

editorial opinion

School house to court house

Moving court makes sense

The Farmington Hills City Council and 47th District Court judges have to quit bickering and find a solution to a fast growing problem—space for court facilities.

The most recent squabble occurred when the council rejected the idea of considering federal funds to build a new courthouse. We don't argue with the council's decision. The money should go towards providing residents with sufficient drainage.

But the area, which is covered by the district court, Farmington and Farmington Hills, is rapidly expanding. The court docket is growing and a facility is needed for future planning.

Councilman Fred Lichtman, who often is annoyed by the judges' requests for more money and larger facilities, came up with the solution without realizing it at last week's council session.

Lichtman remarked that too many public buildings already were standing vacant because of overexpansion.

This is especially true for surrounding school districts. With enrollment on the decline, school

boards have been faced with closing down buildings. Therein lies the solution.

The City of Farmington and Farmington Hills should be willing to strike an agreement with the school district to either rent, lease or buy an unused school building.

Presently, the district's task force on declining enrollments is looking at the bleak picture. In a few months, they will be making a recommendation to close one of four school facilities.

Closing of a school facility is inevitable. But some of the loss can be recouped if the district court moves into the facility.

Those who doubt the need for a separate court facility only have to visit Farmington Hills City Hall during court hours. The halls are crowded with lawyers and clients who are attempting to have discreet deliberations while the humdrum floats around them.

Court employees are crammed into small quarters with files stacked upon files. It's bedlam.

City leaders should forget their personal squabbles with the judges and work out a solution before the problem gets out of hand.

From our readers

Reader protests restaurant fare

The owners of some of the restaurants have wanted to know why their clientele is declining. It will be often them.

A friend of mine was visiting this fair on Tuesday and invited me out to dinner because he had a preference for seafood. We agreed to go to the Starboard Tavern at Farmington Hills. When we walked into the restaurant, I observed that only four or five tables were occupied and thought that unusual even for a Tuesday night.

We ordered dinner. I ordered founder salad with crabmeat and a baked potato. We enjoyed the hot mushroom soup plus the elegant salad bar.

But then came dinner.

The potato was at least two days old and returned to lukewarm. In addition, the plate contained two small pieces of dried out fish surmounting a mound of last week's bread.

If there was crabmeat mixed in the bread, I couldn't taste it let alone spit it.

Since my evening meal no comment upon the dinner. I didn't order. But after mulling it over, I thought what a shame if this

beautiful restaurant closes and doesn't even know why.

The service was excellent, our waitress, Herbert, was all smiles and kept our coffee cups filled. But with \$7.50 the price of the dinner and it being able to eat it, your

customers are fleeing.

Did you ever check the baked potato at the Palace? I have yet to find the likes of that at a posh restaurant.

PHYLLIS KOWAL
SOUTHFIELD

Franco blameless for advertisement

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Oct. 7 editorial stated that the Anthony M. Franco firm was the advertising agency responsible for stickers calling for a vote against Proposal A. On this we were in error and have since learned the Franco firm is the public relations firm and not the advertising agency for the Committee Against Forced Deposits.

It is been my experience that editorial pages of newspapers printed facts, not fiction. I must express my utter amazement at the lack of facts printed on this editorial page in "The Lobby's Propaganda."

In the first place, we are a public relations firm. The Committee Against Forced Deposits, which your editorial refers to, uses the W.B. Doer & Co. advertising agency. If you had cared about the facts, you would have telephoned me and avoided calling us an advertising agency.

Secondly, you malign the Committee Against Forced Deposits in several staid adjectives such as "litter lobby" and accuse them of using "every classic propaganda trick." In fact, committee members are employers and workers who pay millions of dollars to the State of Michigan in taxes. Lobbying is a proper exercise of free speech when conducted honorably. Committee members are too important to conduct themselves dishonorably.

You state the committee is "printing up a million yellow tags to stick on beer and pop containers." The fact is that your figure is wrong.

You state that "the state has forbidden political advertising where alcoholic beverages are sold." It is true that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission tried to prevent free speech on a ballot proposal issue, but one commission is not "the state." There's more than a little question that ballot propositions fall in the usual definition of "political." The U.S. District Court late Friday ruled the liquor commission's action unenforceable on constitutional grounds and reaffirmed the committee's right to inform consumers about the effects of Proposal A with the use of the stickers in question.

You state that there's been an attempt at "equating deposit with tax." And you go on to explain the difference between a tax and a deposit. The stickers clearly refer only to "deposit." We think your readers are smart enough to know "deposit" means the customer can get their money back.

You state that our firm attempts to "conjure ugly images." We don't attempt to conjure any images. We are in the communications business, just like you. We do our job by presenting facts. We'll stand by our record on that. Your newspaper went so far as to praise us on our accuracy about a year ago.

Your editorial does what it accuses us of doing. The editorial is loaded with glittering generalities and implies guilt by association. I'd call that real propaganda.

ANTHONY M. FRANCO,
Public relations consultant for
Committee Against Forced Deposits

Proposal A misrepresented

Editor:

I am greatly upset about the present misrepresented ads sponsored by the Committee Against Forced Deposits. They are grossly misleading and employ scare tactics as well as containing many untruths.

They say that required deposits will increase the cost of beverages. Someone must be wrong with their memories as those always always cost more when we had a choice than the beverages with deposits after the deposit is deducted.

They also claim that a hostess worked in stores that have enacted these laws. One who was the first state to have a law like Proposal A reports a 90 percent decrease in liability after enacting the law in 1973.

I recently made a trip to Vermont through New York State. It was like night and day. Vermont has a deposit law and the liquor advertising New York State laws as bad as Michigan.

There is hardly a day goes by that I don't pick up beer cans from my front yard in beautiful Ft. Orchard Lake.

They claim that Proposal A will result in a loss of jobs in Michigan. Some one will have to be hired to handle these returns and I wish them. I think that this is a law whose that we have to pay people to manufacture trash that only even more to pick up.

They say that trucks will have to be sent out to pick up these returnables, using more energy and raising costs. They used to pick up the empties with the same truck in the former days who did now? It takes a lot more energy to manufacture a container than it does to wash it.

When I was a boy, we used to pick up bottles from the roadside and in parks that

were thrown away by the same type of person that litters now. The only difference is that we collected money from the stores for doing this, now the kids who pick these up are only trying to beautify their neighborhood and, thankfully, we still have people who care.

They also claim that something must be done but Proposal A is not the answer. They are wrong again. We didn't have this problem before then and a few other states don't have it now because of a deposit law.

WR ALLEN
Orchard Lake

Reader compliments Hills policemen

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the excellent police department in Farmington Hills. Especially, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to officers Daniel Massey and James M. Lucas on a well done job. In July 11, 1976, I had a heart attack being unprepared, the only thought that came to me was to ask my wife to call the Farmington Hills Police Station and ask for help. The department's promptness in responding and providing me with an ambulance for transporting me to the hospital and advising my wife what to do, as I stood there.

You have saved a life. Both my family and I thank you and feel proud to be living in Farmington Hills under a responsible police force.

JAMES VARJABEDIAN
Farmington Hills

1976 CARRIER OF THE YEAR:

MARSHA KITCH

Congratulations to Marsha Kitch, 15, of Hidden Valley Court, Farmington Hills.

Our Farmington Observer Carrier of the Year enjoys skiing, tennis, bike riding and track.

She belongs to the YMCA and enjoys gymnastics, biology and Spanish. Marsha plans to attend the University of Michigan and with her current high B average should have no difficulty with college studies.

Marsha was chosen Carrier of the Year for her length of service, amount of collections, prompt settling of accounts, few customer complaints and accurate record books.

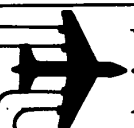
This is just one of the many ways the Farmington Observer shows its appreciation to its carriers for a job well done. Observer carrier routes offer young people the opportunity to learn basic business skills while earning extra money.

Marsha, and carriers like her, is a vital link between our readers and the people who bring you the news of what's happening in your hometown.



Farmington Observer

A limited number of Farmington Observer carrier routes are now available. Call 261-2600 for more information.



LAS VEGAS

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NOV. 5 thru 8

(No reservations later than Oct. 20, 1976)

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Your ecology calendar

Ecology-minded persons who wish to have 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 bags.

• **PONTIAC**—Oakland County Recycling Center, 550 S. Telegraph, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday. Groups bringing in more than 500 lbs. of glass will receive \$10 per ton for glass.

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

• **FARMINGTON**—A glass recycling center operates on Saturdays from 9

a.m. to noon at the west end of the Farmington Hills city hall parking lot. The city hall is at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

• **LATHRUP VILLAGE**—At the Public Services Building, 19101 Twelve Mile Road, adjacent to the high school. Newspapers are collected 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by volunteers the first Saturday of each month.

Farmington Observer

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