

Opinion

Steve Barnaby editor/477-5450

23352 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

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There's no place like home

This week's Oral Quarrel asked our readers: How would you rank Farmington and Farmington Hills on a "liveability" scale? Would you rather live in Farmington or Farmington Hills, and, if so, why?

Following are the responses:

Farmington. It is a true community, and Mom, Dad and the kids can walk everywhere. The real added plus is our city manager, Bob Deadman.

Overall both Farmington and Farmington Hills are both very pretty and civilized areas. I would rather live in Farmington Hills though because it seems to have more parks and natural surroundings, and I think it is a little prettier but they are both very nice.

I would live in Farmington since Farmington Hills is just another name for Farmington.

I would rather live in the city of Farmington as opposed to the city of Farmington Hills. There are many reasons, one of which is I have more trust and confidence in Farmington city government. They have a far superior police and fire department and the Department of Public Services provides

oral quarrel

better, faster and more efficient service on the roads as opposed to the Farmington Hills DPW.

Be sure to tell Rand McNally to put the city of Farmington at the top of the liveability scale. I hope that the Hills and the city of Farmington never consolidate. Our city council knows what they are doing, we have a great city manager who knows how to handle people with kid gloves and listens to their complaints, we have a well-run DPW, quick response from the police department and very friendly.

I live in Farmington Hills, thank God, because Farmington is too close to Livonia.

Although I live in Farmington Hills, I consider both Farmington and Farmington Hills to be pleasant, efficient, well-run communities. I think there is very little difference, the quality of life is very high. Believe me after living in Detroit for 50 years it's like living in heaven living out here.

Both cities are both liveable, and I rank them both high. Farmington has one advantage. The Farmington City Council members are not as eager to levy taxes and waste taxpayers' money as some of the Farmington Hills council members are. Otherwise I would say they are equal and extremely pleasant.

I would rather live in the city of Farmington. I can walk wherever I want to go.

I moved from Farmington Hills to Farmington and couldn't wait to move back to Farmington Hills. When I moved to Farmington, it was like I moved into another country. The William Grace School is terrible. Gill is much better and it is in the Hills.

I lived in Pittsburgh all my life so I am anxious to answer this question. I think Farmington Hills has potential, a very good liveability city, but without the proper planning you're going turn into another crowded city-suburb just like everything around you.

I would rather live in Bloomfield Hills. I mean that is where everyone has the money. Farmington Hills is rather blown on, and I would rather live out in Bloomfield Hills or Beverly Hills.

Snow going was sign of good thing to come

NOW THAT the snow has gone and the bright morning sun is helping to boost the grass in the lawn it is a sure sign that Spring is here. And when that season comes The Stroller can't help but sympathize with the young fellows of today. They are missing what used to be the grandest times of the year when he was still a lad in knee pants.

Back in those days we enjoyed such things as playing marbles just as much as the ground dried. But today the game of marbles is in the limbo of forgotten things. It is a great contrast to the days when a good marble shooter was hailed as one of the leaders in the community.

SURE IT was a gamble and the stake was always the marbles in the ring and a good marble shooter had his own favorite marble to bring home the agates.

Then, as the marble season passed along the time came for the big circus to reach our little town. This was a big time as we used to get up at daybreak and watch the circus unload, and one of our rewards was to get a ride on the elephant to the circus ground. What a thrill that was. But, like marbles, that is a forgotten thing now as the circus is held indoors in the city.

One of our ambitions was to help with the work of raising the big tent and be rewarded with a free ticket to see the big show.

THE CIRCUS usually remained in our little town about a week and there was just as much fun helping to take down the tent as there was putting it up. And always one of the rewards was getting a ride on the elephant. Those rewards are denied the youth of today — and it is too bad because these circus days left many fond memories.

Another thing that is missing today is the old fashioned merry-go-round that usually stayed most of the summer and became the meeting place for the youth most every night of the week.

the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

This merry-go-round was something to see. It had the finest looking horses to ride, some of her animals like camels and at times even cattle.

BUT THE big thrill came in attempting to pull the brass ring from the arm on a post at one of the curves. If you were successful you earned a free ride on the next round of the equipment.

Many times the brass ring was in the center of the long string of rings in this wooden arm. Other times it was the last. But it always was a thrill just trying to get it. It was a nightly contest and it was approved by the parents as they knew where their young folks were spending their time.

Another thing missing today is the nickel. If that name doesn't seem familiar it was the name given to the first moving picture houses.

WHEN THE Stroller was a young fellow, moving pictures were just coming to town. First they came in tents but later in buildings especially designed for them.

And the price of admission was only a nickel. If we were lucky enough to be asked to do a little job around the place we were allowed to go inside and see the pictures.

And that was really a treat. But things have changed and none of these activities are in vogue today. It seems to be an awful price for the younger generation to pay. They sure would have enjoyed riding the elephants and seeing the first motion pictures.

Recall of public officials has good, bad points

ABOUT A year ago, two Michigan state senators, Philip Mastin and David Serotkin, were recalled from office. The reason was their support of a temporary income tax increase designed to correct the state's fiscal problems.

Prior to their recall elections, no legislator in the entire country had been removed from office in this way since 1914. Therefore the Michigan recalls were a milestone in American government.

Michigan voters have been able to recall their governor or legislators since 1913. The state constitution does not limit the reasons, justified or frivolous, on which recall election can be based. Most state residents assume recall is a universal voter remedy in the United States.

THEY would be surprised to learn that only 14 states have any sort of provision for recall of state officials. Some of the 14



Jeanette Katz

require serious grounds for recall such as malfeasance, misfeasance, or non-feasance in office.

A bi-partisan, statewide committee called Citizens for Responsible Government was formed in response to the increasing popularity of recall movements. CRG does not endorse or support candidates of any political party. This group published a brochure last year which included statements made by supporters or opponents of recall as it exists in Michigan.

Supporters feel citizens need a method for removing from office those elected officials who have either violated their oath of office or done something that calls into question their fitness to continue in office.

SINCE the Michigan Constitution does not define what is a recallable offense, they say any elected official can and should be recalled for any reason deemed sufficient by the voters. That includes a vote on a single issue. The threat of recall, in their view, is a way to keep officials in tune with the wishes of their constituents.

On the other hand, opponents say recall provisions in Michigan are too vague. Recall should be used as a last resort and only when officials fail to carry out the duties of their office, commit crimes or

misdeemeanors, or are corrupt.

They feel recall for a single vote is unfair punishment for a person who may otherwise have performed admirably in office. They say periodic elections represent a more appropriate time for voters to register dissatisfaction with voting records.

FURTHER, recall efforts tend to distract or paralyze legislators in their performance of official duties, do nothing to alter or repeal legislation offensive to the recallers, and lead to numerous and costly special elections in which only a small minority tends to vote.

Recall is not easy to achieve. It requires a large number of petition signatures

from unhappy voters gathered during a limited period of time. It is likewise not easy for the target of recall, who must defend his or her record in office with time, energy and money, nor for election officials, who are faced with the mechanics of special elections. Should recall be made more difficult to initiate by increasing signature requirements or by specifying recallable offenses?

Whatever the answer, it seems obvious that changes in recall provisions would be difficult or impossible to make, as they would be dependent on voter passage of a constitutional amendment. A legislature which proposed such an amendment might well be subject to recall.

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ARTHRITIS OF THE THUMB

When you think of arthritis of the hands, probably you think of gnarled and mis-shapen fingers. There is another type of arthritis of the hands which is prevalent but not well known: arthritis of the thumb. This arthritis begins at the base of the thumb where the wrist ends and the hand begins, in anatomy this area is called the first carpometacarpal joint.

The thumb is vulnerable to arthritis because of its constant activity in twisting, bending, grasping and pulling. All of these motions start at the base of the thumb, and over a lifetime the accumulated strain on this joint is considerable.

Initially, pain in this joint occurs when you twist the thumb, later the pain is constant. Eventually it becomes penetrating and constant, and even holding a light object such as newspaper, brings on discomfort.

The first approach to treatment is injection, this therapy may work for months. Next, medication such as aspirin is in order. If these therapies fail, then surgery is in order. The carpal bone is removed, and replaced by a silastic component.

The success of this step-wise therapy illustrates the fallacy of the old saying that "arthritis is something you have to live with."

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