

Editorial Page

Downtown Buildings

There has been a great deal of sensible discussion the last few weeks about the problems of revitalizing the so-called downtown area—once the only business district in the city.

At just about every meeting there is one fact which emerges as a very real stumbling block. It is hoped the entire downtown area can be rejuvenated, which would mean considerable face-lifting, and particularly new fronts and interiors. But the merchants point out there are a number of buildings in that area which may well hinder the entire project, if and when it gets more definitely under way.

Some of these buildings are so old they have been condemned quite awhile. The practical result is the owners won't do any fixing up, but they continue to rent them in their rundown condition at rentals some real estate men say are very high. That means the tenant isn't going to do any improving either. It also means the next door property owner is going to hesitate about any improvements on his property. Every property owner downtown should realize that if this entire area isn't improved greatly before long, the present trend away from it will grow so bad this property will be of little value, and will not be rented by any responsible merchant.

This lack of foresight definitely does not apply to the Warner family, which owns considerable property in the area and has always shown a community pride, willingness to cooperate, and the knowledge that all property must be kept up as a simple matter of good business.

There have been suggestions the city should condemn these buildings and give owners a certain time in which to tear them down; that the city should make the taxes so high it would force improvements. The law makes such things well nigh impossible, no matter how great the wish.

To illustrate the need—quite recently a highly respected retail chain of high class women's apparel was contacted. The officers investigated, on the assurances of the downtown area would certainly develop. After that investigation the firm politely told the local people the present downtown area wasn't up to their standards, there were too many rundown buildings, not enough good stores to attract the quantities of shoppers needed. We'll tell anyone the name of this fine chain, if they are interested.

But with a large free parking area, which now appears possible, and some rejuvenation of present buildings and addition of a larger variety of aggressive stores, that might be changed. It won't, though, unless all the property owners involved are smart enough to see the truth—and the alternative.

What's New With
OUR NEIGHBORS

SOUTHFIELD—Protests over highway department plans for Northwestern expressway through the Northland Center area, present number and volume last week.
Homeowners in Magnolia subdivision west of Northwestern between Eight and Nine Mile roads met, with their prime target of attack the proposed bridge over Northwestern at Cornell. Residents are saying this would ruin their residential area.
Extending about one-half mile into the well-developed residential subdivision to the west, the bridge and traffic it would attract would turn Cornell into a "small expressway," it was claimed. Impatient drivers leaving the area for their prime target of attack the proposed bridge over Northwestern at Cornell. Residents are saying this would ruin their residential area.

SOUTH LYON—Present indications are that there will be no record increase in school registrations again this year in the Lyon township schools. Known registrations in the kindergarten already to 172, and undoubtedly there are quite a few since the school census was taken last May.

It is anticipated by the superintendent's office that total registrations in the system will run approximately 1,800 students.

Book fees, locker rentals, lab fees and other related costs are generally the same as last year. Student insurance will be available this year, at a cost of \$1 per child.

The staff for the 1958-59 school year is complete, according to Supt. Barthelemy.

—South Lyon Herald

LIVONIA—A park for every neighborhood in Livonia is the goal set by the city council.

The council is asking for \$2 million as part of the 80¢ millage bond improvement program going on the Nov. 5 ballot to get the program going.

Here is what the \$2 million would cover:
(1) Acquisition of 32 pieces of land in 30 of the 36 mile-square sections of the city, totaling 284 acres at a maximum cost of \$2,000,000.
(2) Three neighborhood swimming pools, \$180,000.
(3) Three artificial ice skating rinks, \$135,000.
(4) Three outdoor tennis courts, \$85,000.

(5) Improvement of a 40-acre site presently leased from the county in the area of the present Parkway Park, \$100,000.
(6) Miscellaneous play equipment, \$16,000.

—The Livonian

NOVI—Merchants who have had signs on the Farmington-Brighton expressway in Novi during the past eight days will have to pay a penalty for the advertising.

A token fine, probably \$20, will be charged against the five or six businessmen and advertising firms.

Signs will be legal in another two weeks when a new township ordinance takes effect. Meanwhile they've found their own way, and have been for many months.

Consequently, the township board Monday night instructed the township engineer Harold Eckley to levy the fine. The decision was intended more as a slap on the wrist than as any deterrent, it will probably cause little concern to the merchants. The fee is cheap for advertising. Most of the signs were put up before the expressway opened.

—The Novi News

PLYMOUTH—Nearly 200 new students this last year will return to classrooms Thursday, Sept. 8 when the 1958-59 school year begins in the Plymouth Community School District.

And because another elementary school will be opening its doors, there will be very little change in the number of children. The 200 extra pupils represent about six classrooms.
There will be an estimated 4,400 students in the public schools on opening day, according to Supt. Russell Isbister. Last year there were 4,202 pupils enrolled after school opened.
Lunch will be served at the schools on the first day. There will be no price increases in the lunches over last year.
—The Plymouth Mail

THE AMERICAN WAY



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Recreation vs. Industry Will Become Increasing Problem

RIVALRY FOR SPACE in Michigan's wonderful lakes and forests are bringing to a head the crisis of the state as it prepares for its future.
The issues are being made clear—whether industry and the rich resort industry can live together in Michigan.
With the coming of the St. Lawrence Seaway expected next year, its deep channels making Michigan a world port, the fight is already an embarrassing state official.

They are already alarmed that the broad rights-of-way of the highway revolution, which desperately are needed by the state, are taking wide strips of valuable land.

The original plan for the Rockwood-to-Saginaw toll road was an example.
Citizens in the Tawas City area are opposing construction of a 1,000-foot dock and a 3,000-foot deep channel into Lake Huron by the National Gypsum Co.
At a recent hearing in Lansing, they offered evidence that the project is ruining the beach, and is lowering the value of valuable resort property.

Company officials, who contended they have always been a "good neighbor," said the economic benefits to the state generally would outweigh the "minor" disadvantages.
City and county officials painted a dark picture of the consequences if the company is not allowed to build its dock and deep-water channel to facilitate shiploading for the market.

Michigan is advertised and promoted as a tourist mecca. The resort industry is a \$600,000,000-a-year business. Its leaders want to protect it from exploitation by industry.

Michigan is known on a world scale as the home of the automobile and the spawning place of big industry.
Its Great Lake routes provide a ready-made channel for world trade through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Industry needs access to the water routes.
State government has a special agency, the Department of Economic Development, to help lure industry to Michigan. Another agency, the State Tourist Council, promotes resorts and travel in the state.

Naturalists organized a special group to oppose a proposed lease of a wilderness state forest area in Perepenne Mountains State Park, in the Upper Peninsula, to a copper mining firm. It is the last wilderness in Michigan.
The company wants to obtain the mineral rights on 933 acres of state property, plus several thousand acres of underwater land in Lake Superior.
Some industry and state groups argue that the fumes from the mining operation will damage the forest, the access roads will ruin its beauty.
The same arguments prevail in both disputes.

Some upper peninsula residents, eager to develop the area industrially, are supporting the lease, which the state conservation commission is empowered to award.
Slightly different in impact, but identical in principle, is the controversy over the route of new state superhighways which bypass small towns and their businesses.
The shops, service stations and restaurants along U.S. 16, the new Brighton-U.S. 16 bypass, have already had the experience.

Some people object that their business is dropped in volume. Others predict they will come back later.

Looking Back

Through The Enterprise Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

August 24, 1933
School Opening
Enrollment for the coming school year in Farmington will begin August 25. Classes will open Monday, September 11, a week following Labor Day. Chemistry will replace physics in the high school curriculum this year. Algebra and advanced algebra will be dropped. A class in trigonometry is being considered.
Depression-weary parents will find book costs high. There will be no changes in the texts to be used, however.

Machine Shop
The newly organized Farmington Manufacturing Co., makers of Ford automobile parts, will begin production within the next few days at the plant on the corner of Farmington Road and State Street.
The first work to be done by the plant will be the machining of mufflers and water pumps for cars. An average of between 300 and 400 pieces a day in production is planned.
Four machines have been installed here and five more will arrive this week.

TEN YEARS AGO

August 26, 1948
School Enrollment
An estimated enrollment of 1,150 is expected in the Farmington Public School elementary grades which represents an increase of 231 students over the beginning of the school year a year ago. Approximately 650 students are expected in grades 7 through 12.
Because of the heavy kindergarten enrollment, three sessions will be housed at the Fairview school this year. Supervisors of the district have decided to conduct at the German and Bond Schools.
Farmington Bank
Officials of the Farmington State Bank recently announced that the bank will remain open every Saturday morning from 9 a. m. until 12 noon.
The announcement was made following enactment of a law recently passed by the State Legislature permitting banks in Michigan to close all day Saturday. The majority of the banks in Detroit are now closing on Saturday.

FIVE YEARS AGO

August 27, 1953
Unsafe Buildings
Official condemnation notices are being mailed out by the city to three property owners who have buildings classified as hazardous under the building code and health ordinance.
Owners will have until September 15 to abate the condition, officials said. If the corrective measures specified are not taken by this time then the City Council will take legal action, it was indicated.

Enrollment
Student registration at Our Lady of Sorrows school will be continued until the actual starting of school on September 9 or 10. Father Henry Henghold announced this week that the school expects to enroll approximately 700 pupils this semester. The teaching staff at Our Lady of Sorrows will include 13 Sisters and 12 lay teachers.
Growth rates for various species of fish vary greatly, with annual growth somewhat proportionate to adults. Northern pike, for example, may grow eight to 17 or more inches in the first year while bluegills and sunfish gain an average of three inches or less in the same period.

Goodwill Pickup This Area Sept. 2

The next visit of Goodwill Industries pickup trucks to Farmington is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2.
Goodwill trucks collect household discards of clothing, shoes, hats, toys, most types of furniture and other household discards.

TO ARRANGE for a Goodwill truck pickup, phone the local Goodwill representative, Miss Lora Ault at GR 4-6284.
Goodwill Industries points out that in difficult times, we realize how much we depend on one another. Goodwill is the link between those who have and those who have not. A contribution of discards to Goodwill strengthens the hope and dignity of others. It does not destroy the inner man, as charity often does.
Handicapped men and women at Goodwill take the discards, clean and repair them, and resell at a low price to someone who needs them.

Duane Barker Now Corporal in France

Pvt. 1st Class Duane D. Barker, son of Mrs. M. and Mrs. Duane Barker of Randall Street, Farmington, was promoted to St-4 (Corporal) recently. He has been in the Army since April of 1957 and is stationed in France.

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Slow—Pupils Ahead

School starts in just a week—a fact all auto drivers must remember. Before and after school a youngster is apt as not to dart in front of your car. They're just too busy to watch cars carefully.

Remember, also, that this year there is a new law. When a school bus stops to take on or discharge children, drivers must stop BOTH ways now. It wasn't always that way, and habits are terrible things to change, sometimes.

But you'd feel pretty bad, a long time afterward, if you forgot and hit someone else's boy or girl crossing the road after leaving a school bus. So please remember.

The Farmington Enterprise

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S. Clarkson Will Speak Wed.
S. James Clarkson, Democratic candidate for State Representative from the 4th Legislative District, will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club, scheduled for September 3. Clarkson, a practicing attorney, resides with his wife and family at 2325 Valleyview Dr., Southfield.
The 4th Legislative District includes the cities of Berkley, Oak Park, Farmington and South Lyon, and the townships of Southfield, Farmington, Novi and Lyon.
Club officials emphasize that the meeting, starting at 8:00 p.m. at Farmington Savings & Loan, is open to everyone in the district, regardless of political preference.
James M. Lawson and Leo P. Mcagher, Democratic candidates for Prosecutor and State Senator, respectively, are also expected. Both are Farmington Township residents.

John Vidovich Gets Clerical Training
Army Pvt. John L. Vidovich, whose wife, Marilyn, lives at 9913 Westmore, Livonia, recently completed the eight-week administration course at Fort Chaffee, Ark.
Vidovich received instruction in typing, filing and Army clerical procedures.
He entered the Army last April and completed basic combat training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

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