

Candidates Should Want Citizens to Know

The Township Primary Election is now past history but the final decision has not yet been made on April 1 by township voters on who they want to run the affairs of their community for the next two years.

On April 1 voters in the City of Farmington will also be deciding on candidates for the positions to be filled and judge positions to be occupied.

The really important thing between now and April 1 will be for voters to learn as much as they can about the candidates seeking the various offices and what their views are on important local matters.

The best way to accomplish this would be by means of public programs and debates at times and locations convenient for all citizens to attend. We proposed such programs in the Township in early January so that voters could learn more about the candidates but nothing came of it. Local clubs and organizations apparently don't care enough about who is running our community's affairs.

A proposal has now been made by Martin Gluckstein, a candidate for Township Trustee, which sounds like a reasonable solution to us.

His suggestion is that candidates from both parties in the Township get together as soon as possible now and work out ground rules for a series of debates with the cost for renting facilities in which to hold these debates to be shared by the individual candidates. The cost to each individual candidate to do this would be very little and could be offset with just a little less being allocated for advertising.

Just to run a very limited amount of information on all the candidates requires a tremendous amount of space in our paper. We have neither the space or the staff to provide all the information on each of the candidates we know interested citizens would like to have. The only other way for voters to get the information they want on candidates is through public programs.

Men and women who want to represent the citizenry in governmental positions should be sincere enough to be willing to stand up before these same citizens and make their views on key community matters known to them and then "let the chips fall where they may." Those who are not, have no business running for a public office.

If such public political programs can be arranged then it would also provide a good opportunity for information to be presented on the propositions to be on the April 1 ballot.

Both City and Township voters will have important propositions to ballot on. In the City it is a proposition to increase the property tax rate substantially and in the Township a proposal to levy a 50c per \$1,000 equalized valuation tax to help finance a year around community recreation program.

All voters will have the important new state constitution proposal to be on the ballot to learn as much as they can about it.

In many other communities that we know of, "meet the candidates" programs are held before every local election as a matter of routine practice. Sponsorship is handled in a variety of different ways but in every case the real success depends on the interest of the candidates themselves in being willing to participate and discuss openly before citizens the things they stand for and believe in.

This newspaper will cooperate fully in every way possible with any individuals or groups that see the need for and will be willing to get behind some "meet the candidates" public programs.

Owner Has Right to Reasonable Use

The vacant property across the street or down the road a short distance from where you live doesn't belong to you.

This may sound to you like a stupid statement for us to be making and one which insults your intelligence. Perhaps it is, but we feel we have to make it because of the fact that there still appears to be an awful lot of people in our community—both newer residents and old-timers—who don't seem to be fully aware of this simply stated fact.

Over the past few years we have had frequent calls and personal visits from citizens objecting vigorously to the fact that a nice vacant parcel of property near their home was now being developed. They just couldn't or wouldn't try to understand that this property which they had enjoyed so much was never theirs and that the owner had the right to develop it as he saw fit. To his best advantage provided it was determined to be a reasonable use for the property.

When a piece of vacant property is located near the home you own or are proposing to buy, don't assume it's always going to stay vacant or act as a trap from unofficial sources a use the claim is planned for this parcel. Check with governmental officials on what the zoning is on any vacant property near your home and also try to pin them down as to whether they feel that there is any reason to believe a change in present zoning might be granted in the future.

Remember one very important thing. Property is very expensive in Farmington and the owners of vacant land have no intentions of letting it sit vacant forever. If it is privately owned land it is going to be developed sooner or later and the owner is going to try to develop it in such a way so as to realize as much profit as he can from the land.

He has a right to expect that he will be granted the right to make reasonable use of the land he owns and to seek rezoning if it is felt necessary for a reasonable use. By the same token, owners of nearby land or homes have a right to expect that they will be granted the right to make a reasonable use of their property to the value of their own property.

To us the important point to be remembered is that any privately owned land in this community is sooner or later going to be developed and that the owner is going to have, or should have, the right to make a reasonable use of it regardless of whether it is a use pleasing to nearby property owners or not. The only real basis for rejecting a man's request is if it is contrary to zoning regulations or if it can be proven that the proposed development will be detrimental to the value of nearby property or the community as a whole.

Anyone who submits a Letter to the Editor for publication must include with it their name and address and sign the letter. Although we prefer that your name be written on the letter, we will withhold it on request.

This is a policy established by all papers for Letters to the Editor. This policy is explained at the lead of our Letter Box and has been explained many times in the past both on this page and the front page of the paper.

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Looking Back in the Files

15 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 19, 1948

The menace of hunting within the Township was brought to the attention of the Township Board at its first regular meeting by residents. Some Township residents have reported considerable damage due to careless hunters and in at least one instance there was a case of a person coming close to bodily harm due to a stray shot. The Board agreed to check into the situation and the Board members could be taken to correct any areas where such incidents could occur.

Bonds Sold

FEBRUARY 19, 1953

The Farmington Township School District building program financing has been completed with the sale of \$360,000 worth of school bonds to the First of Michigan Corporation. It was announced this week by the Board of Education.

10 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 19, 1953

Only 14 per cent of the registered voters in Farmington Township went to the polls on Monday for the Biennial Spring Primary Election in contrast to 81 per cent who cast ballots last fall in the Presidential Election. A total of 778 votes were cast out of a total number of 5,540 registered voters.

6 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 20, 1958

Announcement was made this week by Allen C. Ingle, Farmington Attorney and Township Justice of the Peace, that he will be a candidate for State Representative for the Fourth District on the Republican ticket.

Throws Hat in Ring

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Traffic Problems

Members of the newly-formed Farmington City and Township Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, which held its first meeting here last Wednesday night, were told that "This is a special documentary program on heart disease prevention." The program was his guest speaker of the evening, Ernest P. Davis, director of the Automobile Club of Michigan's traffic and safety division.

Radio Documentary Set for Heart Month

On Sunday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. the WXYZ Radio Department of Public Affairs will broadcast a special documentary program on heart disease prevention. The program is titled "A Coronary", as part of its "Detroit '63" series of public affairs programs. Dr. Paul Dudley White, who treated General Eisenhower's heart attack will be a special guest on the program.

Executive Reorganization is a Major Advance

Michigan's hedge-podge of 120 boards, bureaus and committees are reduced to not to exceed 20 departments. And the governor is given broad powers to make additional re-organization.

MICHIGAN'S PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

Problem Solving Aid Given To Local Units of Government

EDWARD'S NOTE: This is one of a series of articles prepared by the League of Women Voters of Michigan, an organization whose purpose is to educate the citizenry in government. The views expressed are those of the editor of this newspaper.

The local government article of Michigan's proposed new constitution has been written to help the counties, townships, cities, villages, and other local units solve their governmental problems more easily and without the need to resort to state and federal help.

Four kinds of provisions are used to accomplish this and First, the traditional forms of local government are preserved with their traditional and certain additional powers. Second, additional power is provided for local units by a provision calling for liberal interpretation of laws in favor of local government.

Public Letter Box

Letters submitted to the Editor for publication must be signed. Opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the policies of the Farmington Enterprise. It is a law.

Protests to Levy

Dear Editor: I want to enter a protest against any proposed half-mile tax for recreation in Farmington Township.

There are 1079 reasons to oppose this tax. They are the children in the Farmington schools. I would like to remind the parents of this district that there is only \$9128 in taxable valuation behind each child in our school district. This is less than almost every school district around us.

There is only so much tax base from which to raise money for any cause. We have to balance the needs of the schools, the fire department, which is operating with obsolete equipment the police department which has one-half the staff it needs, a township public library, with hop-scootch and basketball.

Farmington Township is rich in natural recreation facilities. The children have space they have access to lakes, swim clubs and school playgrounds. Kensington Park with its annual year-round program of recreation is a short drive from every home in the township.

As it stands with Little League, Cub Scouts, Indian Guides, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Bluebirds, and Campfire Girls, the children are so highly organized they have little opportunity to learn to amuse themselves. The priceless thing children have that we adults have lost is little unstructured time. Let's not take it away from them in the name of civic virtue.

A Third Father Fred Nowland 27891 Greenwillow

Express Thanks

Letter to the Editor: As the official representatives of our organization, the Farmington Education Association, we congratulate the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. V. Harrison, the Farmington Board of Education, and the Farmington Education Association's Salary Committee for their cooperation in working on the recently adopted salary schedule.

This experience indicated the degree to which educational goals can be attained when there is a spirit of unanimity. Very truly yours, Lawrence M. Haver, Pres. F.E.A., Executive Board Farmington Education Association

Romney Slated For Talk Here

The 17th District Republican Party is sponsoring a Romney Day Dinner on Wednesday, February 27th. The public is invited to attend.

Governor Romney will be Guest of Honor and Speaker. His topic will be "The Progressive New Constitution." The dinner will be held in the new Roma Hall of Livonia on Schoolcraft, next to the M.R.A. Race Track. The time will be 6:30 P.M.

Anyone interested in making reservations or desiring additional information, should contact the Republican District Headquarters - BR 2-4450, 1-2 or James F. O'Neil, Chairman of the Dinner Committee, GA2-9445.

Card Party Set By Hosp. Guild

The Redford General Osteopathic Guild will present an "Individual Desert Bridge" during the last two weeks of February.

Each member is asked to entertain a table or two of cards in her home to benefit the Guild's latest project of purchasing a gift cart for the hospital patients.

A GIFT CART consists of items of necessity, delicacy and luxury; also magazines, gum and small gift items. The association will push the cart into all hospital rooms hoping to satisfy each patient and their needs. The cart has been requested at the hospital for many months and now realizing a dream nearing reality.

The newly organized Guild has already furnished Health and Fire Marshall approved cubical curtains for the male ward of the hospital. This project was completed during the month of January.

Mrs. Bernard Benson of Detroit, president of the guild, plans a card party in her home also physicians' wives Mrs. James McDevitt of Farmington and Mrs. John Paver of Detroit, presenting bridge parties in their residences.

"CONTRAST IN RHYTHM" MARCH 22nd, 23rd, 24th

Whether it's a snack or a full-course dinner you desire you'll find us equally as willing to serve you.

"CHARLIE TOOK ALL OF THEM WITH HIM THIS TIME"

If he follows his patterns of escape of the past they'll know right where to find the escapees, though Charlie always brings his getaway car to us to put in before running order to be going very far... Most smart people do.

Changes in the form of township government reflect the current practice. The supervisor, clerk, and treasurer will be elected as at present. The highway commissioner and constables, now rarely used, are deleted. Up to four trustees are to be elected, making this office constitutional rather than statutory as it is now. Reference to the judges of the peace, now only a judicial office, is deleted.

Assistance to large urban townships is given in the provision already mentioned calling for liberal interpretation of the laws relating to local governments.

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GENERAL AUTO REPAIR 23917 CASS GR. 4-2144

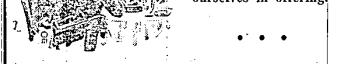
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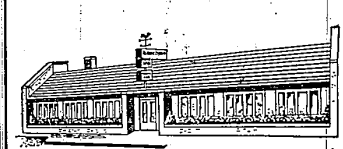
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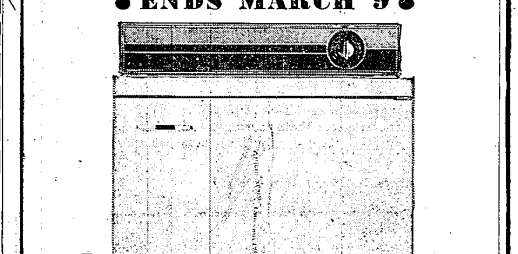


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