

## Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

## Keep city's focus on beautification

To the Editor:

In two recent editions of the Farmington Observer, articles appeared regarding the city of Farmington's efforts to beautify or rejuvenate the downtown city areas.

In your editorial regarding "Downtown — Teamwork Key To Prosperity," you portrayed the city of Farmington logo. In reality, the logo was designed expressly for the city of Farmington Beautification Committee 20 years ago.

We are delighted that the city adopted our logo as theirs, first on the entrance signs, then the historical markers, next the city police cars and more recently on letterhead.

The Historical Preservation Committee, a forerunner of the present Historical Commission and formed in 1969, decided to use this logo on the Historical Village signs it designed at that time when working to set up the boundaries for that part of the city.

Since the inception of the use of that logo, several communities, including our neighbor Farmington Hills, have adopted our logo to theirs for the beautification committees or commissions. Enough said.

IN ANOTHER article Sept. 30, "Farmington Candidates Debate The Issues," you quoted one of the candidates who suggested "putting a little more charm into Farmington" and also suggested "the planting of flowers and shrubs as well as some street improvements."

The Beautification Committee feels those suggestions give the impression that such ideas have never been brought forth before.

We would like every reader of your paper to know that the Farmington Beautification Committee, a volunteer committee appointed by the Farmington City Council, has been in existence since the mid-'60s.

In the years since, we have operated under the auspices of the city with our purpose one of responsibility to the council to recommend beautification projects to the city council as well as that of conducting promotional and community programs, which emphasize the importance of beautification to the citizens and commercial enterprises located within the city.

In the years since 1965, we have done just that. In fact, Oct. 17, we held our 17th Annual Awards Luncheon at the Masonic Temple — recognizing 88 different businesses, churches, auto service facilities, sidewalk shops, individuals, etc.

Through our efforts, the City of Farmington has been recognized locally, regionally, statewide and nationally for many different projects. Through our efforts, individuals, groups and businesses have been recognized through the same organizations for their efforts.

THIS YEAR, Mrs. Kay Blakeney was awarded the Individual Service Award for 1985 by the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan and Walter Sundquist was recognized by Keep Michigan

Beautiful Inc. Oct. 18 at that organization's Annual Awards Banquet.

Local residents such as Mrs. John Richardson have also been so recognized and have contributed greatly to those regional and state organizations. In fact, the headquarters for Keep Michigan Beautiful is right here in Farmington, totally through her hard work and dedication.

The Farmington Beautification Committee initiated the first thorough Rouge River cleanup in this area with the co-sponsorship of the National Bank of Detroit. Through our hard work, and removal of tons of debris, the job will be made easier for the area Girl Scouts, who will attempt to clean up the river more.

WE HAVE planted trees for the city throughout the community on Arbor Day each year; about 15 years ago, we walked the streets of Farmington cataloging every tree in the city in order to plan a better tree-planting program for replacement purposes at the threat of the Dutch Elm disease.

We have designed and developed mailparks in the downtown areas and have supported most of those plantings through proceeds from our annual flower sale each May in the Downtown Center.

We have supported the growth of the Warner Museum by donating trees for the boundary lines, repainting and painting the porch flower boxes and have placed plantings in the driveway portico boxes. Our Christmas wreath was on the front door last year.

We have sent committee members to officerships in the regional Southeastern Beautification Council. We feel that through our interest and hard work several years ago, businesses and the residents of Farmington became more aware of the need for beautification "before the fact" rather than after.

New buildings must present landscaping plans before approval is given to construction; entranceways to apartments have enhanced the main corridors; the city parks are clean and planted.

We have been told we did our job well — awareness is present. We are now in existence to recognize work being done in the community, to be liaison to the council with ideas for beautification throughout the whole city, not just the downtown area.

THE CITY COUNCIL put us in business, but has not always listened to us. One of your candidates in the same article, Mr. Tupper, a former councilman and at that time, our liaison to the council, suggested letters be sent to residents and merchants regarding "hiding up."

Mr. Tupper will remember, as he noted, that this was attempted before but without success. Perhaps this new emphasis on beautification will produce a different result.

Although it may have been the Downtown Rehabilitation Committee's idea, the job of writing those "suggestion" letters was given to the Beautification Committee. We were asked to stop sending them.

The response was not what the city council wanted. Obviously, our committee has strong feelings about the beautification of Farmington as a whole, not just the downtown business district. We are glad to note that beautification is one of the com-

mitments of the CBD Steering Committee.

WE COULD have used those so interested in this facet of growth on our committee in recent years. The committee needs good planners and cooperators.

For 30 years, there was a committee already working on the very projects that seem so popular in your papers today — community beautification.

We wanted your readers to know we exist, we are proud of our logo, which represents the family in a community with concerns about the beauty around them, and we wanted you to know of some of our history and commitment to Farmington.

Carol Kurth, vice-chairwoman,  
City of Farmington  
Beautification Committee

## Consolidation is presumptive

To the editor:

It was extremely presumptive of the League of Women Voters to include the question of consolidating Farmington and Farmington Hills in the recent debate by candidates for the Hills Council (Oct. 14 Observer).

This question had no relevancy to the Hills election and, I'm sure, as the candidates answered they all had dreams of sugar plums and all good things dancing in their heads that consolidation would bring to the Hills at the expense of Farmington.

Big is not necessarily better or less expensive. If this is the best of five or worst of five questions the LWV could think of, perhaps the lady-persons ought to go back to the 10 o'clock coffee klatch, neighborhood walks or mall shopping.

William Brokhahn  
Farmington

## Thanks for views about special ed

To the editor:

I wanted to take a brief opportunity to express my appreciation for the articles on special education and autism and your editorial support of the special education millage in your Oct. 3 issue.

Those of us who are involved in handicapped issues are used to whistling in the wind, and it is good to see a sophisticated, high quality presentation on these kinds of issues.

Again, congratulations on good journalistic communication of some complex topics.

Norman DeLisle, area supervisor  
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service

## Malpractice crisis deserves attention

To the editor:

The medical malpractice crisis is finally receiving some important media attention, and as the Oct. 23 date of the March on Lansing approaches, I am sure that there will be much more written about the issue.

The crux of the problem with the current medical malpractice system is that it is not working. With good physicians being hounded out of practice by rising malpractice costs, and the fees of those left inflating to cover costs, it is the patients that ultimately suffer.

If one is truly concerned for the injured patient, it would seem one would want to compensate the patient, regardless of how the injury took place.

WE PEDIATRICIANS, for example, are pushing for a "no fault" compensation plan for immunization injuries on the federal level.

In spite of the proven value of immunizations, we know that a rare case of injury will occur and we have no way to tell who that infant will be.

It is in the public interest that vaccines be given, and we, the people, owe something to the injured party, much as we owe something to a soldier injured in battle.

It is not the doctor who is at fault and it should not be the doctor who has to pay. Furthermore, who gets compensated should not depend on which side is better able to convince a jury.

I care about my patients. I work hard for them. I want to help them. If one is left less than perfect from a disease, however treated, I would like to see him/her compensated for the extra burden.

BUT I resent, and find offensive a system that accuses me when I did my best and turns to me alone to pay the compensation.

I resent a system that turns my patient, a person I care for, into an adversary.

The essence of high-quality medical care is the close relationship and mutual trust and respect between patient and physician. This has been severely damaged by the present legal climate.

I hope the increased attention will force our lawmakers to quickly reverse this unhappy trend.

Bradley Barnes, M.D.,  
executive Committee,  
United Pediatric Society

## Road pact OK'd

The city of Farmington will continue to maintain Farmington Road, from Grand River Avenue south to Eight Mile, even though it falls under county jurisdiction.

Under an agreement with the Oakland County Road Commission approved by the city council Monday night, the city will receive the same compensation as the previous year for maintaining the road.

"The city's actual cost of maintaining this road is considerably more than the amount provided by the county for this work," wrote City Manager Robert Deadman in a report to the city council.

According to Deadman, \$6,000 in city money is budgeted for Oct. 1, 1985, to Sept. 30, 1985, for use on this stretch of roadway. He attributes the added cost to the higher level of maintenance provided by the city.

The city remains responsible for routine roadway surface maintenance, including patching, joint sealing and sweeping. In addition, shoulder maintenance, including seeding and mowing, maintenance of roadway storm drains and snow and ice removal will be provided by the city.

"The county would probably sweep the road once a year and do other maintenance only as required. The city's sweeping schedule is not less than once a month, and more often if needed. Patching is on-going," according to Deadman.

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO

THE **SIDE ROOM**

AND SAVE **50%** AND MORE OFF ORIGINAL PRICES ON FASHIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

An exciting new place where you'll have fun shopping for some of the best bargains around, every day of the year! Crowley's new Side Room at Livonia.

*Crowley's*



TAKE A HALF HOUR AND BECOME A HERO.

BE A QUIET HERO GIVE BLOOD.

American Red Cross  
Blood Services Southeastern Michigan Region