 below the 37 per thousand allowed in the charter. The figure was a 54 mill increase to provide different additional services which, over the years, have been demanded by the public.

After considerable discussion, talks were thrown into a tail-spin when Mayor Swanson recommended that the tax rate be cut from the 54 mill to 50 mill. This did not set well with the audience and prompted three of the councilmen to call for a vote on the originally planned five mill rate.

In order to hold the budget in at 5 mills it was necessary to cut from the originally planned number of firemen, eliminate a program of tree spraying completely and reduce the salary of one policeman called for in the budget.

—The Southfield News

The Road Toll



"Look Glorial—no hands!"



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MICHIGAN MIRROR • ELMER WHITE

Dems. Steal Show by Pushing Unemployment Pay Extension

REPUBLICANS while acting prudently and in good faith, lost part of a chance for a big bow on the public stage in an election year.

Democrats stole the show when the legislature enacted a federal program to extend unemployment compensation benefits to 115,000 jobs at a cost of \$30,000,000.

The workers, the victims of the recession, will be getting their checks beyond the present 26 week maximum this summer.

All started when Republicans sponsored a proposed extension of benefits during the legislative session but held back to wait for Congressional action.

Democrats charged that the original Republican plans were not enough.

Republicans reminded that Michigan's benefits exceeded those in all other major industrial states and ranked high in the nation. But they stuck for a time with their controversial state plans even after Congress set up an emergency system of federal aid.

Democrats, realizing they did not have the majority in the legislature to do anything more, fought for adoption of the federal program.

When Gov. Williams signed the bill, the Democratic delegation in the legislature was photographed behind his desk and each received a pen with which he signed the bill.

The Democratic stand, right or wrong, is that they created pressure enough to force Republicans to vote for the federal plan.

Republicans point out they waited to be sure which course was best; that the Democrats did not do it without their votes.

Political experts see the situation as a ready-made political issue this year.

They predict it will be a vital vote-getter among the unemployed and those who are jittery about business and industry and fate in the recession.

Republicans must make much more of their side of the story, that it took President Eisenhower's signature in Washington and the Republican majority in the Michigan legislature to do the job.

Looking Back

Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

June 22, 1933
Beer Licenses
Two beer licenses for Farmington township district were granted at the monthly meeting of the township board Tuesday night. The A. and P. Store at Grand River and Eight Mile and William Amos' Confectionery were both granted the "special" classification type permits allowing the dealer to sell only for consumption off the premises.

More Benches
Persons attending the free movies last Friday night found a new accommodation at their disposal in the form of benches. At a special meeting of the city commission Monday night, a resolution was passed unanimously providing that the city pay any amount up to \$10 for the benches.

Thirty benches were built originally but, in view of the big Friday crowd, it was decided to build 15 more. More than 500 persons attended the movie last Friday night.

TEN YEARS AGO

June 24, 1948
Summer Recreation
The newly created Farmington Area Summer Recreation program will begin officially June 28.

Playgrounds will be opened at Farmington High and the Noble and Bond elementary schools. Director William News indicated that morning sessions would be directed toward activities for younger children, afternoon sessions for older children (junior and senior high groups) and evening sessions for senior high pupils and adults.

The summer band program will be included in the recreation schedule.

Bike Licenses
Bicycle owners residing within the City of Farmington have been given until July 1 to secure licenses under the new traffic ordinance approved by the city commission which went into effect June 1.

Under provisions in the ordinance, no resident in the city shall ride a bicycle in Farmington unless it has been licensed by the police department and bears license plates.

An annual renewal fee of 50 cents has been set.

The ordinance further provided that bicycles driven at the front and rear lights, a bell or horn that can be heard at least 100 feet is required but straps and whistles are prohibited. It also forbids the carrying of more persons on the bike than the number for which it is specifically designed.

FIVE YEARS AGO

June 23, 1933
Civil Defense
The first public meeting of the revived Farmington Area Civil Defense organization will be held Monday. The purpose of the meeting will be to establish a local organization throughout the city and township.

Director Charles Layton stated that efforts will be made to set up one key supervisor in each of the 35 sections in Farmington Township. This supervisor will then be responsible for organizing the sections. Once the setup has been made a master plan will be worked out to meet any peace or wartime emergency.

A large number of volunteers will be needed, Layton emphasized.

Half-Day Schools
Enrollment figures and projections brought out at the final meeting of the Citizens' School Advisory Committee will next fall indicated that it will be necessary to start elementary children on half-day sessions by 1954 and possibly continue that practice until 1959, depending on what additional facilities can be built in the meantime.

In this respect it was pointed out that it takes nearly two years to build a school and put it at the disposal of the school district.

Board President Wendell Brown asked that the committee study a plan whereby a bond issue could be placed to a vote to finance construction of schools.

State to Lease

Michigan Employment Security Commission evidently considers the Farmington area a good one in which to have an office. It recently opened an office on Grand River between Middlebelt and 8 Mile on a temporary basis. Now it has been announced to keep an office in the area at least two years, so a lease is needed.

Tips on Chemical Crabgrass Killing

Lawn owners can take another swing at crabgrass with chemicals before the grass gets more than two inches high this summer, according to Buford Grigsby, weed control specialist at Michigan State University.

Several chemicals can help rid lawns of crabgrass. These include phosy, monurea, acetate and disodium methyl arsonate. Trade name formulations of these chemicals vary, so follow directions for amounts and number of treatments, reminds Grigsby.

Crabgrass cannot be controlled quickly or even in one growing season, the specialist emphasizes. A control program extending over several years will probably be necessary if the infestation is heavy.

The key to success is to prevent plants from setting seeds that will grow the following season. If seed production is controlled, the supply in the soil will be used up and crabgrass will no longer be a serious problem in a lawn, Grigsby says.

Also, crabgrass doesn't do well when shaded. Practices, such as fertilizing and proper mowing, to encourage thick growth of the turf grass will help keep out crabgrass.

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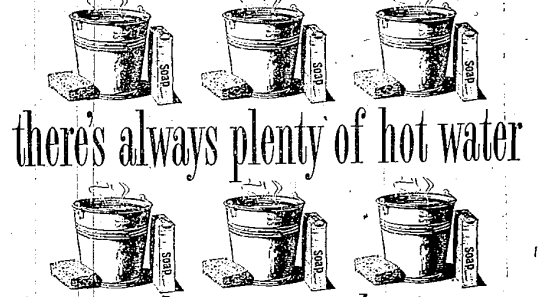
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