

The Farmington Enterprise

"A Continuing Journal of Progress" Established 1888

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Represented Nationally by AMERICAN NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES

In Our Opinion . . .

A Unified Formula Used Statewide Is Needed

A couple of bills were introduced in the Michigan Senate recently which we feel might at least get the state started in the right direction in getting our confused property assessing practices straightened out. Both of these bills are now under study by the Senate Taxation Committee.

One of the bills would make amendments to require local supervisors or assessing officers to be certified by the State Tax Commission as having attended a course or courses of instruction in assessing practices.

While we feel Farmington City and Township both now have completely competent assessing departments it was definitely not always so here. We are sure that in past years many got off pretty light on their tax bills while others got saddled with more than their fair share of the load. Even with county and state equalization boards to straighten out poor local assessment practices today, many communities are still getting by with some pretty unequitable assessing practices, we have good reason to think.

The second bill proposed would make amendments in existing legislation to provide that if the State Tax Commission feels its manual on assessing practices is not being followed properly by local assessing officers, action could be taken.

The bill would permit the commission on its own motion or upon petition from taxpayers comprising 15 percent of the total valuation to local governmental units to order that a reassessment be accomplished by the county tax or equalization department, an approved independent appraisal firm or other designated personnel.

The present method of assessing property, whereby every local governmental unit sets up its own formula and then the county and state equalization boards step in yearly and set varied equalization factors to try to bring the valuations upon which tax rates are to be levied in line, is simply no good.

Even if this method does prove to be pretty effective in seeing that every property owner pays a just amount (and

we don't feel it) it is still wrong. It leaves nearly every taxpayer completely baffled on how the amount he is to pay in taxes is obtained. What probably causes as much of the confusion as anything is the fact that it is common practice in communities to apply the equalization factor against the various tax rates rather than against the assessed valuations themselves as should be done.

The result is that few taxpayers really know what the true tax rates are that are being levied for various governmental operations.

Our own community provides a good example of how widely varied assessing practices are in the state and how confusion can exist for taxpayers.

The city of Farmington has approximately one-half its market value which is about what the state wants and thus gets an equalization factor which makes equalized valuations only slightly higher than assessed valuations. When the factor is applied to the various tax rates the rates are increased only slightly from what they actually are.

The township, on the other hand,

assesses at approximately 5 percent of the true market value of properties. The state, therefore, gives the township an equalization factor of about "two" or a total equalized valuation of about twice the assessed valuation. When this factor is applied to tax rates in the township it therefore shows them as being about two times as high as they actually are.

Even though the amount in dollars may come out approximately the same in the end, there is real confusion due to the fact that three different tax rates for various governmental operations are circulated. There is the actual rate which the schools or county announce, the rates which the city quotes based on its equalization factor when applied to the rates, and the rate which is quoted in the township when the same practice is followed.

The confusion is unnecessary, in our opinion. That's why we strongly support action to require a unified assessing procedure by communities throughout the State of Michigan.



A Good Job Considering All Their Duties

Frequently we hear complaints about the police departments serving this community. Implications are often made that the patrolmen are not carrying out the duties that a community normally expects to get from its police departments.

At times even we have been critical of the work being done by our police. But, looking at it on an overall basis, we can't help but feel that all of us are getting pretty good police service and protection considering the amount we are paying.

The Farmington city and township policemen must not only patrol and answer accident and crime complaints but also serve as process servers, messengers, animal wardens and do numerous other types of work. Since the city force is an integrated police and fire fighting unit, members of the force are also required to perform most of the

duties expected of a community fire department.

Cases of vandalism, malicious destruction of property, robbery, fraud and even more serious crimes are all on the increase in our community. To investigate, apprehend and see that those involved in such incidents are properly dealt with requires countless hours of work. The time our police are spending doing this doesn't allow us to get as much patrolling time from them as we would like or which we are sure they would like to be doing.

But, since the numerous duties that we ask our policemen to perform all take time, we just can't expect to get as much road and street patrolling as many other communities do. The only way we will ever be able to is to provide the necessary funds to expand our community's police departments substantially.

Looking Back in the Files

5 Years Ago

APRIL 2, 1959

Hot Twp. Election

A good turnout is predicted in the spring election which has candidates vying for the top offices for Farmington Township. For township supervisor there will be Republican Curtis H. Hall pitted against Democrat Frank S. Smith. The candidates for clerk are Floyd A. Cairns, Republican, and Ronald C. Hulon, Democrat. In the race for Treasurer, it's Elsie P. Avery, Republican, pitted against Theodore M. Anderson, Democrat. Arthur B. Johnson, Democrat, and both Republicans, will face Norman Peterson and Edward Schmid, Democrats, in the race for the two available Trusteeships on the township board.

Red Cawley Wins

Red Cawley, Farmington's All-American enduror, captured 112 and the Falcons total 102, a deficit of 23½ points to give Farmington High School's track team third place in the Huron Relays.

10 Years Ago

APRIL 1, 1954

School Election

A total of 835 ballots were cast in the Farmington Township School District election held Monday in which the voters approved the proposed \$1,500,000 school building program.

Bel-Aire Sub . . .

Work has begun on the five model homes planned to begin construction out on the Falcon diamond. Bryant, a senior who was also an outstanding member of the Falcon basketball team which just climaxed a brilliant season, a veteran catcher who will see lots of action this year behind the plate.

Bad Weather Hits

Farmington has experienced a week of extremes in the weather beginning with last Wednesday's "polar vortex" which produced 10 inches of snowfall.

Fine in Dandy

A lot of folks will never know just what they've missed if they weren't at the Joyce Fine in Dandy snowfall last week. Those that went saw the greatest exhibition of home-grown talent ever put on one stage.

15 Years Ago

MARCH 31, 1949

Spring Election

A total of 18 persons have filed petitions for the various city offices up for contention in the biennial spring election to be held Monday, April 3.

Baseball Captain

Bud Bryant has been elected captain of the Farmington High School baseball team which has been playing out on the Falcon diamond. Bryant, a senior who was also an outstanding member of the Falcon basketball team which just climaxed a brilliant season, a veteran catcher who will see lots of action this year behind the plate.

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Record for It Sometime

Wednesday's "polar vortex" followed by winds reaching up to 40 miles an hour which fell six inches of snow fell on Tuesday, for making it somewhat

Police Combat Rising Trend Of Auto Deaths

The frequency of fatal accidents that the State of Michigan has experienced so far indicates that if the present trend continues, this year will record the highest number of traffic deaths in the history of the state.

As of March 15, the first 75 days of 1964, 38 persons have died in auto accidents compared to 276 in 1963. This is an increase of 41 percent.

This means that 5 persons on the average are losing their lives each day over the state.

"IN AN EFFORT to combat this rising tide of fatalities and accidents, a vigorous, all-out enforcement and educational campaign is being carried on by the Michigan State Police," said Farmington Township Chief of Police Irvin Yakes.

"I hope all drivers will

cooperate in bringing down traffic deaths and accidents. We

have no desire to see traffic tickets, but if drivers violate the traffic laws, they can be sure that police officers are alert to enforce them," said Chief Yakes.

"It is a known fact that strict compliance with traffic laws enacted for the protection of the motoring public results in a decrease in motor vehicle accidents," Chief Yakes concluded.

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When the factor is applied to the various tax rates the rates are increased only slightly from what they actually are.

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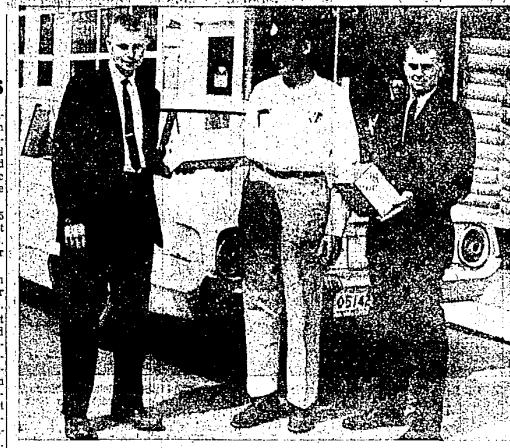
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School District, and Ron Holland (right), driver education teacher at North Farmington High. The American Oil Company has had the training films made special and is donating them through its dealers.

Driver Education Films Presented to Schools

Alvin B. Judge, Director of Driver Education, Farmington Public Schools and Farmington Senior High, and Ron Holland, Teacher of Driver Education, North Farmington High School, Thursday, March 28, accepted one of the first sets of new driver education films from the American Standard Oil dealer Bob Rozenboom.

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Pvt. Peek Completes Cannoner Training

Pvt. Ronald M. Peek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray W. Peek, 20191 Pickett, Farmington, completed advanced training as a cannonner at the Army Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Okla., March 27.

Peek was trained to serve as a crewman in field artillery gun or howitzer crews.

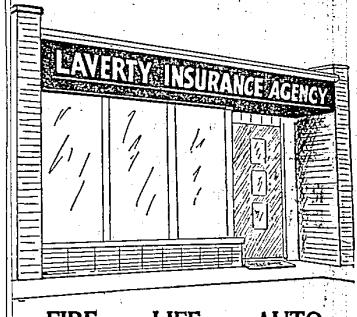
The 23-year-old soldier entered the Army in November 1963 and completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. Peek is a 1962 graduate of Farmington High School and attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Before entering the Army, he was employed as a policeman by the Detroit Police Dept.

Dealer Bob Rozenboom also represented these other Standard Oil dealers who are participating in the program.

Letters to the Editor

A Classified Ad in The Farmington Enterprise Will Contact Over 21,000 Potential Customers in the Farmington Area. Try one today!



FIRE - LIFE - AUTO
0760 Grand River
(Near Nine Mile)
GR. 4-6933

QUALITY PRODUCTS From Our Dairy Dept.

GRADE "A"

MILK

Half Gals.
\$100

HALF & HALF

39c qt.

TOP QUALITY ICE CREAM

59c
HALF GAL

All Delicious Homemade Flavors

Our Cottage Cheese, Butter and Dips Have A Distinctive Taste

WITH WARM
WEATHER AT HAND
YOU'LL BE
DRIVING MORE

★ ★ ★

Don't take a chance with your tires or wheels that are badly out of balance. Bring your car in and let us make sure that you'll be traveling safely when you take to the road during the Spring days ahead.

Each FARMINGTON student taking the course will receive a reflective decal he can place on the rearview mirror of the automobile he drives. The decal has a blue emblem with white letters reading "Schoolied in Safety" and includes a symbol representing a student behind a steering wheel.

Standard Oil is launching the film program through dealers initially in Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, but expects to extend it throughout the nation by 1965.

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