

# Opinion

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5A(F)

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## Mopeds a problem? You bet

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: Are mopeds a problem in your neighborhood? If so, what can be done? Following are the responses:

Mopeds are a problem in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. It's not just the children who operate them. The parents are buying these mopeds without knowing the specific laws which the children are supposed to abide by. I have made many traffic stops and issued citations to children who do not have the restricted operators permit which they are supposed to have.

We have such a problem with mopeds including bicycles on Nine Mile west of Farmington Road that some day this paper is going to report the death of many children because of the stupidity of the city in not licensing them and keeping them off the road.

I think mopeds are a terrible problem in our neighborhood. There are kids driving all over the place with no helmets on and they should be arrested and not be able to get their license until they are at least 21 years old.

I live almost directly across from Kenbrook playground in Farmington Hills and I have seen every type of motorized vehicle you can possibly imagine on that playground. I have seen mopeds, three-wheel, all-terrain vehicles, groups of cars parked right directly next to the baseball diamond and then drive off right past the swing area. Mopeds don't bother me quite as much as the snowmobile races that go on in the Kenbrook playground every winter. The response from the police has been that they cannot catch them and they continue year after year for nine years now.

Yes, mopeds are a problem in our neighborhood.

### oral quarrel

horbood and I think the solution is to find the parents who buy the bikes for the kids who are under 15 years of age.

The mopeds are a problem in our subdivision in Kendallwood I. I think it will continue to be a problem because I believe that the police are afraid to tackle the problem.

Yes, I consider them a problem in our neighborhood. I suppose we need more coverage from the police, but anytime you call to report the fact that two or three or four are racing through your neighborhood, the police want you to sign a formal complaint. All too often it is your neighbor's children and you hate to get involved. But in our neighborhood mopeds, all of these little two-wheeled vehicles that these unlicensed young kids are driving are a problem.

What is a moped? All these little two-wheeled motorized things and if they don't get them off the streets, I am going to buy my kids some because it is not fair that they sit home and want them when other kids have them. All these kids are young. Where are the police?

I have seen small children walking home from Wooddale and almost run over by reckless moped riders from Dunckel who hang around Wooddale paths.

Yes, they are a terrible problem. I live in the Wooddale area and I think they should be outlawed. The children are always chasing the younger ones.

I think we need a little more observance

by the police especially in the subdivisions where they screech late at night and cut across people's lawns. Look at all the taxes we pay, no protection at all.

Mopeds are definitely a problem in our neighborhood. I live next to a school where kids come to ride their mopeds and the continual unpleasant noise of a moped racing by is a real irritating problem. Of the few times I have tried to contact the police, they have been very disinterested and uncooperative.

I feel they should have to abide by rules like automobiles do. They should have some kind of a license on them where you can get the number from and then report whatever you see is going on.

Yes, we do have a severe problem. If there was some kind of a license plate number, as on a car, you could write it down and report it. That way you don't punish those obeying the rules by labeling them all bad.

I have to take my children to their school playground when they want to play after school hours. They have been chased by moped riders even in my presence. They should have stricter laws and stricter penalties, not only for the rider, but for the parents.

Yes, we do have a problem. Give the children back their schoolyards to play in since Farmington lacks parks.

Young moped riders should be required to pass a test on the safe operation of their vehicles before they get a license. Many children in our subdivision feel unsafe walking home because moped riders almost run them over.

### from our readers

## Sever rapped; apology asked

To the editor:

As a veteran of three Farmington Hills City Council campaigns and having been quite involved in the politics of this community for the last 16 years, I have decided to take the "risk" and speak out regarding the City Council contest between Marks and Sever.

Although political prudence suggests that "silence is golden," I strongly believe that time has come to substitute "political responsibility" for "silence" and to bring out to the public view what is fact and what is fiction.

Terry Sever, city council candidate, has chosen to promote his credentials by downgrading his opponent, Ben Marks, using innuendo and distortion of facts, while appropriately enough, printing his brochure of "banalities" on yellow paper.

The October 22nd issue of the Observer attempted to touch upon this "sick" form of campaigning but many of the salient facts were left out.

The big issue in the aforementioned article was the percentage of votes received by Marks (49.9 percent) and Sever's claim to the inaccuracy of the figures.

FOR THE benefit of the readers here are the official figures of the primary vote: Total Votes cast - 5,124; Sever - 1,776; Marks - 2,555. If we divide 2,555 by 5,124 we have exactly 49.88 percent.

Another point of interest (same article) is Sever's threat to run to the Election Commission for Mark's alleged failure to identify his letter to the voters. Fact is fact. What could be more of an identification than a candidate's personal signature on a letter that accompanied his political brochure which was properly identified in accordance with election laws.

In his campaign literature, Sever has chosen to compare his stand on a set of issues, chosen by him, to that of his opponent.

The comparisons, in my opinion, are an unprovoked attack on his opponent's character and integrity. The positions that he has taken on these issues could be quite injurious to Farmington Hills and therefore I am compelled to speak out.

First, Mr. Sever wants to sell our "proudest" possessions, the San Marino Golf Course, in order to save taxpayers a bunch of money. One does not "conserve" by sacrificing a "gem of nature," the San Marino Golf Course, to the cruel blades of a bulldozer. If Sever's reasons are strictly "economic" then let us talk facts:

REVENUE from the golf course in FY 83-84 was \$195,000. Net profit is recorded at \$60,000. In five years the golf course will be paid for. Except for total ignorance, why would anyone with "good common sense" put forth such a proposal?

Second, Mr. Sever opposes the November 6 ballot

question on a Charter Amendment, a sacred American right, and an essential ingredient of the Democratic Process.

I would like to say for Terry's benefit that when the "ballot box" becomes a problem for our potential politicians, then our freedom as Americans is in dire jeopardy. I am very proud of the fact that the Farmington Hills Council chose to go to the voters on a "Tax Question."

If candidate Sever is suggesting to finance a \$55-million capital improvement program without the input of the people, then what's become of our "sincere" candidate's long espoused stand for more people involvement in their local government?

THIRD, he says that he will "conserve and control" - What and When? Mr. Sever ran the Founders Festival in 1979, losing considerable amount of money for the Jaycees and costing the Hills taxpayers several thousands of dollars in police overtime due to poor control and planning.

Fourth, I am quite surprised that the "very neutral" grounds of the library did not escape Sever's "in-depth" analysis. Obviously he knows so little about the library budget process and a lot less than the thousands of students that use the library almost daily.

These students and others know that both city councils, Farmington and Farmington Hills, meet yearly with the Library Board to work out a budget within the charter boundaries and within the millage authorized by the voters.

Fifth, Mr. Sever suggests that the city will be best served by constructing the police building over a five-year period. For those of you who have kept up with police building debate, you should know that the police building cost has been reduced from \$3.54 million to \$2.5 million using the latest estimate.

Sever's idea sounds like the rebirth of Russia's "lamented" five-year plan for economic growth, i.e. failure and chaos. Ignoring the logistical impossibilities of such a proposal and putting aside the fact that the cost for "originality."

In my 22 years of heavy involvement in the building industry, I have never seen a building of this size (very small) constructed in stages.

And last, since Sever has chosen to compare himself, in the most negative way possible, to a solid, outstanding and dedicated member of this community, let me say this: Ben Marks boasts a proud record of service and involvement in this community and he did not deserve the unprovoked attack on his integrity and his character.

With all due care, I request that Mr. Sever publicly apologize to Ben Marks and to all the people of Farmington Hills, for his "political tantrum on yellow" has insulted all of us.


Joe Alkateeb  
Farmington Hills

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