

Editorially Speaking

Changes in Downtown Farmington A 'Must'

It has been said that a town can either stand still or move forward, depending on the wishes and ambitions of the people living in it.

This may be true in a community where a rather static population can be maintained but it cannot go unchallenged when one tries to apply it to a rapidly growing community such as Farmington. A growing community must be willing to accept changes as the number of families in that community is increased by any sizable margin.

Back in the days when the population of the City of Farmington was 750 or so and the surrounding township was only dotted with a few households, things could operate a lot differently than they can today. Everybody knew that the city clerk belonged to a poker club that met on Tuesday nights and that he might not be in his office until 10 or 10:30 on Wednesday morning.

Most also knew that the town clerk was a thing called a "clerk" and that his store was going to be closed the opening day of deer season. Joe Smith, a well known and liked citizen in the community, knew he wasn't supposed to park his car in the alley while he went into the drug store but he did anyway. Since it wasn't hurting or inconveniencing anyone, he never got a ticket for it.

These things are possible in a small community where everyone knows everybody else. Whether any such things as this did take place back when Farmington was small we were not around to know but we are sure of such things in our small community and have applied them to Farmington here to put across a point.

They are examples of a mode of living that is possible in a small community but which are not acceptable when a community grows to Farmington's size. There are substantially more responsibilities now and, getting paid more, is expected to maintain regular office hours. The butcher has two or three other meat markets to compete with and must keep his store open every day. The alley gets a fair amount of traffic and Joe Smith just can't park there any more.

As the mode of living in a community must change as that community gets large, so also must the community's physical makeup.

Communities grew up across the nation with businesses grouped in a string along main street and residential homes built close in around them. The City of Farmington also grew this way. Prior to a few years ago, the pattern was to continue adding new businesses onto this string along the main thoroughfare.

Now this whole pattern has changed. The new and growing trend has been for commercial centers to develop in clusters with ample free parking around them. Communities which grew up such as Farmington did with its business places in a strip along main street and little off-street parking provided have become outmoded.

Progressive communities across the country have accepted the fact that they must make major changes in their business districts if they are to compete as major shopping centers along with the new shopping centers being developed outside the downtown business districts.

Many have taken long strides in making these changes and more and more are following the pattern. Farmington has also started on its major redevelopment program in the southeast quadrant of the downtown business district. On Grand River some other improvements have also been seen with the expansion of existing business establishments and the tearing down of older homes to make way for these, expansions and more off-street parking.

But this is only a beginning. Major improvements must still be made on several old buildings or these old buildings must be torn down to make way for new ones. If Downtown Farmington is to be

a major shopping center in the years ahead, the redevelopment going on in the southeast section must also be followed soon by redevelopment and improvements on the north side of Grand River and to the west of Farmington Road. Sidewalk repairs, some remodeling on older buildings and a general cleaning up is needed badly.

Some established homes and other old buildings are going to have to be torn down to make way for added parking, new services, roadways and new business places. It is a big project and one that is going to require considerable time, effort and money but one which must be accomplished if the City of Farmington is to be a healthy community.

Unless there is a balance of commercial development with the residential development that has been taken place, residents do not expect any additional municipal services and may even have to sacrifice some they already have or pay even higher taxes to keep them.

Unreasonable 'Beefs'

There is a type of complaint that has been heard at school board, city council and township board meetings with somewhat more frequency in the last couple years than in the past that we don't feel are justified.

Some examples of the types of complaints we are referring to are: There is an excessive amount of noise being made at the school grounds and we want something done about it. We object to the big bulldozers across the road that are leveling ground for a subdivision in what used to be "our" woods. There are noisy trucks pulling into the shopping center during the early morning hours and waking us. These are only a few examples but others run along the same line.

When one decides to build or buy a home, he considers the location very carefully, of at least he should. Now, when he decides to buy near a school where there are some very obvious advantages.

But, there are also some very obvious disadvantages, and one of these would be noises which might come from the playgrounds adjacent both during and after school hours and even during the summer vacation period.

The complaint about construction operations being in what was once a vacant wooded area across the street is equally as unjustified. It should be obvious to anyone buying a home in a rapidly growing area that although the land across the street may be vacant when he buys his home, it probably isn't going to be for long. And anyone who isn't aware of the amount of noise that goes on in an area where construction is in progress has not been very observant. True, the woods might have been a nice playground for the youngsters when it was vacant but it never did belong to you and the owner has every right to do as he pleases with it.

The person who buys a home near a commercial shopping center can expect some noises from customers in the shopping area during the hours when the center is open. He should also be very likely to be hearing the trucks which will be coming in to load and unload things at stores during the early morning and late evening hours.

Like the vacant woods or field across the road from a home, vacant land at a main intersection in a rapidly growing area is very likely to be developed shortly after the homes in the subdivision go up. One who is not very likely to know that the owner of this choice land is not going to leave it vacant very long. At a main intersection the logic type of development is commercial. These commercial centers mean a substantial amount of additional noises and one who buys near one or a place where one is likely to be heard should be prepared to accept the additional noises.

Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The Editor will be published unless otherwise noted. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent those of the Enterprise. Most mail should be 100 words or less.

Urban Renewal

In the article on the Urban Renewal Plan last week in the Enterprise it was stated: "Nelson presented a petition signed by over 30 property owners. The statement of protest that was presented actually bore the signatures of 50 persons, all of whom," as stated in the document, "were residents in and/or owners or part owners of property in the proposed Urban Renewal Plan."

Each person who had signed the statement had been asked to read it carefully and had been advised that if he or she did not mean every word in it they should not sign it. There were possibly a score of others who were not in town when it was available, but the signed statement was worded with friends or neighbors that they were not on the proposed plan.

Also omitted in the story was the fact that the statement what is required under the law on which to declare an area blighted. Act 344, P.A. 1945, Sec. 1, states in part: "The board shall, in its annual report, set forth similar characteristics which endanger the health, safety, morals or general welfare of the municipality."

These points are important not only for consideration by the City Council but for the enlightenment of all residents of the city.

W. Allen Nelson
23708 Warner Avenue
Farmington,

EDITOR'S NOTE: The statement made by The Enterprise that the petition was signed by over 30 property owners was not intended in any way to give an untrue picture of the number of persons who signed the petition. The statement was intended to present a true picture in light of previous information published in an article prior to the hearing. It was pointed out that Nelson had been sent out regarding the hearing to all property owners and that the total number of signatures was 50. Had it been stated in the story that the petition or letter of protest was signed by 50 persons it might have given the impression of the misleading opinion that around half of those in the area proposed for rehabilitation actually signed the protest letter.

It is at second practice by this newspaper and all others that we know of to consider the number of names on a petition or letter of protest as a poor family basis. In other words it both the husband and wife sign it, it is counted as only one. We are not protesting. We will continue to follow this practice.

Surveys State School Costs

It will cost the people of Michigan about three-quarters of a billion dollars to educate some 1,600,000 children in the public elementary and secondary schools, Dr. Stanley R. Heckler, state director for the Michigan Education Association, announced.

In a recent survey, "Your Michigan School Costs" published by the Michigan State University, Dr. Heckler reveals where and how this money is obtained, how it is spent, how local financial ability is measured, and other current problems facing public education at all levels throughout Michigan. Prepared as part of the third phase of the six-year project, "Michigan Schools," Dr. Heckler's guide to school finance, presents issues which thousands of Michigan citizens will study this year in an attempt to improve educational opportunities.

Last year in the United States some 70 million people were surveyed. And this doesn't include the 100 million very important chest examinations given to about 18 million people by health survey units.

Box to Friendly Farmington

Goodwill Pick-Up Set for August 8

The next visit of Goodwill Industries pick-up trucks to Farmington is scheduled for Monday, August 8. Goodwill will be collecting old clothes, toys, most types of furniture and other household discards. The trucks will pick up the local Goodwill representatives, Miss Lora Ault, telephone number GR. 4-4000, or ask the Goodwill "roll call" Enterprise.

Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago
AUGUST 3, 1935

Band Finale
The final appearance of the Farmington Summer Band was made last Tuesday evening before the largest audience of the four-concert series.

Day Camp
Many girls from the community were on hand Tuesday morning for the opening of Day Camp under the sponsorship of the Farmington Township Girl Scout Council. Despite the rainy weather 65 youngsters were present for opening day activities.

Blue Star Mothers
Sarah Hopkins will serve as hostess at the August 8 party of the Blue Star Mothers to be held at the home of Mrs. Grace Ault.

Plan Social
The Ladies Aid of St. Paul Lutheran Church are sponsoring a social set for August 3.

Library Receives Grant
The Farmington City and Township Library received a \$236 check today from the State Board of Libraries, according to Mrs. Florence Leach, librarian. The library board will make the decision of how the money is to be used.

Stone Commended
Technical Sergeant Leonard R. Stone was presented with a citation at a formal ceremony in Hyde Park, London, last month, in recognition of his outstanding performance of military duty. Stone was praised for the manner in which he maintained an ample supply of materials for the Office of the Surgeon under adverse conditions.

Deny Appeal
Members of the Board of Zoning appeal unanimously denied a request by Irwin Fuldman of

Detroit to have his property rezoned commercial.

10 Years Ago
AUGUST 3, 1930

Plane Down
A small two passenger training plane made a forced landing in a buckwheat field just off Farmington Road south of Eight Mile Road Saturday, causing a great deal of excitement but no injuries or damage to the plane.

The training plane belongs to the National Flying School and was piloted by Gerald Elly, 22, of Detroit, who explained his motor went dead at about 1200 feet, forcing the emergency landing.

Water Expansion
Final blueprints on several short sections of the proposed sewer in the city have been filed with the Municipal Finance Commission, paving the way for the sale of \$175,000 in water and sewer bonds.

Search Continues
Farmington Township Police along with State Police detectives are working together in an effort to apprehend the three bandits who were on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Norwalk, 27872 Wellington, and escaped with considerable amounts of cash and jewelry.

Crash Hurts Seven
Seven Farmington area residents, two of them children, were injured in a single car accident on Orchard Lake Road near 10 Mile Road Tuesday morning. According to reports from the Michigan State Police, the car, a lost control of the car and it hit a tree off the side of the road.

Girls Wins 11th
Clarenceville won their 11th game of the season Sunday when they came from behind to beat Daisy of Plymouth 12 to 10 in Plymouth.

Wood Creek Farms Village

ANNE M. PHILLIPS

MA. 6-6335

The Teenagey had a delightful week at Georgian Bay, Ontario. They drove up with friends from Ohio who have a summer home on an island seven miles from Pointe Au Baril. The only way to reach the cottage is by boat, all visiting is done by boat, there is no phone — just a wonderful place for swimming, fishing, sailing and reading.

On one of their fishing days their guide took them to a particularly lovely island and cooked the morning catch for them. They had lunch there and returned to civilization last Saturday.

Carol Kreider had a birthday the 17th. Her mother had invited a few of her friends over for a surprise party. They came in from a swim and then the joy of opening presents followed by a delicious birthday dinner.

SHIRLEY COLLIER'S birthday was Sunday and her brother-in-law, Fred Collier, the previous day so they had a joint celebration Saturday. Friends from Ann Arbor, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morrison, then left half way at the Thunderbird Inn for dinner. Then they all returned to the Morrison's home for a delightful evening.

There has been quite a bit of entertaining this past week for Marian Lath's mother and her Aunt Nell. Ethel Nelson had an impromptu coffee last Tuesday morning which some of the Wood Creekers attended. On Friday Allen Dorman had them over for luncheon. It was also to entertain her house guest, Ruth Colman, who had come from Akron, O., for a week's visit. Ginny Smith and Ethel Nelson completed the luncheon group Sunday. Ginny Smith had a brunch for Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Walker with some twenty other Wood Creekers enjoying it very much.

SATURDAY The Cochranes had 35 members of their adult Sunday School class for a swim at 4 p.m. followed by a pot luck supper.

Last Thursday the poker club met at the Tyngdens in the lake at a swim before supper and the card games.

The Vaughns had an interesting trip to Chautauque, N.Y. where Cathy will spend six weeks.

The Farmington Enterprise

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Primary Registration.
City Clerk Harry Moore announced that registrations for the September 12 Primary Election are now being taken at the city hall.

5 Years Ago
AUGUST 4, 1935

Lift Bel-Aire Ban
The ban on the issuance of occupancy permits in the southeast section of the Bel-Aire Hills subdivision was lifted Monday evening by action of the City Council after reviewing an engineer's report that the subdivision had conformed to the grading agreement.

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Plan More Water
Farmington school officials stated this week that plans are proceeding on the development of new water facilities at the new Gill Road Elementary School in preparation for the opening of the building in September.

Bob-L Trip
It is estimated that over 600 youngsters will be taking the annual combined Band and Recreation Program trip to Bob-L Day, according to a report by recreation director Warren Piche.

To Buy Resuscitators
The Farmington Township Board at a special meeting Thursday evening approved the purchase of two resuscitators to be used by the police and fire departments for life saving. According to Township Supervisor Fred Blanchard, one will be assigned to the police department and the other to the fire department.

Susie Reader and Nancy Weedon went to Camp Wagoner at Higgins Lake last Tuesday. They will be there for two weeks in the girls' half of the summer camping season. Zagsy Reader and Susie Reader will be there in the early part of the summer. Zar and Barbara and Susie drove up for him when his camping time was over and they all spent several days enjoying their annual canoe trip along the Ausable River.

BILL BIEKER has three of his paintings on display at the Greenfield Village Art Show. Many of you have probably noticed the sign on Northwest just a little southeast of us which has gone up recently. It is a new and very worth while undertaking to display many types of art work. It is held from 17 Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Do stop in and see the many interesting items on exhibit.

The Franklin Garden Club meets tonight at the home of Mrs. and Mrs. Homer Hyde, 6283 Franklin Road. Our speaker is Mr. Wm. R. Marshall and his topic "Roses that Speak of Christ."

Joe Trimmer is attending summer session at the U. of Colorado in Boulder. Murial's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Reeves, are visiting her. Frank is back from his business trip to Europe so the four are having a very pleasant time together.

John Clappison Sells Insurance
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32410 GRAND RIVER at POWER
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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

Birth of An Industry

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In 1821, mysterious flames burst from a crevice. Mr. Bill Hall, a villager, decided to put the fact to practical use. This "Natural GAS" was used as a fuel to light an Inn in Fredonia, New York.

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GLEN ORCHARD NEWS

BARE HOUGHINS SHIRLEY STORM

GR. 6-0440

Pat Davies of Glen Orchard had Mrs. Thomas F. Ouellette and children visiting for a day last week. Mr. Ouellette is a member of the Glen Orchard Golf and Country Club. Two of the boys, Tom and Joe, are staying for a vacation with the Davies.

Flo and George Kaston and Opal and John Damschke, both of Glen Orchard, attended a birthday supper and swimming party at the home of friends Bill and Blanche Blair of Bloomfield Hills in honor of Bill Blair's birthday.

The Glen Orchard Subdivision Women's Club went out to dinner last Monday to Topinka's Country House in Detroit where they attended a very enjoyable evening. Those who attended were Pat Davies, Pat Graham, Ann Burton, Flo Kaston, Doris Clark, Joan Gallagher, Barb

home from Branson where they had enjoyed a vacation with their grandparents.

David McDermis, son of Eugene and Alice McDermis of Rapids spent a week at Knappton, the Pines Camp on Douglas Lake with three other Farmington boys, Eugene and Ollie McDermis, and John Damschke.

The Social Committee is making plans for a Bob-L All Month light for August 22nd. All those who are interested in the idea should save that evening. There will be details later.

OPAL AND MILTON Damschke invited Flo and George Kaston over for the evening and when they arrived they were surprised with a party celebrating the Kaston's 15th wedding anniversary. Miss McDermis, Ollie McDermis and Pat and Kevin Davies.

Dee and Roy Grant of Glen Orchard have just returned from a two week visit with their parents in the Glen Orchard. Those who attended were Pat Davies, Pat Graham, Ann Burton, Flo Kaston, Doris Clark, Joan Gallagher, Barb