

editorial opinion

Public awareness needed

It may seem a little strange that a 150-year-old community is still experiencing growing pains, but that is the case in Farmington Hills.

Some major tracts of land, which were purchased by developers over six years ago, are just now being brought before the Hills council for rezoning or site plan approval.

The impending installation of water and sewer lines in the northwest corner of the city is one obvious motivation behind the sudden spurt of development. But probably the main reason is many developers are anxious to build on land they purchased and held while the legal groundwork for development was being completed.

BUT FOR whatever reason, the coming year is likely to see decisions made in the zoning and planning area which will affect the community for all time.

Some sophisticated attention has been paid for years to the potential problems by the planning commission.

They have published zoning ordinances, a master plan and created some new categories of zoning which would encourage innovative development.

Despite the publicity, hard work and planning done by the commission, many homeowners continue to show up at public hearings on zoning changes with the attitude they have been "had" by a sudden zoning change.

In some cases this has generated a kind of backlash to the detriment of the master plan. The courts have proven themselves more a friend of the developer than the adjacent homeowner, and a stiff-necked

stand on zoning almost always ends up in court.

The time is at hand for a greater public awareness of just what zoning and new development are going to mean in the developing areas of Farmington Hills.

One example is the recent zoning hearings on "planned residential" developments.

Generally they have been received at public hearings as if they were massive apartment developments.

While the PRD zoning category does include many apartment and condominium units, it also gives the planning commission direct control over the site development.

IN TODAY'S ECONOMY, it is unrealistic to expect nothing but large-lot, single-family homes to be built on all the vacant land remaining in Farmington Hills.

Neither should the community become a massive housing project.

The tightrope local governments walk on zoning is between catering to developers' wishes on one hand and being constantly overruled by the courts on the other.

The easiest thing for a council to do is take a popular stand and then being overruled. The blame goes to the courts, but the planning is weakened.

Anybody who lives next to vacant property has the obligation to investigate what will realistically happen to it in the future.

Hopefully, an informed public will make the future of Farmington Hills a well-planned community, rather than a series of losing, emotional clashes over zoning.

Eccentricities

by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.



The impeachment profit

Richard M. Nixon resigned as the 37th President of the United States.

He resigned because he was about to be impeached and convicted and removed from office because he obstructed justice and used federal agencies to harass his enemies.

Other presidents may have done this in the past, but Nixon got caught.

Last week the new administration in Washington asked Congress to appropriate \$850,000 for Nixon's pension and expenses through next June 30.

THE REQUESTS includes some \$250,000 not specifically provided for under existing law.

The \$850,000 does not include the cost of Secret Service protection or the value of the Western White House building Nixon will use as his office. \$450,000 of the amount is provided by law under the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to cover expenses for six months to provide an orderly transfer of executive power. None of this need be used for salaries because he can, and has, received help from aides still on the White House payroll.

THE ADDITIONAL \$400,000 includes \$60,000

for his pension, \$96,000 for staff salaries (of which his secretary Rose Mary Woods, will be paid between \$30,000 and \$40,000 and the rest can be used for legal expenses if he wishes); \$40,000 for transportation; \$5,000 for office supplies; \$65,000 for office furnishings; \$21,000 for communications; \$10,000 for printing; and \$100,000 for miscellaneous.

President Ford has labeled inflation as domestic enemy Number 1. Inflation in this country has been caused primarily by government over spending.

FORD HAS pledged that his administration will cut government spending.

Richard Nixon left office in disgrace.

The amount requested for his care and feeding goes far beyond what is reasonable to run the office of a retired official.

I voted for Nixon in 1968 and 1972.

I am shocked by this request for funds and hope that Congress pares it down as the first move against inflation.

A man should not profit from his resigning to avoid conviction.

Observation Point

by PHILIP H. POWER



Suburbs 'caucus' softly, carry big stick

The other day there came across my desk a letter from a reader grouting that suburban politicians have failed to get together and form a power bloc to push suburban interests.

Pointing to votes in the U.S. House of Representatives, the writer showed that with the exception of opposition to cross-district school busing, there was little evidence that representatives from the suburbs voted as a coherent bloc on issues of high importance to suburbanites, such as mass transit, green space and aid to schools. Instead, the writer pointed out, representatives tended to vote on these issues along party lines or in regional groupings.

Superficially, a similar trend might be inferred from the Michigan Republican and Democratic state conventions, which were held two weeks ago. The Democratic gathering featured a staggering number of special blocs — caucuses met for blacks, Chicanos, teachers, women, and both the UAW and AFL-CIO — which notably did not include suburban interests. The Republicans, who have attracted this year to geographical distribution across their ticket rather than to specifically suburban versus rural or urban interests.

CLOSER ATTENTION, however, to just who will be running this fall for state-wide offices from both parties reveals remarkable suburban representation.

Of a total of 28 people nominated by both parties to run state-wide, 14 or exactly 50 percent are suburbanites. Republicans picked eight suburbanites for 14 positions, or 57 percent, while Democrats chose six candidates from the suburbs for their 14 nominations, or 43 percent.

Democrats will head their ticket with Sander Levin, from suburban Berkeley, while the Republi-

cans counter with Lt. Gov. nominee James Dáman of Troy and Lorraine Beebe of Dearborn Heights for secretary-of state.

Republicans selected two suburbanites — James O'Neil of Livonia and Jo Saltzman of Franklin — for State Board of Education, while the Democrats picked Roger Tilles of Swartz Creek, a suburb of Flint.

Democrats Thomas Roach of Grosse Pointe Park and Sarah Power of Ann Arbor have suburban connections in their race for the University of Michigan Board of Regents, just as do both Republican nominees for Wayne State University Board of Governors, Norman Stockmeyer of Westland and Dr. Frank Walker of Grosse Pointe.

Michigan State University trustees feature the greatest concentration of suburban residents, with Democrats John Bruff of Fraser and Raymond Krolkowski of Bloomfield Township facing Kenneth Thompson of East Lansing.

Suburban strength for Supreme Court Justice race is less than other slots this fall, with Republican Allan Miller of East Tawas but formerly of northwest Detroit counting as the only suburban connection.

WHAT SEEMS clear from the results of both party's annual meetings is that although there are no special caucuses devoted to suburban interests as such in either party, suburbanites are playing an increasingly important role in Michigan politics.

Many party leaders are from the suburbs, and most strategists from both parties recognize as a basic assumption in this fall's campaign that the results will be determined by the suburban vote.

Probably it's the case that the suburbs are so important that they don't really need any separate caucuses of their own.

Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to save cans, bottles or newspapers for recycling may use these facilities.

To prepare glass, thoroughly wash the containers, remove all metal caps and rings from the glass and separate the glass by color.

To prepare cans, clean only. Paper need not be removed.

Newspapers should be tied in bundles with heavy string or rope or secured in heavy paper

• BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Behind the township offices, 4200 Telegraph Road just south of Long Lake Road. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturdays. Glass and clean cans are collected each week. All aluminum items accepted. Newspapers collected on the last Saturday of each month.

• GROVES ECOLOGY CLUB—Bundles or bagged newspapers and cardboard, will be collected from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

the second week of each month at the high school's front parking lot.

• BIRMINGHAM—Daily newspaper pickup with regular trash. Newspapers must be bundled separately.

• SOUTHFIELD—In the old city offices, 26000 Berg Road at Ten and One-half Mile, one block east of Telegraph.

• TROY—At the DPW Yard, 4685 Rochester Road, from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Return Tiki Head

To the Editor:

Welcome to Farmington Hills. Seven years ago, while vacationing in Florida, we purchased a hand-carved Tiki head. For two years we had it prominently displayed in our yard.

When we moved to New Jersey we used it as a mailbox post for four years and everyone enjoyed it. When we moved to Farmington Hills last October, we brought it with us.

On Aug. 24 at about 1 a.m., someone decided that looking at it wasn't good enough. They had to have it.

They ripped it from its base (no easy task), tore the mailbox off the top and ran off with it. A three foot black and gold Tiki head is difficult to hide. If one appears in your neighborhood or yard or your youth's bedroom, please contact us.

We still believe that there are parents who will question their young people when they bring something home that doesn't belong to them.

Al and Marilyn Torok
Farmington Hills
Aug. 29, 1974

Poem remembered

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Elspeth Beier's story of Dr. George Sewell in the Aug. 8 issue. The last sentence states that Dr. Sewell's philosophy of life is expressed on a wooden plaque in his den with a quotation from an "unknown author"—"So live that when thy summons come."

This is from "Thanatopsis" by William Cullen Bryant, and I can give the rest of the long sentence from memory. (I had to memorize the whole poem in the eighth grade in the Taboka High School (Texas). "So live that when thy summons come to join that innumerable caravan which moves toward that mysterious realm where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, thou go not like a quarry slave at night, scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unfeeling trust, approach by grave, as one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Conrad R. Lam, M.D.
Farmington

Aug. 12, 1974

'Miss Teenage America'

To the Editor:

An article which appeared in your publication under the date of

Aug. 12 referred to a contest which is in no way related to the "Miss Teenage America" Pageant. We are most eager to correct this inaccurate identification since the name "Miss Teenage America" is registered in the United States Patent Office as the service mark of our company.

I understand that such inaccurate identifications are often the result of misleading information supplied through press releases or other services.

WE SHOULD also appreciate a correction in your publication in an effort to correctly identify the "Miss Teenage America" Pageant.

The "Miss Teenage America" Pageant differs in many respects from any other teenage program and is an operating division of the Dr. Pepper Company.

Because of the need to protect our registered mark, and because of the vast differences of policy in pageants for teenage girls, we sincerely thank you for any cooperation you may afford us in this matter.

Judith D. Houghton
Executive Vice President
and General Manager
Miss Teenage America
Aug. 27, 1974

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From our readers

End millage debate

To the Editor:

For the past few weeks, the front page has been devoted to the millage issue and I feel it's time for the "other side" to speak out.

I have no complaint coming if I don't have the courage to speak up. What I say, I say out of concern for what seems to be happening to our rights as voters.

I always thought I knew what "no" meant so, to be sure, I looked it up.

Sure enough, I was right. "No" means: (1) the opposite of yes, (2) a negative vote or decision and (3) a refusal.

THE ABOVE mentioned articles state that committees are preparing another "petition to place a school millage proposal on the ballot at a special election."

I, for one, feel this is a direct infringement or infringement upon my rights as a voter. The ballots were cast not only once, but twice and both times, the millage was defeated by the voters. Don't put votes mean anything?

In every election there is a winner and a loser. I have always voted on the winning side, but I do try to honor what the majority voted. I don't think it fair to keep "re-voting" on an issue until it is passed.

The issue was presented to the people to decide upon and the people refused it so why not honor the results and spend the money we have and spend it wisely.

Why not take these "committees" note the money it would cost to finance "another" election and donate it to the school district?

Mrs. R. Evans, Jr.
Farmington Hills
Aug. 29, 1974

Comparing schools

To the Editor:

In today's paper you note that I "charged" that Abbott will be overcrowded as a result of the proposed transfer. For the benefit of the public you serve, please let me quote the exact capacities and enrollments of the two schools involved.

Also, please note that the capacity figures I use are those stipulated to by the West Bloomfield Board of Education in Oakland County Circuit Court and therefore there can be no question as to their accuracy.

The physical capacity of Abbott Middle School is 650, as a result of the transfer the enrollment will be 696 (489 plus 214). The physical capacity of Orchard Lake Middle School is 1,000, as a result of the transfer the enrollment will be 667 (881 minus 214).

The following are the questions I asked the board to respond to; I certainly feel they are relevant and productive and, contrary to the comment of President Grossman, the school board, as a body elected by the citizens, has a responsibility to respond to a citizen's reasonable request.

1. What programs is Orchard Lake going to offer this year? How do these differ from last year? What has been added? What deleted? Why?

2. What programs is Abbott offering this year that it has been unable (for whatever reason) to offer in the past? What new classes are included in this year's offerings, what has been deleted from previous years? In the new classes (all those not offered in the preceding school year) what proportion of the students are those

coming into the school as a result of the transfer and what proportion reside in the former attendance area?

3. How does this board plan on relieving the overcrowding that now is going to exist at Abbott?

In addition, I asked these two questions verbally. 1. Since Mr. Gorgiat stated, in writing to the board, that he could not lose more than 150 students and maintain his program, what effect is the transfer having at OLMMS?

2. What is the class size, per subject and class, to be at Abbott this year?

If I receive an answer to these questions I will be happy to share them with your readers.

Judith Miller
Aug. 22, 1974 West Bloomfield

Beware curb-cuts

To the Editor:

Your O & E edition of today's date carried my letter to the editor which I had entitled "Beware the Curb-Cuts." Some have changed the title to read "Watch for Bikes."

That shift in emphasis was unfortunate.

The relation between curb-cuts and bicycles is obvious. However, it was not the main point that you made it.

The majority of those with whom curb-cuts were discussed did not know that they were required for the physically handicapped and disabled and practically no one had given any thought at all to the effect of the curb-cuts on the safety of the blind.

I am concerned about bicycle safety but that does not blind me to other aspects of traffic safety.

Joseph E. Williams
Aug. 29, 1974 Birmingham