

Opinion

21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48024

Bob Sklar editor/477-5450

BAPF

O&E Monday, June 18, 1990

Freeway noise Hills must rally for abatement

THE TIME may well come to storm Lansing en masse in demand of more and better sound barriers along the newly widened stretch of I-696 through Farmington Hills.

Councilman Ben Marks is right: "We're not asking for the world. We're asking them to protect some people we've got living there."

Given this is an election year, the timing indeed seems ripe for concessions from the Capitol.

But before Farmington Hills issues demands, we're willing to let City Manager Bill Costick and public services director Tom Biasell try their luck at negotiating with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Given their hard work in trying to strike a compromise, these city administrators deserve a chance to pursue their recommendations in hopes of "achieving a good benefit for our citizens."

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, have lent support, but it's clear they must exert even more political sway on their colleagues and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

ONE REASON Farmington Hills supported the freeway widening, and agreed to pay \$600,000 of the cost, was because of the Michigan Department of Transportation's supposed \$1 million budget for adequate buffers for bordering local neighborhoods.

But as we wrote in March, now that a new highway is in place, the state seems to be throwing the city a bone with undersized buffers near Inkster Road.

The state has no plans for a berm near Howard Road, despite previous plans and pleas for one.

The state spared no expense in reducing freeway noise through Southfield. But that situation was different.

There, the state loosened the purse strings because it was trying to acquire right of way. No right of way, no freeway.

But before Farmington Hills issues demands, we're willing to let City Manager Bill Costick and public services director Tom Biasell try their luck at negotiating with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Here, the state already owned the right of way and simply widened the roadway. Farmington Hills, in effect, was at the Michigan Department of Transportation's mercy for noise controls.

COSTICK WANTS the state to make the planned noise berm behind Camelot Court subdivision two feet higher. Ditto for the planned sound wall behind Farm Meadows subdivision.

He also wants reinstatement of now-dropped plans for a noise berm near Howard Road at a minimum cost of \$45,000. The city would consider chipping in to help cover the total cost, including possible use of dirt excavated during Kendallwood subdivision drain improvements.

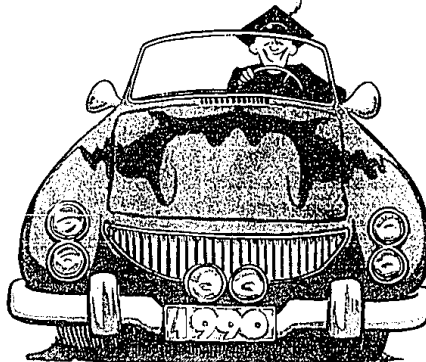
Costick says that "complaints from abutting residents clearly indicate that noise levels have increased dramatically and that it would be inequitable to not address this problem in as prompt and reasonable a manner as possible."

If the city administration's efforts are ignored in Lansing, Farmington Hills will have no choice but to take sterner action and rally its political forces.

Penning letters and resolutions is fine. But if that boils down to mere paper pushing, city leaders must regroup. What's ultimately at stake? The quality of life for neighbors along one of the 28-mile-long freeway's busiest stretches.

In pushing harder to control freeway noise, the city must resurrect its fight on behalf of residents near I-275 and Nine Mile. They suffer the same intrusive noise.

EXPECTATIONS



College Grads

REALITY



from our readers

Stadium edit 'nearsighted'

To the editor:

Your editorial, "Tiger Stadium — New park must close to old," was nearsighted and conflicting. To keep the special nuances and atmosphere you mention, the best solution is to renovate Tiger Stadium.

A new stadium would cost \$180 million. A better business decision is to renovate the existing structure at a cost of \$25 million. The Cochrane Plan preserves the park for the fans who love it the way it is, expands it for the fans who want more amenities, and modernizes it to meet the needs of the Tigers.

It would be wrong to rob Detroit of a national landmark that gives us pride and distinction. It would be a terrible waste and injustice to replace a wonderful old ballpark with

a mediocre, new plastic stadium.

Why must we always insist on tearing down the old and replacing it with the new? New doesn't always mean better. Look around you — wonderful things are happening in the historic district of Farmington.

Karyn Terlich,
Farmington

Teen center is operating

To the editor:

In the June 7 issue of the Observer, a few teens at Harrison High School were asked what kind of programs should the community offer

for teens this summer.

For many years, Farmington Youth Assistance has been operating the Summer Activity Center for teens ages 12-18 years of age. The hours are 3-9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with field trips each Wednesday. Field trips this year will include trips to Four Bears Water Park, Bob-Lo Island, Cranbrook and Kensington Park.

This year, the Summer Activity Center will be at Larkshire School. Any parent wanting additional information should call the Farmington Youth Assistance office, 489-3434 or Cindy Papp, summer activities center chairwoman, 626-0752.

Patti Barr, secretary,
Farmington Youth Assistance

know your government

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information.

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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FARMINGTON

ANNUAL BUDGET OPEN FOR INSPECTION

On Monday, June 4, 1990, the Farmington City Council enacted the City's Budget for the Fiscal Year 1990-91. A Summary of the enacted budget, showing information supporting the budget actions taken by the Council, is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, Farmington Municipal Building, 23650 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

JOSEPHINE M. RUSHEY
City Clerk

Public June 18, 1990

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Integrated Communication Systems at Hillside Elementary School and Farmington High School until 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 9, 1990 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawansee, Farmington, Michigan 48024, addressed to Beverly Hausman. They will be publicly opened and read at the Board of Education meeting at 8:00 P.M. on the same date.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany our bid proposal form which may be obtained from our purchasing department.

JANICE ROLNICK, Secretary
Board of Education

Public June 18 and 19, 1990

TIRED OF IRONING

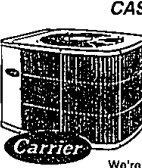
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GARDENING IF YOU HAVE ARTHRITIS

My mentor Dr. Robinson said: "someone with arthritis can do anything anyone else can do. However, the person with arthritis must do it more slowly and with greater care." He exaggerated to make a point. He realized that patients with arthritis can't be expected to do everything. What he wanted to show was that such individuals can do more than they realize. What they need to recognize is the necessity for patience and planning.

Gardening presents a good example. Having arthritis means you need to adapt tools to your hands. Using a short-legged stool to sit on and a stout staff to help raise you up allows you a position which substitutes for kneeling on the ground.

You may have to change the mix of your garden to flowers from vegetables so you will dig less and trim more. If you change, you can keep your goal of getting out of the house, improving the look of your lot, and enjoying sun and shade.

The same approach of continuing on by improvising more, holds for shopping, and for traveling whether through Michigan by car, or across the nation by plane, train or auto.

Accepting a slower pace and taking time to plan with your limits in mind provides the way to preserve your mobility and your freedom.

IS YOUR BUSINESS READY FOR THE 1990s?

COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE SEMINAR

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Whether you have experience or no experience with accounting software or even if you don't own a computer, this seminar can be of value to you.

The seminar will be at the Livonia Public Library (Chris Center Branch) in the Jenkin Conference Room on the third floor.

**The seminar will be held
Tuesday, June 26, 1990 at 6:30 P.M.**

You may reserve your seats by calling Account Systems at 737-0031

Space is limited so reserve your seats as soon as possible.

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