

8A(F)

# Council dallies while park opportunity slips away

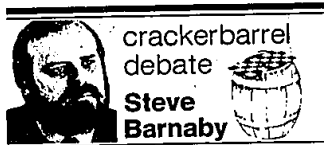
TOO ASHAMED to face the public, the Farmington Hills City Council is plotting behind closed doors to fritter away this city's last chance to have a recreational and wilderness area.

And the public should be outraged. This council, with few exceptions, has a marked penchant for cowering in the face of the hard decisions. Under the normal day-to-day sleepy suburban circumstances, it matters little. The professional administrators can cover.

But the fate of the 211-acre Spicer property is too important to this city's future to allow it to be swept away through sheer neglect. And city residents should put council on notice that they won't be allowed to ruin this opportunity.

THE COUNCIL'S present excuse — let the county do it — could be laughable if it weren't for the gravity of the situation. Farmington Hills never has had a more parochial-minded legislative body whose philosophy excludes local control.

Not even Jefferson Davis could outdo the likes of the big three — Donn Wolf, William Lange and Jack



Burwell — when it comes to extolling the glories of the local initiative.

Indeed much merit does exist in allowing local residents and legislative bodies to determine their own futures. But what is suspect is how those who are so adamant about local control could turn around and so easily embrace the idea of an outside agency doing a job which could better be done by the city.

THIS CITY needs a recreational area. In the future, when the city is fully developed, it will need the open area to enhance property values. Few will want to move their families into a city devoid of recre-

ational facilities — especially when that city is surrounded by others which have had the sense to develop their own.

Just as important, the residents want a recreational area of their own — one which they can plan and of which they can be proud.

The county has little need for a park tucked away on its western perimeter. But Farmington Hills has a great need for a 200-plus-acre parcel which is smack dab in the heart of the city.

IF THE county does buy the property, local residents will have little say in how it is developed. They'll just be forced to sit and watch — a very risky proposition at the least.

An even worse outcome can be imagined.

A justifiably impatient Nicholas Spicer has put his valuable property on the open market. After all, the most reasonable among us can't expect Spicer to endlessly feed the property tax meter while council twiddles its collective thumbs.

If the property is sold to a private developer, residents would have absolutely nothing to say about its development, any chance of every having a recreation area would be lost — forever.



"According to my calculations, it would be cheaper to buy this land for the park than to renovate the roads so the kids can play in the streets."

# One should know that geese when grounded are a gaggle

By Robert G. Woodring  
special writer

J. DONALD Adams talks about them in his book "Magic and Mystery of Words."

Wilfred Funk has them in "A Hog on Ice." Newspapers slip them into their columns in order to leave readers. The New York Public Library keeps a list on hand and adds to them as researchers discover quaint terms which were long forgotten.

They are the words that refer to gatherings of creatures — words like flock, herd or clutch.

I never worried about those words until I had my latest run-in with neighbor Hester, a retired English teacher. Hester is a

walking grammar book. What she preaches, she practices — on me.

I was looking at the sun setting over the horizon when I heard a commotion. From the patio next door I heard Hester saying that it sounded like Model-T horns in rush-hour traffic. When I saw the cause of the disturbance, I leaped forward with my camera.

"A whole flock of Canada geese just landed," I whooped. "I'll get some pictures."

"Hold on there," Hester ordered. "There is no such thing as a flock of flying geese. When they're flying, they're a skein, and

when they're on the ground, they're a gaggle."

"OK, OK, whatever you say, Hester. Let me get over there before they're gone again."

"NOW DUCKS group in broods, but when they're flushed, the group is a flush. But they're only flush when there are more than two ducks. A pair of ducks flushes in a brace," she said.

She continued undaunted by my lack of enthusiasm.

"Many farmers have seen a flock of crows attack a field of corn. That's what they think. In reality, they saw a murder of crows brutalize the corn. If the murder

were attacking a single bird of prey, the murder would be ambushing a cast," she said.

Murder had been the furthest thought from my mind just a few minutes earlier, but suddenly it became a distinct possibility. Somehow I knew I wasn't going to see those geese when I said, "And I suppose that Girl Scouts gather in 'giggles.'"

She gazed down her nose at my attempt at humor.

"SPARROWS GATHER in hosts, and starlings group in murmurations," she said. "Turkeys gather in rafters, and a trio of pheasants is a nye."

"And then you have a windy of politicians and zits of teen-agers," I mocked.

Hester ignored me and continued: "Frogs gather in colonies, but toads gather in knots."

"And a litter of puppies is a piddle?" I asked.

"No, they're a litter," she answered, adding, "And so are kittens. Cats clutter, but big cats, like lions, are a pride."

As Hester sped on, I quipped, "And then you have a gaggy of housewives. That's when I heard her door slam shut."

At the same instant, the flock of geese — excuse me, the skein — took flight and quickly gained altitude on its way south, perhaps the last gaggle, er, skein, of the year. I missed my pictures.

You could say I got an education. But somehow it wasn't much fun.

## oral quarrel

## Christmas commercialism rankles

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers how they felt about the Christmas shopping season coming earlier and earlier every year. Following are the responses:

The religion is gone out of the holidays. The fun and joy is even gone because of the early decorations even before Halloween and its just sad because I don't think our children will have the love for Christmas that we, as adults, grew up with.

I feel it starts much too early and the commercialism, it's just horrible. Absolutely horrible.

I think it stinks. I think they ought to go back to celebrating Thanksgiving and being grateful for the wonderful country that we have and then start the Christmas season.

The earlier I can get my holiday shopping the better and the earlier I can do it the more I can enjoy the real meaning of the holiday later on.

I think it starts earlier every year and it just takes the fun out of shopping.

**ICE MELTER**  
30 times faster than salt!

WHILE PREVENTS ICE  
CONTINUES TO MELT  
NO REFLECTING  
UNSAFE TO VEGETATION  
DRIVES AND WALKS  
CLEANER NO MESSY RESIDUE

\$34.75 / 100 lb. drum

JEFFERY SUPPLY CO.  
531-0559 Free Delivery

R-19 for 1000 sq. ft. Open Ceiling  
\$300  
Class 1 Blown Cellulose

**INSULATION SALE**

Compare our prices, quality, and guarantee.  
Fiberglass at comparable savings  
LICENSED/FREE ESTIMATES Utility participant

**NORWEST INSULATION CO.**  
25541 GLENDALE, REDFORD  
534-8010

**DEEP STEAM**  
Triple Method Carpet Cleaning  
Rinse & Extraction

Living Room \$26.95  
Free Scotchgard - One Room  
All Additional Rooms \$10.95

Includes: Pre-Spotting - Color Brighteners - Deodorizer - Furniture Protection - Hand Scrubbed Carpets

Expires Dec. 2, 1982  
Expert Furniture Cleaning 12 Years in This Area  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED  
Call Carpet 532-8080  
A Furniture Cleaners - Redford

**Small Business Seminar**  
How to start and run YOUR OWN BUSINESS

- Analyzing a business venture
- How to reduce tax
- Forming a corporation
- Where to seek capital
- Filing required forms
- Accounting made simple
- Common mistakes to avoid
- ...and much more

...your seminar leaders...  
LOHME L. LOY (CPA)  
FRED S. STEINGOLD (Attorney)

PRESENTED TWICE AT  
THE MICHIGAN INN  
SOUTHFIELD

— Sat., Dec. 4 (9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)  
— Mon., Dec. 6 (7:00 - 10:30 p.m.)

Fee \$35 includes your copy of "Michigan Small Business Guide."  
(Retail value of the Guide is \$20)

— Call or write —  
Business Enterprise Institute  
211 E. Huron • Ann Arbor 48104  
Southfield phone: 559-2223  
Ann Arbor phone: 769-0086

**We're Having a Year End Furnace Sale**

Oh Yeah, So What?

**SO, YOU CAN SAVE A LOT OF MONEY!**  
Just bring in your last year's gas bill (call Gas Co. for it, if you don't have it) also bring in the BTU rating of your furnace and we will show you a computer calculation of your ACTUAL SAVINGS on our newest, most efficient energy saver and Recouperative units.

**PLUS 10% DISCOUNT WITH COLD COUPON**  
(from back of yellow paper)

**PLUS SALE AT SUMMER TIME PRICES**  
**PLUS FREE HONEYWELL T8200 SETBACK**  
**DIGITAL HEATING & COOLING THERMOSTAT**  
With furnace purchased before Dec. 31, 1982

**General Electric Elite Recouperative Formula 1000**  
**Amana H.T.M. Plus** Heat transfer Module Plus Hot Water Systems

SEE THEM ON DISPLAY AT  
1140 FARMINGTON RD.  
AT SEVEN MILE, LIVONIA  
(8 to 6 daily, 9 to 2 Sat.)  
OR CALL FOR HOME SURVEY

**D & G Heating & Cooling**  
476-7022 348-6600

**BUY TWO - GET ONE FREE**

**SAVE 30% Buy TWO\* of these 18" deep wall units reduced to \$399 each and get...**

...one of these 18" deep wall units FREE

Hillside has made a special purchase of these quality 18" deep wall units from Kombi in either almond or oak textured formica laminate. All in stock for immediate delivery.

These units are perfect for home or office and can accommodate stereo, color TV's, video recorders, video games, record albums, kids toys and much more.

\*You must purchase two different units to qualify for FREE unit.

**Example of possible combinations**

36" wide drop-lid desk/bar \$399  
36" wide TV unit \$399  
36" wide display unit \$399  
18" wide display unit \$399  
36" wide shelf unit \$399

36" wide \$399  
108" wide \$399  
72" wide \$399

FREE \$0.00 wide  
FREE \$0.00 wide  
FREE \$0.00 wide

INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE  
Delivery available at additional charge

**hillside furniture**  
of Bloomfield Hills

The Totally Contemporary Store  
355-3399 or 354-4743  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10-6  
Wed., Sat. 10-5 Sunday 12-4  
Corner of Woodward-Square Lake Rd.