

April 17, 1967

To The Residents of Lincoln Township:

It is through the efforts of many Lincoln Township volunteers that you have been afforded the opportunity to vote on the most vital ISSUE Lincoln Township has ever encountered. We urge you to register to vote, if you have not already done so. You have only until May 5th to register for this most IMPORTANT ELECTION on June 6th.

The Lincoln Township Board has, as a result of some 740 property owners signing petitions, requesting this election; set the date on June 6th. Only residents of Lincoln Township are eligible to vote.

The election is to determine whether one third, or approximately 400 acres of the prime section of Grand Mere, be re-zoned from its RESIDENTIAL status to include COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL, sometimes referred to, as "Planned Development." This includes a major industry-namely, the sand-mining industry.

You will remember that two individuals from out of the state have purchased this residential property in past years, Mr. Victor Peters of Chicago and The Manley Sand-Mining Corporation of Chesterton, Indiana. They have requested the re-zoning in order to erect a sand-mining plant near the Middle Lake. They express "Plans" to excavate a channel from the Middle Lake through the dunes to Lake Michigan, wide enough to float sand barges.

Now, the Township Board refers to this venture as "Planned Development." Even by the greatest stretch of the imagination, one can not see any feasible "PLAN" here. It would neither enhance the attractiveness of the area nor the TAX BASE. Mr. Manley says he "plans" to build a marina. There is no guarantee that he could ever proceed to this point. But supposing that the channel is cut through to Lake Michigan, we must remember that the three Lakes in Grand Mere are several feet higher than Lake Michigan.....you can guess the rest. Then too, the level of the North Lake is established by the waters flowing into it from the Middle Lake and by virtue of a COURT ORDER, the North Lake must be kept at its normal level. Middle Lake is believed to be five feet higher than Lake Michigan, therefore the construction of a channel will create a most serious problem. A marina or yacht basin requires fresh or some flowing water which would be non-existent in this case. When Mr. Manley was questioned about this at the Public Hearing on Feb. 10, 1967, you will remember how hesitant he was to answer the question. He gave no indication of "Plan"....his time-table as to construction, or even his financial ability to proceed.

Recently, a developer presented a plan for a marina on the banks of the St. Joseph river in St. Joseph Township. He went to the Township Zoning Board with a scaled model, with every detail worked out, he had financial backing and was asking for the permit to erect a Marina on a very "natural area" for that purpose. His permit is still pending. Mr. Manley shows us nothing.....everything about the so called "plan" is extremely vague. We must not be cajoled into believing in something that has no more guarantee than this. If promises have been made, they are only verbal, which, of course, are not binding. Has the Manley Corporation anything to offer Lincoln Township but grief? Have you looked at a Sand-Mining and Processing plant lately? Just drive

down Red Arrow Highway to the south and see for yourself.....most unsightly both in daytime or at night.

If this type of Industry comes into Grand Mere the whole area will be destroyed. Let's keep the one RARE PART OF LINCOLN TOWNSHIP of which we can be so proud. Inasmuch as there has been no real acceptable plans offered for Grand Mere, the safest thing we can do at this point is to keep it zoned RESIDENTIAL. Vote to Keep It Residential.

Lincoln Township is growing so rapidly, with subdivisions on every four corners.....soon there will be very little elbow room.....no open spaces.....no dunes.....no Middle Lake. Think about it.

WE MUST GIVE THIS OUR MOST SERIOUS ATTENTION, ONCE IT HAS BEEN RE-ZONED, THE DAMAGE IS DONE. IT HAS TAKEN 14,000 YEARS FOR NATURE TO BUILD UP DUNES LIKE DUNHAM DUNE. THE BULLDOZERS CAN PULL THEM DOWN TO WASTELAND IN A MATTER OF MONTHS.

Perhaps you are thinking about the revenue in taxes. HOW MUCH REVENUE? The sand-mining industry would have little effect on our taxes one way or the other. But if it's industry we want, let's encourage it where it belongs, in an area that is already zoned industrial. No other industrialist WANTS to build in Grand Mere. Let us keep it residential. Have you ever heard of less taxation in a highly industrialized area? Gary, Indiana has one of the highest tax rate of any city in the Midwest. Remember, if residential property can be re-zoned this easily by the Township Board in the face of the hundreds of protests, just WHAT PROTECTION HAVE YOU IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? If you attended the hearings on this matter at the Township Hall you KNOW how MANY people protested the re-zoning to say nothing of the many letters of protest they received.....all for good, valid reasons. Now that we have the opportunity to vote on the issue, let us make our protest known through the ballot.

Enclosed you will find instructions for registering. Please feel free to call any member of the Grand Mere Association for further information.

Remember to register before May 5 and to vote on June 6.

"Care enough to SAVE the very best.....Grand Mere".

Volunteers for Fairness  
And  
Grand Mere Association.

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\* INVITATION \*  
\* \*  
\* Sunday May 21 1967 \*  
\* \*  
\* Lakeshore High School Auditorium \*  
\* A short program followed by a hike through Grand Mere \*  
\* See the area in its Springtime Beauty \*  
\* Watch for details in the newspapers \*  
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