EDITORIALS

How Much Pay Should Board Members Get?

In Farmington we have three major governing boards whose members are responsible for determining to a large degree all the laws and policies we will be governed by locally and also in deciding how the bulk of our local tax dollars will be spent.

There is the Township Board, Board of Education and City Council. Members on each of these boards are elected to serve for specified terms of office as spelled out by charter or state law. Only in the Township are any of the members of the board full-time employees of the governing body on which they serve.

While full-time administrators advise and make recommendations to members of each of the boards, it is still left up to the members of the boards to make the final determination with regard to what local laws and regulations will be and how local tax monies will be spent.

The members of these boards are part-time managers of the big business of running our community's affairs. The positions they hold are very important ones in the minds of all or at least should be considered as such.

This brings us around to the question of what the members on these various community governing boards should be paid. The feeling of some is that those who serve on a board should be motivated primarily by community interest and not be concerned with how much pay they will get. Others feel they should be justly paid for the time they spend and the responsibilities they have.

If you are one of those who tend to lean toward the latter school of thinking then we feel that you should be concerned with an inequity which we note exists at this time. This is the wide variance which presently prevails in pay for the members of the three different boards.

First, we might point out that all three governing boards meet on a twice a month schedule and deviate from it infrequently. The number of special meetings which each governing body has in the course of a year averages about the same.

Secondly, we should consider what responsibility each of these boards has to taxpayers in terms of the percentage of the local taxpayers' dollars they spend. Here the picture is really lopsided. While members of the School Board are responsible for operating budgets running $4 million and more, Township Board and City Council members are doling out funds from operating budgets running under a half million dollars a year.

On the basis of these considerations, it would seem to us that School Board members should be getting the highest rate of compensation annually with the amount of compensation for Township Board and City Council members somewhat below theirs and nearly equal to one another's.

Here's how things stand now. School Board members are presently receiving a flat annual compensation of $300 each. Township Board members, on the other hand, are being paid $25 per meeting and the mean average for the past year, it is reported, was approximately $700 per member. Presently City councilmen are getting a flat rate pay of only $128 per year but a proposal being put to a vote of the people on April 1 calls for raising the per-member compensation to $500 yearly.

We view this as a rather mixed up situation for a community to be in and would like to see some efforts put forth to correct the matter. We think the pay for board members, no matter how low or how high they may be established, should reflect some semblance of uniformity in our community.

If the amount being paid Township Board members is right, then we feel members of the School Board should be getting paid substantially more than they are now. If most feel that the pay for School Board members is about right, then there should be some energy put forth to get officials of the Township and City to change their thinking on this matter.

* * *

Willingness to Admit Poor Judgment

Back several months ago when controversy was running hottest on the enforcement of a city ordinance prohibiting all commercial vehicles from being parked in residential neighborhoods unless garaged, we took an editorial stand against the ordinance on the grounds that it was too harsh on small commercial vehicle owners.

The Council felt otherwise and proceeded to call for enforcement of their ordinance banning all large trucks and forcing small pickups and panel trucks to be housed. Put to the test frequently since that time, the restrictions have been found to have placed a hardship on many.

Now the Council is proposing an easing of the restrictions which would allow the smaller commercial vehicles to park along the side or to the rear of homes provided they are kept behind the front building line. This is exactly what we proposed in our previous editorial on this matter, and it makes us feel pretty good to think that at least some of our suggestions and recommendations have merit even though it may take a substantial amount of time for them to register. The moral here might well be that "patience pays off."

We do not make these comments in an attempt to belittle councilmen or with a "we told you so" attitude. In fact, we would like to commend members of the Council for their willingness to admit judgment mistakes when they see the same and take counter action to correct such mistakes or injustices when they are fairly proven to exist.

City residents should consider themselves fortunate to have men on their governing board with character enough to admit a mistake on action taken and later proven to be in poor judgment and be willing to amend or cancel out the previous action altogether. Far too many governmental officials today do not possess these qualities and it is detrimental to the citizenry they represent.

Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago
JANUARY 29, 1948

Good Reserve

The Farmington High School junior varsity basketball team came up with its eighth straight victory this week by trouncing the Cranbrook High School reserve cagers, 40 to 18. The Falcon reserves are unbeaten so far this year and promise to provide a fine crop of athletes for the varsity ranks next season.

Still Number One

The Falcon varsity cagers are still the number one team in the Inter-Lakes Conference for the 1947-48 season despite a loss suffered in their outing, a non-conference game with Cranbrook. The Falcons' league record remains unchanged at three victories against just one lone defeat and gives them undisputed possession of first place in the circuit.

A Long, Hard Winter

It seems as though the 1947-48 winter is getting tougher as the days progress and we have already had our share of snow and ice with temperatures plunging continually down toward that zero mark. But the kids must think it's all just great and are certainly making the most of winter's elements. Local doctors are reporting a record number of broken bones occurring to the youngsters who maybe are too often tempted by those steep, snow-covered hills with an odd tree here and there to make their sledding even more challenging.

10 Years Ago
JANUARY 29, 1953

No Hunting

State Representative Howard R. Estes introduced a bill to prevent hunting with firearms in Farmington Township to the state legislature on January 22, 1952. The early action will permit the issue to be put before voters in April election.

Debaters Win

The Farmington High School debate team captured the Inter-Lakes Conference Debating Championship this week by downing rivals Southfield and Plymouth. The Falcon debaters ended the campaign with a record of six wins against just two defeats.

Press Award

The Farmington Enterprise this week received notification from the Michigan Press Association that it had been cited for general excellence in the 35th annual MPA newspaper award competition.

Survey Undertaken

A series of surveys are now underway in the City preparatory to filing plans and specifications for a new sewage disposal plant in Farmington.

Township Primary

At least two contests are assured this year in the Biennial Primary Election to be held February 16. Two petitions have been filed by candidates seeking the Township Clerk office and a total of seven candidates have filed for the four vacancies that will occur on the Township Board.

5 Years Ago
JANUARY 30, 1958

County Approval

A $4,900,000 general obligation bond issue to finance the proposed Farmington Interceptor Sewer was approved last Friday by the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. The project will take some 12 months to complete once it is put under construction.

Man of the Year

The Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce this week announced that Dr. Milton J. Huber, executive director of Boys Republic, has been selected as the 1958 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award which annually is presented by the Jaycees to the individual judged the most outstanding young man of the year in Farmington.

Former Publisher

James M. Tagg, former publisher of The Enterprise and now publisher of The Alma Record, has been elected treasurer of the Michigan Press Association.

Highway Plans

Charles Ghesquiere, chairman of the Farmington Township planning board, indicated this week a study of the proposed State Highway Commission expressway route through the Township will be taken under immediate study and residents in the area concerned would be consulted and given an opportunity to express their feelings.

Kendallwood Komments

JANICE HAYDEL GR. 6-2288

The Groundhog, is America's most famous, though not most accurate, weather prophet. Tradition insists that on February 2 of each year, "Groundhog Day", this little animal emerges from his winter "sleeping season" to see if it is time to resume life in the outside world. If the sun is shining and it can see its shadow, it retires for six more weeks of slumber; but if the sky is cloudy, it remains outside, anticipating an early spring. Happy Ground Hog Day to all!

Dorothy Nielsen's Bonnet Hill home was the meeting place last Thursday for a two table bridge club. Prize winners were Barbara Conley, Dorothy Nielsen and substitute, Lennie Heimforth who filled in for Louise Paisley who was not feeling well.

HELEN STRENG of Craftsbury entertained a two table bridge group by serving a delicious ginger bread apple cake. Prize winners for the afternoon were Marge Griswold and Carol Glessner.

Some of the K 3 couples are interested in starting a dance group that will meet in their homes every other Friday night from 8:30 to 11 o'clock. If you are interested in this class call Mrs. Marie Mc Donald at GR 4-8374.

Skip and Len Kropp of Hearthstone enjoyed a pinochle game at their home recently. Guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Pio Blasutta, Mr. and Mrs. John Kestner, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hare, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Akey and Mr. and Mrs. George Gruner. Winners at this game were George Gruner and Ann Blasutta.

Shirley Kinsey's Craftsbury home was the scene of a two table bridge group last Thursday. Winners of the evening were Wanda Gilmour and Marcia Wyatt.

Junior League Bowling News — The juniors bowl at Northwest Bowling Alley every Saturday morning. Mid-season champs are- D. Johnson, P. Goodman M. Slocum, Z. Reader and D. Obeginsky. 200 games were bowled by P. Goodman (203), G. Sherer (200), B. Simon (210-202 and 205). This gives B. Simon a 668 series.

BANTAM WINNERS were T. Schaerges, J. Green, D. Prince, P. Jamerio and G. Marx.

Bantam Noon League winners were R. Gilles, B. Sherer, D. Jones, S. Gilles, and A. Duquet.

Girl Junior League winners were F. Beckwith, C. Kadushin, S. Rubin, L. Levine. And that isn't all — there is even a Tot's League for those from 6 to 12. High game winners to date are Sheryl Liebert, Shula Priebe and Denise Liebert. With bowling like this at such an early age we will surely see many champions coming from the Kendallwood area in the future.

Alice Scott of Playview had a duplicate bridge game at her home. North-South winners were Alice Scott and Mimi Shepperly; East- west winners were Emily Orr and Barbara Zelenha.

It is always sad when any of our wonderful Kendallwood Friends and neighbors leave us. Today Fred, Marion, Christine, Carol and Ricky Nickel of Kendallwood Drive left for their new home in Ohio. Fred has been made a district manager for Westinghouse Lamp Division. There new address will be 10905 Greenhaven Parkway; Brecksville, Ohio. Marion hopes her many friends from Kendallwood will call her when they are in or near Cleveland. Michigan's loss is Ohio's gain.

MAXINE AND KENNETH Benish of Hearthstone Rd. have returned to Kendallwood after a delightful ten day trip to Miami Beach Florida and San Juan, Puerto Rico. They flew with two other Farmington Couples. Maxine visited her sister in Miami. The day they left Miami Beach the temperature was 82 and when they landed, only a few hours later, at Detroit Airport the temperature was - 21!!! What a contrast!!!

Mrs. L. Barrett and her daughter Nancy recently visited in Washington, D.C. They were able to see Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

Lets sing Happy Birthday to 7 year old Maria Steiger on Feb. 4 and to Amy Beth Haydel on Feb. 3. Wayne, Randy, Walter and "yours truly" plan to spend the day in Lansing at Michigan State University with Amy Beth.

Anniversary wishes to Peg and George Gruner of Brandywine.

Remember - the Wooddale P.T.A. meeting to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. Be sure to visit their book sale this week from 2:30 to 5 daily.

Happy to report that Merle Glick is home from St. Mary's Hospital after a short stay.

EMM AND MART PARKES of Craftsbury enjoyed a visit from their son-in-law and daughter, John and Dorothy Brown of Ohio.

Mrs. Dorothy Trubey and her daughter Christina had a delightful evening on the town last week — they viewed the Van Gogh Art Collection and dined in Detroit.

The Women of Kendallwood Farms invited their husbands to attend their January meeting when Mrs. Bernice Voltmer lectured on and played the Christopher Records. Those attending were Irving Bishop, Ed Curme, Vic Girolami, Greg Gregory, Wayne Haydel and John Thomas. This was a very delightful program enjoyed by all who were present.

We are sorry to learn of Gale Girolami's Mother's illness. Gale and Vic flew to Milwaukee, Wisc. last Thursday to be with her. We all wish her a favorable recovery.

Mrs. Maxine Benish, chairman of the Queen of Angels Circle of St. Fabian Church would like to invite you to attend a Silent Auction to be held on Wednesday February 6 at 8 p.m. in the St. Fabian Social Hall. Donated objects will be bid for silently. The highest bidder will receive the article after paying the price bid. Refreshments will be served and a very enjoyable evening is promised to all. Donations are being accepted by Mrs. Joseph Pietro, GR 4-8377; Mrs. Robert Miller, GR 6-3265; Mrs. George Ricker, GR 6-3469; Mrs. Phillip Daniels, GR 4-6477.

Until next week keep Kendallwood Komments coming — you all call GR. 6-2288.

Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to The Editor for publication must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the policies of this newspaper. Maximum length is 1,000 words.

Too Many Transfers

To the Editor:

Your article on the front page of The Enterprise recently stated the school situation which involves the transfer of students to different schools for the coming year.

What is not stated—and what we feel the general public should know — is that this means our children here in Briar Hill are being transferred to a different school for the fourth time in five years! When we moved to Farmington we were assured that the school situation was in good shape with Bond, Dunckel and the then proposed N.F.H.S. nearby to assure our children of a good school experience.

We have supported the millage in the interest of improving the school situation but we find that we are receiving anything but a good school experience for our children.

Unfortunately, our children have become a convenient number for the Farmington School Board to move as they feel like it. I have heard all their arguments—that it upsets the parents but the children adjust easily—and I say that this is not quite true. Of course, they have adjusted each time, with our help. But just as they become acquainted with the faculty and their classmates, they are uprooted and must start the process all over again.

No educator in the country would agree that changing schools four times in five years (at the elementary level) is serving the best interests of the child. Indeed, their best interests are not even being considered! It is obvious that they are being treated not as personalities but rather as a convenient pawn to be moved at the whim of the School Board with little or no regard to their best interests.

We say that this is unfair and we protest most vehemently this treatment of our most precious possessions.

Yours truly,
Mrs. V. E. Palmer
34149 Northwick Rd.
Briar Hill, Farmington

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MICHIGAN'S PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

Retain Protective Taxation Sections in St.'s New Basic Law

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is one of a series of articles prepared by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, a national, non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government. The views expressed are necessarily the policies of this newspaper.

Finance and taxation sections of the new constitution retain protections which the people of Michigan are used to, while increasing flexibility so as to meet needs which vary from community to community and from time to time.

Schools are affected by general provisions about property taxation, earmarking, and pension changes. Other sections are of special concern to schools.

The school bond loan fund placed in the constitution several years ago and since extended by a vote of the people, is continued and is made permanent for the first time. This program has been of great value to school districts which need to build but whose finances are limited.

ONE NEW SECTION gives constitutional status to existing laws which provide that property owned and occupied exclusively for religious or educational purposes shall be exempt from real and personal property taxes.

The new document creates a school aid fund into which will be placed the schools' half of the sales tax and other tax revenues provided by law, such as the liquor and tobacco taxes. This fund can be used only for school purposes.

An important new provision is that school aid must be paid in full and on time. This will be of real help to school districts which now have to borrow at high rates of interest when there is a delay in school aid payments. The more flexible debt structure for the state which is provided in the new constitution makes on-time payments possible.

A new sentence solves a tax problem for school districts involving more than one county by allowing them to use throughout the district the tax rate available in the county having the largest part of the district's area.

The amount of state aid received by each school district is determined by the school aid formula written each year by the legislature. This varies from year to year both as to details and as to total amounts. This formula distributes the schools' share of the sales tax, but it has been years since the schools' share sales tax revenues were adequate to "pay out" the formula. In spite of this, the legislature has acknowledged its responsibility for local school finances and has increased the formula, using millions of dollars from the general fund.

The new constitution saves the bookkeeping expense of the Primary School Interest Fund. This fund is deleted, as it is nothing but an in-and-out bookkeeping item in the school aid formula and does not increase the level of state aid paid for schools.

The present unrealistic constitutional debt limit of $250,000 is removed in the new constitution and replaced by separate provisions for long-term and short-term borrowing.

SHORT-TERM DEBT limits will vary with the level of state revenues. In order to meet appropriations, the state may borrow amounts of not more than 15% of undedicated revenues for the previous year, about $65 million at present. This could meet emergencies caused by a decrease in expected revenues during a fiscal year.

The short-term debt must be paid as taxes come in, and in any case within the fiscal year. This will ensure that emergency funds will be available year after year, not just once.

Long-term borrowing, to build hospitals, for example, requires two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature and a majority vote of the electors of the state, as at present. Such enactments would be laws under the new constitution and would not clutter up the constitution as amendments as they do now.

Next article: Finance and Taxation, continued.

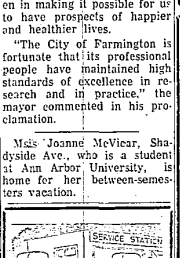
Professionals Being Honored

Mayor Robert B. Lindbert has asked that the citizens of the community join with others from throughout the state during the week of Feb. 3-9, in recognizing the dedicated services rendered by members of the professions.

An official proclamation has been issued designating this as "Profession Week" in recognition of the services rendered by professional men and women in making it possible for us to have prospects of happier and healthier lives.

"The City of Farmington is fortunate that its professional people have maintained high standards of excellence in research and in practice," the mayor commented in his proclamation.

Miss Joanne McVicar, Shadyside Ave., who is a student at Ann Arbor University, is home for her between-semesters vacation.



"YOU KNOW—I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GET THE GARAGE CLEANED OUT YET"

We hope you aren't as slow as this fellow in getting jobs taken care of and particularly needed repairs made on your car. Remember, small repairs taken care of at once prevent major repair work from being necessary. You can be sure you'll get minor repairs taken care of as needed when you deal with us.

★ ★ ★

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Twin Valley Views

BETTY BRAUER 476-5213

On Jan. 19, Mr. and Mrs. John Koscielniak, Mr. and Mrs. George Granken, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Zeglen, Mr. and Mrs. Don MacKinnon, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brauer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Audette and Mr. and Mrs. J. Rudberg attended the Buffet Dinner-Dance of the Sorrows Parish Credit Union.

The weekend of Jan. 18, Bobby Walker of Elizabeth Ct. enjoyed his first camping experience with the Boy Scout Pack 110. Their camping site was about seventeen miles from Standish, Mich...

MR. RUSSELL, the Twin Valley mailman, has an interesting side-line. His brother owns the Lioness, "Sheila," and they've been exhibiting her at movie houses and over television in connection with the showing of the movie titled "The Rage of Lion".

Mrs. Betty Koscielniak has been appointed Chairman of the Sorrows Parish Altar Society pre-lenten card party to be held Feb. 19. Her Co-Chairman is Mrs. Harlene Gilson.

I feel as if God had, by giving the Sabbath, given fifty-two springs in every year. —Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

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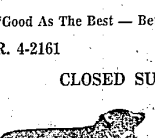

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