

Observer Newspapers

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Serving the rich Northern Wayne County and South Oakland County Suburban markets with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford, Garden City, Westland and the Township of Plymouth, Farmington and Redford.

Libraries Come From People

A book is a fantastic item. The invention of the printing press and the subsequent advent of general literacy has probably made a more profound impact on society than any other one thing.

Libraries, a gathering place for books, are thus an important element of any community.

The fact that the northern portion of Farmington Township has no easily convenient library facility is a drawback to the entire Farmington community.

The lack exists not because the Farmington District Library Board has not tried. The fact that the northern portion of the Township does not have a library is due to the refusal of residents of the Township to approve the millage necessary to build and maintain the structure.

Taxes are horrid things and the present property tax rate paid in the suburban areas is almost unbelievable. However, proponents of the move toward library expansion estimate that a two-mill levy will cost about \$8 a year.

One person has termed it as two bottles of liquor. Actually if you visit a state liquor store, you will find that two bottles of the high grade alcoholic beverage will cost more than \$8.

Under the terms of the District Library, the City of Farmington and Farmington Township pay the same portion on a per capita rate. In the City, the Library allocation is levied along with the general city taxes. In the Township the additional millage must be approved by the voters.

The Farmington Township Board met in a closed-door session Monday night with the Township representatives on the Library Board to discuss the question.

We believe that the matter should go on the ballot. The District Library currently owns a piece of property on 12 Mile Rd. and will build a facility there as soon as the funds are available.

The cost of living and the cost of building certainly don't seem to be going down.

Therefore, the library should be built now. In fact it probably should have been built two or three years ago.

To mix the library question with talk about creating an identity of the Township and to try to get the idea of forming a separate system for Farmington Township is shortsighted.

There is enough duplication of effort in the Farmington community now. Residents in both the City and the Township pay higher taxes than absolutely necessary because each government clings jealously to its own individual "sovereignty."

To add the cost of maintaining two separate libraries to this is foolish. For this reason we hope that the Farmington Township administration will place the question on the ballot and let the people decide.

When that happens we hope that the people of Farmington Township will be able to realize the need for additional library service, which will strengthen not only Farmington Township, but the entire Farmington community including City, Township and the two Villages.

—SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The Worker

A woman teacher in South Redford, declared her belief in hard work last week at a school board meeting attended by a number of her associates.

"Our day is not a punch-clock situation," said Bernadette Shaw. "You have to give a lot."

She is so right—not only in the field of teaching but just about any other field you care to mention.

Money in the pocket is not of itself a reward a person gets. There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing a job has been done well.

—BILL GAIL

SENSE and NONSENSE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Newspapersmen talk a lot of people during their working day. Some of them make sense; others don't. Some people make sense at one time, and then contradict themselves later on. Some government bodies give the facts to the public; others try to cover up.

Newspapersmen know when people are talking sense when they aren't. In fact, a chief topic of conversation in my newsroom is figuring out if people are making sense.

In our special editorial feature, Sense and Nonsense, we plan to bring you behind the news, to help you sort out who is making sense and who isn't.

Newspapers have their favorites, particularly when it comes to politicians. Governor Romney is one favorite; Richard M. Nixon for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1968.

This newspaper received the other day a very large, nicely printed brochure on the charms and assets of the former Vice-President.

The piece seemed to be a reprint from the St. Louis Globe Democrat, and it suggested that Nixon was the greatest thing to hit America since sliced bread.

This newspaper is a weekly. There are over 300 weekly newspapers in Michigan, and God only knows how many in the United States.

The piece on Nixon cost an awful lot to reprint plus another five cents to mail out.

in Bullion-Plus Budget." How did the first part of the story read?

"Gov. Romney will unveil Thursday a hold-the-line state budget of \$1,133 billion for 1967-68 and call for a state income tax of 24 percent to balance it. Austerity will be the keynote."

You bet. Austerity sure will be the keynote. As it always seems to be in a record budget. Particularly when the author of the budget happens to be a favorite of the newspapers.

Playing favorites may be OK, but not when it simply ignores the facts.

Notes on the coming political war:

Somewhere named John David Lodge certainly likes Richard M. Nixon for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1968.

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Mr. John Davis Lodge, who included a nice note with the reprint, calling attention to the fact that newspapersmen "must" opinion molders, "must" like Nixon one whole of a lot. He even sends his stuff in to Romney court.

Two weeks ago Plymouth Township Supervisor John McEwen told of plans for re-evaluation and reassessment of the real estate in his district.

"We have much vacant land that has a low assessment," said McEwen. "We'll probably place the evaluation at about 25 percent of the true value. That will probably double the taxes in most cases."

That's fine, John, but the Michigan statutes provide that the land must be assessed at 50 percent of the true value. So what happens now? Does the Township follow the statutes or will McEwen, who is the Township assessor, follow his own rules?

Thanks To Observer Editor:

On behalf of Livonia Youth Foundation, Inc., we wish to express our appreciation for your support in promoting our fruit cake campaign for 1966. Your efforts, contributed to making the campaign a real success.

William R. Brashear, President, Livonia Rotary Youth Foundation, Inc.

A City and A Newspaper

27 Years of Growing

Letters To Editor:

Fix Unhealthy Drainage Ditches

Editor:

Knowing that this letter will be ignored as have the others that have been written to the Council and the Mayor's office I cannot rest until this one to your paper is in the mail box.

I have lived in this neighborhood for nine years and in that time have attended council meetings, sent in letters from my doctor (as have 10 other mothers from this street); spent money on illness including hepatitis all to no avail. What can a person do to get a green, slimy, unsanitary drainage ditch covered? It is on record at the city hall that they had to come out and exterminate rats that were growing in nose specimens from making their homes in said ditch banks.

All of the new subdivisions have their drains taken care of, do they pay more taxes than we do or do they have pull at City Hall?

Livonia can afford a new golf course. Nice, every city needs one, but I don't play golf. I just sit in my backyard during the summer enjoying the sweet smell of a drainage ditch.

Donna G. Pollins, Bredin Court, Livonia

Opposes Editorial Letter to:

Dear Neighbor:

It is easier not to become involved but this time I have to. I am not the clever writer but would like to say a few words in answer to your letter to our Livonia neighbors.

I, too, attended the movie you did, we exchanged happiness at seeing each other again. I don't understand how two such varied and opposite interpretations could have been made. I am not a member of the John Birch Society and never will be. The main reason being they work hard and put long hours in at their work and any spare time I have aside from my work and family I desire to put into my church work of spreading the good news of the Gospel, which is mankind's only real peace. John 16:23.

Yes, close-up photographs of partially decapitated human beings, etc. were shown but nothing that hadn't already been on a newsreel or in our leading magazines.

The threat to come you speak of if the Civil Rights movement continues was not a threat. It has already happened—the loss of life, the partially decapitated human beings, maimed women and children, burned and charred.

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fare program.

Livonia City Council's civic-minded desire for a "City Income Tax" or any other kind of tax.

The Space Age liberal "politicians" have promised everything from "Pie in the Sky" to "Care from cradle to grave." All they have produced is a decadent socialistic welfare state with its failures and HIGHER TAXES.

The good qualities of our traditional American heritage must be conserved. Government should nurture and encourage self-reliance, personal initiative, and responsible citizenship instead of destroying it.

All of this leads me to believe "What this country needs is Conservative Statesmen, not liberal tax spenders."

John Timison, Livonia, Michigan

Snow Removal Law Editor:

Since the recent heavy snow falls it is a disgrace to see how many people have made no attempt whatsoever to clear their sidewalks. Some have shoveled their driveways to get their cars out but can't or won't shovel their side walks. Are they just plain lazy or don't they care that their family, neighbors, school children, milkmen, mailman, etc. can't walk down their side walks. If someone should fall and become injured they would be in for a law suit.

What's needed in the Township and City of Farmington is an ordinance such as Detroit has. Snow must be removed after 24 hours or service such as mail delivery is stopped.

Let's show a little consideration to all who use our sidewalks. Get out and clear the sidewalks, then keep them clear so people can walk with safety.

Leonard Weems, Farmington

A Good Five Cent Cigar Editor:

A long forgotten cliché is a good five cent cigar, and with justified reasoning. Today, a good five cent cigar is as non-existent as a tax-free paycheck.

With the breed of "Space Age Politicians" pursuing an out of this world tax program, a new phrase has been born — "What this country needs is bigger and better taxes" and we, the taxpayers are getting them as exemplified by the following.

1. President Johnson's proposed increase in the federal income tax. (Tax on tax).

2. Congressional hike in the employment tax (Social Security, Medicare).

3. Governor Romney's inevitable State Income tax (labeled as fiscal reform).

4. Wayne County's generous plan (County Home Rule) of distributing the suburbs tax money for Detroit's welfare.

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OBSERVING the Scene...

By MYRA CHANDLER

The new word is "regional."

It used to be metropolitan—and then suburban—but now the theme is "think regional."

The entire 15th Annual Planning Conference held last week at the Veterans Memorial Building was keyed to regional thinking.

Resource people represented those working on plans for the entire package of Southeastern Michigan that is Observeland.

They included men like Colonel Edward C. Bruce who thinks Regional Water—and told of study going on right now to formulate a plan for the best use of the water and related resources of this area to create as much economic activity as possible. They are also concerned with creating streams and recreational facilities for the health and welfare of the citizens of southeastern Michigan.

If any money is going to come from Congress to clean up our waterways, widen and deepen them, it must come as a result of this study. The area is bounded on the north by the Saginaw River basin and small tributaries to Lake Huron, on the west by the Grand River basin, on the south by the Maumee River basin and the Ohio State line, and on the east by Lake Huron, St. Clair and Erie and their connecting waterways. It contains 150 lakes, 46 of which are larger than 200 acres.

Another regional planner was Kent Mathewson, President of the Metropolitan Fund, Inc. His involvement is education of citizens with an eye to implementing programs after the study has been completed.

One of the most astute and certainly able speakers of the afternoon was Irving J. Rubin, Director of Regional Transportation Commission.

We were allowed only one small peek at the computer mind of this man and how it is presently being applied to charts, graphs and field studies of you and me.

He knows, Le. where we live, how much we earn, how many cars we have, how long we have gone to school, where we shop—and why, and when and why we move.

After his study is completed the recommendations he will have will not only improve your life—but should improve the life of your family. For if you are the breadwinner in your home—this man, Irving J. Rubin, is working daily to plot ways to make it easier for you to get where you want to go with much less effort.

Winding up the activities of the afternoon was Mel Ravitz—Detroit City Councilman who brought the entire day into focus with a plan—The Council of Governments—or the Committee of 100. There it is again.

Representatives from the entire REGION having a plan and implementing it through common need and purpose.

The luncheon speaker pointed out the problem—and the wind-up speaker Ravitz presented the solution to the problem—approval of local school districts and governments to join the "Committee of 100."

Harold F. Wise, Planning Consultant to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and to State Resources Planning Division of Michigan Department of Commerce from Washington, D.C. was the luncheon speaker.

He has a long title—but he didn't mince words and he hit the Councilmen, Mayors, Supervisors and Trustees on the head with the proverbial hammer.

"Communities can be festooned with glorious plans," were the Wise words, "but the responsibility for implementing them rests with politicians, not statesmen."

Like we always say it takes "four to make a city"—votes that is and Councilmen taking the positive attitude.

Under new Washington Legislation there are Federal grants available by Congress. Any application for Federal grants as of June 30, 1967 on grants for open space, libraries, sewer, water, highways must be submitted to a regional planning group first as an area evaluation. It seems as though Uncle Sam is in favor of the word "Regional" too.

Mel Ravitz put it rather well when he said "over 400 governmental groups believe the axis of the universe runs through its city hall and maybe it does—but for the good of everyone we must talk to each other."

If the Committee of 100 does nothing more than improve communications—it will be worth its existence.

An Answer To A Tragedy Editor:

After reading about the freak accident of little Arlene O'Donnell who died in the bathtub, I feel obliged to offer my theory. On two occasions I have been thoroughly frightened when my child after "swimming" to the end of the tub, raised her head abruptly and encountered the spout. Thank God I was there because on each occasion the child was stunned and could easily have drowned when falling face down into the water. Each occasion resulted in a bruise on the head. I feel very strongly that this is one area where home safety can be improved by a differently designed water spout, a retractable one perhaps.

My deepest sympathy to her parents.

Norma Bass, Weyher Ave., Livonia

Are You Hungry All The Time!

Do You Eat A Lot Of Food. And Still Feel Hungry?

The average American male has increased the size of his waistline by three inches in the last ten years.

He eats more because he is still hungry, consequently he gains weight. He does not assimilate his protein because he consumes too many carbohydrates. A high carbohydrate diet will eventually help you to get in trouble with low blood sugar levels by stimulating the pancreas into an overflow of insulin in the bloodstream.

Low blood sugar levels may in turn help develop a craving for sweets, goodies and alcohol.

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