

Editorial Page

Any Cleanup Here?

Many Michigan communities make May a month for clean-up, paint-up, spruce-up. Is it true that such things are for the hick towns, but not to be considered by such "metropolitan" communities as Farmington?

A typical community might be LaPeere, not so far from here. Most of the town's clubs and service groups are taking active part in the campaign. Committees are headed by these groups: Improvement of approaches to city, Lions and Optimists; free pickup of trash, Jaycees; cooperation with elementary school staffs, Child Study Clubs; campaign in junior and senior high schools, Student Council; publicity, by Business and Professional Women's club; encouragement of flower planting, several organizations; passing of necessary ordinances, city commission; general advice, Chamber of Commerce. The League of Women Voters is sponsoring the campaign.

Farmington has a lot of organizations, and it might help if they could all get together on a coordinated program—help the community and help the organizations. What we lack is leadership.

Inflation Fears

Most working people—and that's a pretty large percentage—pay no attention to discussion about the dangers of inflation. They either think it won't concern them, or plain don't care, or won't understand.

Our area is directly affected, and every single resident not only of the metropolitan area but the nation should be concerned. Every time a large wage increase demand is made in Detroit, it is generally reflected throughout all the nation. We have known people in other parts of the country who have hated Detroit for what it does to the rest of the country.

If you don't think the threat is real, listen to this. Standby controls over prices, wages and rents are being discussed again in Congress as inflationary fears mount.

Various approaches to the problem are receiving serious consideration. A House subcommittee has approved a controversial bill by Representative Reuss (D-Wis.) which would require hearings before a governmental agency on major price increases.

A somewhat similar price publicity bill is the subject of Senate monopoly subcommittee hearings which started April 22. The author is Senator O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) and it is aimed at the basic industries like steel and automobiles which are dominated by a relatively few producers. His bill would require giant corporations to give Uncle Sam 30 days advance notice of price boosts, and during this period the FTC would hold public hearings on the justification for the increases.

It is being advocated that standby controls be set up, to be invoked in an emergency, by order of the President or Congress.

It is plain that Congress and many informed persons are quite concerned about inflation, which is boosted directly by every union demand for higher wages and more expensive working conditions. When the steel pact ends this summer, it is quite likely the problem will come to a head.

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What's New With OUR NEIGHBORS

FRANKLIN—A deep silence marked the public hearing on Franklin's proposed 1939-40 budget calling for a 1-mill general tax and an 8-mill road tax. The annual hearing drew only one unofficial observer. His only comment—not an objection—was to ask why the council planned to keep the present transfer from general fund to emergency road repair out of the general, rather than the new 8-mill road tax. The council indicated it was going to prompt the council to raise 8 mills for road work and get as much done in the next year as possible.

This will be Franklin's first village tax. The road tax was authorized by voters in March and the general tax is authorized in the charter. A report by the village assessor setting the village's official assessed valuation at \$6,567,000—slightly higher than had been figured earlier—prompted the council to revise estimated budget totals for both the general fund and road fund slightly upward.

NOVI—Petitions containing the signatures of 137 Novi voters were submitted to the village council a week ago Monday by Leo Harwood, one of ten petitions for a city incorporation election.

Under the state statute the council has 30 days in which to consider the petitions before setting up a special election—provided, of course, 100 required signatures are valid. The petitions requested the council to place for an election on the question of incorporation of said village, without change of boundaries, by a home rule city to be known as the city of Novi.

An earlier decision to delay the presentation of the petitions was changed in order to have action taken while the issue of "dual government" is still fresh in the mind of Novi voters.

Elimination of dual government was chosen as the unofficial theme of the incorporation movement.

SOUTHFIELD—This week, April 26-May 2, Southfield is having its first birthday celebration.

A big program, including a roast beef dinner and a wide variety of entertainment, was presented at the First Baptist church at 21200 Southfield Road.

A special edition of the Southfield News commemorating the first birthday of the city is now out.

DEARBORN—Total local school taxes have increased less than one mill since 1931, while eight schools and 25 additions were built during the same period, school officials reported this week.

In 1931-32 the school tax rate was 18.09 mills. This year, eight years later, the school tax is only 19.7 mills. Of this 19.7 mills, 3 of a mill was voted last year for the new Henry Ford Community College campus.

In the report it was revealed that in the eight year period the Dearborn Schools met increases in enrollment by building, or having under construction, four elementary schools, 12 elementary school additions, two junior high schools and six senior high additions, and senior high schools and five senior high school additions as well as the new Ford College campus.

The point has finally been reached where the increase in buildings, teachers, maintenance personnel and supplies requires a raise in the school tax rate for operation and maintenance of the schools, the superintendent concluded in the report.

LIVONIA—The city has a fairly new rule that pavement in new subdivisions shall be 21 feet wide (instead of the former 27) but there is something of an argument as to when and if exceptions should be made.

Some councilmen are of the feeling that no exceptions should be made while others feel that they should be made if the individual situation warrants it.

THE AMERICAN WAY



The Siamese Twins — Aid and Control

MICHIGAN MIRROR • by ELMER WHITE

Educators Favor Bill Calling For Consolidation of Schools

EDUCATORS ARE holding their collective breath in hopes that HB 91 will become law this year. This is a bill which encourages the consolidation of school districts too small or too poorly financed to offer 12 full grades of school. If the encouragement does not produce consolidation, the superintendent of public instruction is empowered, after a waiting period of 21 years for local action, to take steps to improve the situation.

The bill is favored by most education authorities, who point to the many advantages of providing better education for less money. It is opposed by people who argue mostly that such a program deprives small districts of "local control." This seems to be the only argument, and those who use it seem to be unconcerned that a school district which sends its youngsters to a high school in some other district has no control there at all.

One advocate of the reorganization bill said that the bill is fine so long as the people doing the controlling also raise the money; but when they use tax money collected from the entire state property tax, they ought to reconsider their own principles.

SCHOOLS ARE gradually developing an organized policy of administration in Michigan. The system, recommended for years, results in a systematic kindergarten through high school curriculum in single districts. Presently, 68.8 per cent of all public school pupils attend classes in 12-grade districts.

Through annexation and consolidation, the number of school districts in the state has been reduced by 235 since 1938. There are now 2,360 with a total enrollment of 1,574,999 pupils.

Dr. Lynn C. Bartlett, superintendent of public instruction, said 545 are classified as 12-grade districts and the remaining 1,815 offer less than the 12 grades or are closed.

Significance of the report compiled by Bartlett's office is that in the 1,815 districts students must attend high school in another area.

Bartlett says that the 12-grade districts represent 23.1 per cent of all districts, but enroll 89.9 per cent of all students and have 86.3 per cent of their students residing within their boundaries.

The 12-grade districts also contain 90.8 per cent of the state's total property valuation. Seventy-seven of the 12-grade districts are centered in southeastern Michigan—in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. They have 46 per cent of the state's pupils and 51 per cent of the total property valuation.

Michigan's largest school district, Detroit, contains 24.8 per cent of the state's total property valuation and 18 per cent of the state's public school population.

The report shows graphically that the poorer districts are falling victim to financial shortages; that consolidations are becoming the major answers to local education.

A three-year comparison, 1956-57 to 1958-59 reveals that the total public school enrollment had increased 4.5 per cent while 12-grade districts have increased

Looking Back Thru The Enterprise Files

25 Years Ago

APRIL 28, 1934
Bank Celebration
Farmington will commemorate the opening of its new bank a few weeks hence with the biggest celebration the community has seen in many years, and one of the greatest in its history, under plans now being formulated by business and civic leaders for the bank opening day.

A full day and evening of festivities is being planned. Included will be a mammoth bargain day list of offerings by all the merchants, the giving away of numerous souvenirs and prizes, a free dance in the evening, a tour of the fruit orchards in this area and a big dinner at a very low price.

The new bank is viewed as holding for Farmington great possibilities of trade building.

The movement for the celebration was launched at the Wednesday noon meeting of the Farmington Executive Club.

Wine Store

A burst of new activity may be expected soon at the wine store at Farmington Junction with additional building reconstruction and establishment of a retail wine store there to be accomplished in the next few weeks.

The president of the LaSalle Wines and Champagne Co. told the City Commission Monday evening that his company intends to start within a few days on the installation of bottling and shipping facilities and the wine retail store. He stated that the work would be carried on in three eight-hour shifts to rush the program through to completion.

5 Years Ago

APRIL 29, 1931
License Bureau

A request for the use of the Township Fire Hall on Wheeler Street by the Oakland County Sheriff's office once each week for the purpose of writing driver's licenses was approved by the Township Board Tuesday night.

The specific day the new license bureau will be open in

the township will be announced later.

Parking Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed off-street parking program for the City of Farmington will be held this Thursday afternoon at the Municipal Building as part of a special Council meeting.

The proposals to be discussed at the hearing will include both the area designated for off-street parking south of Grand River and east of Farmington Road and the area north of Grand River between the Civic Theater and Warner Ave.

The council will also consider the proposed budget for the 1934-35 fiscal year. City Manager James Tennant stated that the proposed budget is the largest in the history of the city.

John Clappison Sells Insurance
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Parking Lot

Work was begun this week on a new city parking lot on Grand River just east of the Farmington Fire Hall.

City workers began clearing trees and brush from the property in preparation for the grading and surfacing of the new lot. Effort will be made to get the new lot ready as soon as possible. Mayor DeLois Hamlin said it is estimated that the lot will be able to accommodate approximately 75 cars when completed.

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