

Readers Speak Up About Many Vexing Problems

EDITOR:
I am going to vote in favor of incorporation of Farmington Township on Oct. 23 because I am afraid if I don't I will find a factory in my backyard in a couple of years.
The township has, at the present time, a very fine industrial park. All experts in the field of municipal planning agree that a good industrial tax base is essential in a well-planned community.
If the City of Farmington annexes this industrial park, I am afraid that the township planners will look elsewhere for areas in which to locate industry.
I am afraid they might choose some currently undeveloped areas near me. When I bought my house I expected that all areas around me would be residential. If I had wanted to live near a factory I would have moved near one.
I do not wish to live near a factory so I am voting in favor of incorporation. I think anyone with vacant land near them would vote for incorporation for the same reason.
Edward K. LaVanya
Farmington Township

EDITOR:
In one of the letters to the

editor in the Oct. 4 issue, there were complaints about excluding the village of Quakerstown and Wood Creek Farms from the incorporation attempt. This is rather silly because they excluded themselves on their own initiative several years ago by becoming villages.
Since they became villages they have been protected against annexation. We want the same protection in the rest of the township. Since they have received state funds for road maintenance, we want the same.
These villages seem to have the best of all worlds and the rest of the township can go hang. Fortunately, the rest of the township will have a chance for self-determination on Oct. 23.
The writer has charged that under incorporation there would be more "city-type service," broader governmental powers and more obligations. What is the kind of poppycock that was used against incorporation a year ago. If the writer would only read some of the state laws which he refers to he would find that a charter can be written which will result in a government very similar to that which we have now but which would provide the type of protection that the area so desperately needs.
Those who vote for formation of the proposed city will be doing so because they have been able to evade the emotional and illogical appeals of the opponents of incorporation for exactly what they are—pure bunkum.
DENNIS CLEARY

EDITOR:
Shame on you for printing the article about the controversial action of Norman Stalzer to Chairman of the Board for Parks and Recreation. What was all the fuss about? You left your readers hanging in mid-air. From whom did the council get complaints? What did these self-righteous citizens have to say? You didn't tell us. Why did this man is accused of, Good heavens, he must be the worst person in the world!
Oh, I know what they were complaining about. Of course, why didn't I think of it sooner. They complained because he attended too many meetings, at least two or three nights a week. Let's see, that makes 12 hours a week times four weeks = 48 hours a month. Now, most men are paid an average wage of \$5 an hour, so that makes \$240 a month for manpower.
And about those 1000 bats, mits and balls he stored in his garage for the baseball season, let's see, he counted, sorted and distributed these items seven days a week for three months. Well, of course, we must complain about that, because storage cost and paper work plus manpower equals is about \$300 for the season, or roughly \$100 a month. Then there are the phone calls to make in the evening, parents to console, managers to manage, boys to encourage and schedules to make out.
Counseling service per month plus phone bill must equal \$600 per month. Pretty suit, eh? Total this all up on a monthly basis and this guy Stalzer is really making out like a bandit. Your city pays out about \$1,000 a month to this guy for working part time!
What's that you say? I beg your pardon, I guess I didn't hear you right. You would repeat that please. You mean, Stalzer gets \$75 a month for this appointment?
Great day in the morning -----, Redford Township could use a man like Norm Stalzer. Tell him to come over to our side. We like people in our town who give of themselves to the community.
Leave the PETTINESS in Livonia!
Your Redford Neighbors,
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pruss

As I am familiar with the Edward Hines Park rules and regulations (having read them several times), I have not nor will not violate them. I have hurt no one nor have jeopardized any other person's rights or property. Therefore, as a responsible citizen who knows "right" from "wrong" I am not about to be crudely, rudely and illegally "reminded" by a park employee of the way in which I am to conduct myself well. I know I have already done so, was doing so on that Friday afternoon and will continue to conduct myself respectfully and lawfully in the future.
I realize fully that the Edward Hines Park area often becomes a major problem as far as the actions of some youths and adults are concerned. However, this gives no police officer, park employee nor anyone else the right to intimidate those who know how to "behave" responsibly.
Elaime E. Edford

Councilman McNamara Explains Stand
Editor: I have received letters and comments from people regarding rezoning of land in Livonia for the purpose of constructing apartments. The following is an answer I wrote to one of those concerned citizens who indicated that they are opposed to apartments.
I hope it answers one of the misconceptions regarding this form of zoning:
"Thank you for your letter relative to rezoning land in Livonia to permit the construction of apartments.
"Livonia, as you know, is the third largest city, in area, in Michigan. We have attempted to diversify the kinds of industry to give economic stability to our community. We have rezoned areas to larger lots to reduce school population density and encourage larger and more expensive homes that will increase our tax base.
"In any well planned city there is a need for good apartments to serve the elderly that want to be close to their family but not have the burden of a home to care for; to serve the new resident who may be in town on an extended temporary work assignment; the new teachers that want to live close to their schools; the young married who are saving to purchase a home. All of these are good citizens, and it would be most tragic if we were not able to accommodate them.
"There are responsible people in public office who have a most narrow view of the effect of apartments on the community. They make misleading statements that are intended to discredit apartments.
"Let me assure you that one of the toughest ordinances in Michigan relative to building apartments is the existing Livonia ordinance.
"Ordinary to popular belief, apartments, from a tax standpoint, pay more of their way than a residential home. They must provide their own rubbish pickup at their expense. They clean and repair their own streets. It costs less to serve them with water and sewer facilities.
"No direct response to your major point it is interesting to note that the Livonia Public Schools report that in the 574 apartment units in Livonia there are only 48 school children (less than 1 child for each 10 apartments). The apartment owner, however, pays a school millage rate equal to what we pay on our homes.
"We would conclude from the study that if taxes were our only concern we should build only apartments (with one and two bedrooms) and no single homes. However, we want a well balanced community. We are guided in our actions relative to rezoning by a professional City Planner and his most competent staff.
"Our concern for the future growth of our city is shared by me and my fellow councilmen. I hope your concern will continue and you will contact me again if you have questions, need assistance or would like to tell me how you feel about a particular issue."
Edward H. McNamara,
Councilman

Just Chattin'

Here's something new --- the privilege of paying cash
—By W. W. Edgar

AT A DINNER the other evening a friend leaned across the table and asked, "Have you seen the latest?"
Then, with the trace of a smile, he handed me a card which read:
"This entitles _____ to pay cash for any item he chooses."
It was a humorous criticism of our present credit system but it did serve to prove once more the great change that has taken place across the land in the past few decades and how far we have come with the "Buy Now—Pay Later" formula that has boosted our economy to the highest point it ever has known.
In this day and age when folks are urged by all media to enjoy things now and think about the debt later, it might be rather difficult to imagine a time in this country when it was difficult—real difficult—to establish credit.
Folks were rather reluctant to allow anyone to owe them anything. When they did make a loan it was with stiff interest rates—with the result people, the careful ones, were constantly "saving up to buy something." In those days, if you saw something you liked and didn't have the money to buy it, you saved until you had it.
Then, prudently, you would wend your way to the store and make the purchase. On these occasions the purchaser was proud to have reached a goal and enjoyed and appreciated the purchase all the more.
IN TODAY'S easy credit market it might sound incredible, too, to learn that there was a time when you had to have at least two friends vouch for you and be subjected to all sorts of investigations before you were granted the privilege of "buying on credit."
I recall when I arrived on the Detroit scene a few decades ago that having a credit card was a mark of distinction.
They were hard to come by. Being approved for credit, or delayed payments as they called them, was not unlike joining a fraternal order. After you applied, you would be visited by a committee that passed final judgment.
Of course, there were ways that this system could be circumvented—through the help of friends. For example, one of the regular callers at the Free Press Sports Department was the manager of the sports section of the T. B. Royl Hardware Co., then on Woodward Avenue. One evening he asked, "Have you attempted to establish credit?" and when I told him I hadn't he invited me to the store the next afternoon.
On my arrival he asked me to make some small purchases—anything—and told me that I would be billed at the end of the month.
"When you get the bill," he said, "come in and pay it. That will establish your credit with us. Then, any store, even including Hudson's, that asks if you have credit, just say 'Royl's' and you will be accepted. It is the first acceptance that is the most difficult to get."
So, eventually, I joined the elite with a charge card at Hudson's.
THEN I LOOK back to those days, it is a reminder that the country has now done an "about face" and is revolving on the theory that you might as well enjoy things while you are paying for them.
Your automobile is a prime example. At one stage in our credit system you were allowed a full year to pay for your car. That was considered a liberal concession. This later went to 18 months, then two years and now is 36 months. Under the present system one is constantly paying for a car as few owners drive more than three years before trading for a new model.
Another is your home. Young folks today move into costly homes with little or no thought of ever owning it outright. They just keep up the payments until they want to make a change.
Televisions have become commonplace because of credit. Even vacations now are taken on a "go now—pay later" plan.
It has been said that this country could get along without money—that it survives only because of credit cards.
No wonder it seemed strange and rather humorous when my friend at dinner showed me the latest card—one that permits a person to pay cash for anything he wants.
Seriously, it could be a signal that our credit jag is coming to an end and the day of inflation and the cheap dollar becoming just a memory.

THURS. FRI. SAT!

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