

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal Of Progress" Established 1888

P.O. Box 435 23623 Farmington Road, Farmington

GR. 4-6225

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In Our Opinion . . .

Following Proper Procedure Important

Practically every week and sometimes several times in the same week we get calls or letters from people who want to discuss a particular matter in the community affecting them personally or their neighborhood.

We are interested in every problem in the community whether it affects a single family or a large section in the area. To the best of our ability, we try to help those seeking our assistance by directing them to the proper authorities who have jurisdiction over the area in which the problem they have falls.

It is somewhat of concern to us, however, that many of these people do not seem to want to put forth the effort to follow proper procedure in getting something done about their problem. Some seem to feel they can pour out their troubles to an individual government official at any time and place that is convenient to them and then complain to us because nothing is done. Still others don't even try to air their troubles to a responsible official first. They just call us directly and spit off their whole story with the feeling that we should immediately pick up the ball and go it alone in getting their problem solved for them.

Those who don't care to talk, often resort to a letter to the editor in which they briefly state their problem and then make a lot of charges and statements on the verge of libel without any substantiating evidence to back them up. Many don't even sign the letters.

The City Council, Farmington Township Board and School Board have all established procedures to be followed by individual citizens or groups who want to discuss a problem with officials at an official Board meeting. Generally this is that a request be made in writing

stating the nature of the problem, who is concerned with it and an indication as to who the spokesman for the concerned group will be at the meeting. It is stipulated that this request be filed a few days in advance of the meeting date so that it can be included on the official agenda as drawn up.

To the best of our knowledge, those who follow this procedure normally get heard by the governmental bodies, although perhaps not always as fast as they would like. Any who do follow the procedure called for are who are not permitted to air their problems before the governing body, we want to hear from. At this point we will carry the ball on our own to find out why a request is not being recognized.

Some may feel that it is unfair to them not to be able to go to a public meeting whenever they want and express their views on any matter of business that comes before the governing body or present their own problem. We don't agree with them. We've experienced many meetings in past years where this practice was followed. Often times the result was that too much time was spent on one or two items of business and other important matters on the agenda for that meeting could never get taken care of properly.

Any serious problem deserves putting forth a little effort to get a hearing on it. Those who do put forth this effort and still aren't satisfied we're always glad to hear from. We'll work with you in every way we can to help them get the problem solved if it is a solvable problem and a justifiable one.

But, very frankly, we don't have much desire to put forth extra efforts to help those who don't want to put forth a little of their own time and efforts also.



Not Adequate, But Better Than Most Have

Farmington may not have as good a public library system as most of us would like but it appears that the state is a lot better off than the state as a whole.

Figures which we recently received revealed that over half of Michigan's population have no public library services at all. It is a claim which we find hard to believe but one which comes from a source we don't feel we can question.

That Farmington Township voters have seen fit to approve a special levy to support the public library system we have and that the City Council has found it possible to come up with a proportionate share out of its operating budget for the library each year is deserving of commendation.

Like local library officials, we still do not feel that our public library system is adequate. But, at least we do have an active group of local citizens working for a better public library system here. This is something which a majority of the communities in Michigan apparently do not have.

The State Library Board has been putting forth an all-out effort to get a greater share of the \$2.5 billion allocated annually for public services in Michigan. Hopes have been expressed that more

individuals will write or call their state senators and representatives, urging them to vote for a greater allocation for libraries.

Citizens of Farmington who have agreed to pay a little heavier in local taxes for public library service should do just this. We need at least one public library in the Township right now and we grow there will be a need for more branches.

We would like to see Michigan step forward and scuttle the present practice of depending on money from penal taxes and federal grants to provide our public library system with much of the financial support it needs.

It would be our hope that the state legislature might see fit to come up with some kind of a matching fund program to support community public library systems. If the state would allow local communities matching state funds for any money raised locally for community library systems, we're sure it would go a long way toward improving the public library situation in the state.

Some letters to the state legislature and the governor's office from local citizens might prove to be a big help in getting some new and adequate state legislation on support to local library systems enacted.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

FEbruary 12, 1948

New School Site

A court battle looms over the Farmington School District's effort to secure a building site for a new high school to serve the north Farmington area. The School Board authorized its attorney, Robert K. Kelly, to file a complaint in the Court of Common Pleas proceedings on the property north of 13 Mile Road and just east of Farmington Road. Owners of the approximately 40 acres of land sought by the School District have refused to negotiate, said any previously proposed price.

10 Years Ago

FEbruary 11, 1944

Debaters Triumph

The Farmington High School debate team won all contests at the recent Inter-Lakes Conference Debate Tournament and earned the right to advance to the State District Elimination Debate Tournament.

Debate Correspondent says this debate coach Lloyd Smith has produced teams to either win or tie for top honors in the North Farmington area.

School Bond Issue

Voters of the Farmington School District will go to the polls soon to decide on approval of a \$1,573,000 bond issue to finance a new school building program in the District.

Possible Judgement

Wendell Brown, Detroit attorney for the school board, is being met with a possible candidate for the new Federal Judgeship in the Eastern Michigan District.

A new grade school under construction in the Farmington School District is progressing rapidly toward completion in spite of the severity of the weather. The new school, which totals 10,000 square feet, will be completed in time for the new school year.

Known as the Alameda Elementary School, the building which will be known as the Alameda Elementary School

15 Years Ago

FEbruary 10, 1938

Flint Tribune

Citizens of Farmington paid their final respects this week to Howard C. Knickerbocker, President of the Farmington State Bank, who died Thursday morning, February 3, in Detroit's Harper Hospital. He was 55 years old. Mr. Knickerbocker came to Farmington in 1913 as the Receiver for the Farmington State Savings Bank and was instrumental in the formation of the present Farmington State Bank in 1934.

Wins D.A.R. Award

Lore Leidig has been chosen by her senior classmates and the faculty at Farmington High School to be the recipient of the D.A.R. Award.

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German Pupil Gives Opinions Of America

Unlike most exchange students, Almut, a 16-year-old exchange student from West Germany, found few differences in Americans and the American way of life from Germans and the German way of life.

"Almut, who came to the United States on the Michigan Council of Churches program, said in an interview that irritates her about Americans is that they are too complimentary and they rarely are sincere in the things they say."

Though there are televisions in Germany, Almut's family doesn't have one. So the television set in the room of the Almut's room, which Almut is staying in, is a new experience for her and she watches it occasionally, though she claims that television is "cray dumb."

"In Germany, the schools are a little better," Almut says. "There is a lot more practicality everything. During a given week, Almut studies German, English, Latin, chemistry, physics, biology, math, history, religion, and gym. At Farmington she studies sociology, chemistry, English, American history, and band.

But classes and teachers unlike other exchange students Almut says that the teacher's student relationship in Germany is the same as here— are not the reason for her thinking that German schools are better. Rather, she says, "I think that in Germany you are in the same class every year, and you have the same friendships."

Emphasizing that it is her opinion only, Almut says that the schools German are better, but she says that she would be willing to have Germany give up their alliance with the United States and become neutral for the purpose of having a united Germany.

However, she thinks that this is not the case with most Germans. "I think they are not satisfied without American help. Germans would not be able to protect themselves from Russia."

In Germany, Almut lives in Goettingen, which is situated in the north-northeast part of West Germany. Her father is the administrator of a post office and her family members are fans of Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard. Almut thinks that "Smiling Willy" Brandt, mayor of West Berlin, is young and handsome but doesn't know if she has enough faith in him to let him stand on his own.

Almut will have a year and a half of school remaining. She then plans to study at a university, after that she is undecided for six years.

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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.

Different View on Teen Violence

Yes, they are "raising Cain," the kids today are getting out of hand.

"When a prisoner, arrested under such circumstances, appears before the court, the public, on the following morning, is very sober, subdued, and so on; perhaps, he is very unlike the 'roughs' of the night before, inflamed by drink and the leader of a company of fellows as bad as himself. And then the police must rest under or answer the charge of official brutality."

Yes they are getting out of hand.

But wait—this annual report is for the City of Detroit for the year 1889. Those roughs were not the "roughs" they grew up with on the 10th. Sue Venen is four years old on the 12th. Tom House's birthday is today, and Tom and Winnie will go out to dinner for the occasion if Valentine's Day works it right.

Nicky Abid and Bob Schreier were the representatives from Farmington Oaks among the musicians at the Music Festival last Saturday. They both play drums.

Mr. I. Paul Tesorero of 32125 Mayfield in Farmington is the newly elected Treasurer of the International Institute, 111 Kirby Avenue in Detroit.

Mr. Tesorero was elected with the new officers slate for 1953 at the International Institute's Board of Directors meeting held February 3. He is Assistant Cashier, International Department, with the National Bank of Detroit.

Stop in and see some of the Junior Achievement meetings or stop at the schools after school and see the students working hard and making something of themselves. Many of them work part time, study and still make the team. These are the ones we never see or hear about.

Don't be quick to condemn the younger generation. In the same is as our parents, we are not like them. You read or hear about committing acts of violence, they are not really like those of their own race, or even like those of their own race.

The kids of today are first class citizens and deserve our honest admiration. The Observer

Karen Walker, 15, of 2055 Laurens, has been selected Correspondent for the 1952-53 school year, according to an announcement by Margaret Hauser, editor of Coed Magazine.

Karen Walker, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Walker, is in the 9th grade at Farmington High School. She was elected Correspondent by the combined ninth grade Economics classes.

Selected for her qualities of leadership and her enthusiasm for home economics, Miss Walker will serve as junior reporter to the editor of Coed Magazine, and will keep them informed of activities at Farmington High School. There are more than 3,000 Coed Correspondents throughout the United States and Canada.

Presentation of a special Coed yearbook card was made to Miss Walker last month by Mrs. John Palmer, Home Economics Teacher at Farmington High.

The yearbook card will be held Wednesday, March 6. Anyone in the North Farmington area who is interested in this worthwhile organization is cordially invited to attend.

J. J. Williams in Honor Society

At banquet ceremonies held in the Veterans' Memorial Building recently, the University of Detroit became affiliated with a new fraternity, Alpha Sigma Lambda.

President of the University, Dr. Jerome Williams, was among the speakers.

Other speakers, including Carol, were Jim Leach, President of the Evening College, and Ione Phillips, a member of the sophomore class.

Minimum standards for membership in the society include thirty hours of earned credit in the Evening College of Commerce and Finance; an academic average of B-plus or better for all courses taken; and a ranking in the top ten percent of the sophomore, junior, or senior classes.

A 1938 graduate of Lincoln High School, Ferndale, Williams is a senior marketing major. Currently serving as president of the Evening College of Commerce and Finance, he is also listed as the editor of the university's "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

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Farmington Oaks

MARIE RUYKE

474-8272

The past week in Farmington Oaks is probably more notable for the lack of news than for anything else. Still, there are a few items.

Susanne and Jim Ebel have moved into their new home on Birchwood with their two daughters, Linda, four years old, and Jane, ten months old. They moved here from Birmingham and we hope they enjoy Farmington as much as the rest of us do.

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, both Troop 35 had a special service at the Methodist Church last Sunday. This church is their sponsor. Incidentally, the troop number of the Boy Scouts, which we have been reporting as No. 112 is really No. 118. Sorry.

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