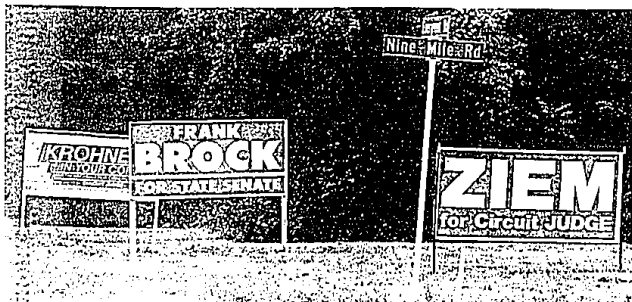


Hills debates sign law



Southfield is one of the neighboring communities with ordinances allowing the placement of political signs. The type of signs Hills

officials have previously been opposed to can be seen at the Nine Mile and Evergreen intersection in Southfield.

RICK SMITH/staff photographer

Continued from Page 1

"no significant greater percentage of voters in other communities" with ordinances allowing the front-yard signs. "If we must pass this, the more restrictive the better."

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN Dudley called for a more restrictive ordinance because of potential enforcement problems, including having a person in the community made responsible for removal of the signs. She said she would "regretfully" go along with an ordinance change.

"What redress do we have if it's going to cost taxpayers money" to remove the signs following an election, Councilwoman Janette Dolan asked. "It's not fair to charge the taxpayers."

One council member, Don Wolf, was very positive about the proposed change. "I'm happy to change it," he said "and I'd rather let them go wide open."

Councilman Ben Marks simply wanted to keep the city out of trouble, and to assure the law was followed.

"Let's do things within the letter of the law," he said. "Maybe I don't like them so well, but it's part of Americana. I will support these changes... if it will keep me out of court."

"I don't need a reason to put a sign on the front lawn," Lockman stressed in his presentation to the council.

"This started as a bad dream,"

'Let's do things within the letter of the law. Maybe I don't like them (political signs) so well, but it's part of Americana.'

— Ben Marks
Hills councilman

Haron added, "I get very troubled when I hear tiny distinctions made. You're tampering with the Constitution."

He encouraged the council to "open up your eyes and your mind. Read the Constitution and the Bill of Rights before you vote."

HE ADVOCATED a lift of the political sign ban for the next two months "then see what health, safety and welfare restrictions are necessary."

Mayor Joe Alkateeb told Haron he appreciated the comments.

"Thank you for bringing it forward — that's what's great about America," he said.

Also speaking at the meeting was former Oakland County Circuit Court candidate Martin Krohner, also a Farmington Hills resident.

"Personally, I don't like political signs," he said, but added "there is a problem with the First Amendment and any limitations."

"We only have to look a little to

the east," Krohner said referring to political signs on corners throughout Southfield. "We think that rabbits multiply — signs multiply faster."

He called for stiff penalties, plus size, place and number limitations for the new Hills ordinance.

"Make it effective and make the law have some teeth," he added.

Council watcher, Hills resident and active Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi said he had waited since 1978 for the council to change its sign ordinance.

"I was reluctant to sue the city," he said. "The problem was it was unconstitutional the day it was adopted."

The city adopted its restrictive ordinance in 1972. It says "non-accessory signs shall be permitted only in light industrial districts" with the exception of "signs used for advertising vacant land or existing buildings for rent, lease or sale." It has been interpreted to disallow political signs on lawns.

A suggested ordinance came before planning commissioners and council members in 1978 and 1979 and was ultimately defeated by the city council on a split vote, with current council members Alkateeb, Dolan and Soronen voting in opposition to the measure. Both the planning commission and city attorney had also not recommended it.

Nearby cities that permit conditional placement of political signs include Farmington, Novi and Livonia. West Bloomfield Township does not allow political signs.

Public television continues its battle against adult illiteracy

WTVS/Channel 56, Detroit Public Television, continues to battle the problem of adult illiteracy with two on-air series and an accompanying community outreach program this September.

WTVS will air "Learn to Read," a series of 30 half-hour programs designed to teach the basics of reading. A second series, "A Chance to Learn," is a PBS special that shows how communities across the country are dealing with adult illiteracy.

In addition, WTVS will continue operating a hotline phone number (553-READ) to refer callers to literacy programs in their geographic area.

The curriculum for "Learn to Read," which will air on Channel 56 at 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday starting Sept. 8, is based on the Michigan Method.

Each program begins with a review of the previous day's material. The 15-minute lesson portion includes introduction and practice of new material. Separating the program elements are one-minute capsules of instructional and entertaining information.

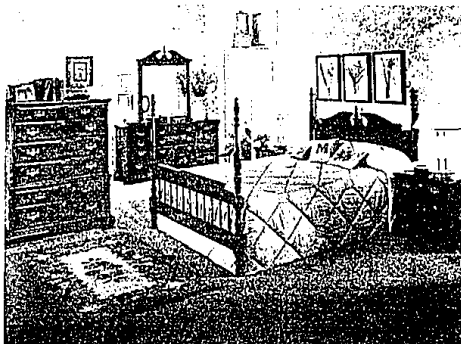
A daily segment, "Getting Along," teaches the viewer practical reading skills such as how to recognize important signs and read food labels. Some programs also feature celebrities offering mes-

sages of encouragement.

"Learn to Read" was produced by WXYZ-Detroit (Capital Cities/ABC) and presented in partnership with WTVS. It is an outgrowth of WTVS' own illiteracy focus and of the ABC/PBS Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) effort. WXYZ aired "Learn to Read" twice daily beginning July 28.

"A Chance to Learn," a one-hour PBS documentary airing on WTVS/Channel 56 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, highlights communities across the nation that have recognized the tremendous problem of adult illiteracy and resolved to find solutions.

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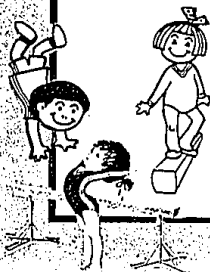
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