

Community Corner

This week's question:

What are your plans for Halloween night?

We asked this question in downtown Farmington.



"Stay home. There aren't nearly as many kids who used to come to our door, but I'll be ready with the treats."
— Shirley Harris
Farmington



"Well, I'm buying candy, so I probably will stay home with my husband and I'll be the one to answer the door. We turn the lights off at about 7:30 p.m."
— Emma Jean LeBeau
Farmington Hills



"My kids are grown, so my trick-or-treating days are over. I'll stay home and wait for the kids to come."
— Earle Snyder
Farmington



"We'll stay home and give out candy to the kids. Either me or my husband will dress up in something to answer the door. We always do."
— Donna Vogelheim
Farmington



"I'll be home giving out candy. We live out in the country. Not too many kids come along."
— A. J. Richardson
Carlton



"I'll be working in Crowley's (in Farmington Hills). I don't get home until after 9 p.m. Everything is over by that time."
— Linda Seaton
Farmington Hills

Negative publicity has Hills officials buzzing

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But city attorney Donohue said that there are no prohibitions on officials voting on projects involving people with whom the officials have had past financial relationships or other projects.

Marks has been publicly chided in the past for his financial relationships with some builders and developers.

IN JULY, SOME residents asked Marks to refrain from voting on rezoning of controversial acreage because the proponent, developer Mel-

vin Kaftan, donated \$1,000 to Marks' primary election campaign for the 15th District state Senate seat.

Kaftan and builder-developers Marvin Brooks and Stuart Frankel hosted a \$100-per-person "Send Ben to the Senate" reception. Marks later lost the primary election to Southfield city councilwoman Denise Alexander.

At that time, Marks said he supported Kaftan's rezoning request before his November 1989 city council re-election bid, to which Kaftan did not contribute financially.

Marks was under scrutiny in 1988 when it was revealed he failed to pay an outstanding \$17,000 sewer

'Money contributions at all levels are tearing our political system apart and causing the disdain many people have for the political process.'

— Aldo Vagnozzi
Farmington Hills councilman

hook-up bill. He bounced several checks to the city but finally paid it off with interest. City manager William Costick was also criticized be-

cause he was aware of the outstanding debt.

But Marks maintains he was "vindicated" by his re-election to a four-

year term on the city council in 1989. Also mentioned in the series is food distributor and land speculator Paul Inman, a member of the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation.

The story tells of Inman voting on two ballots to provide two developers — Michael George and James Jonna — with tax-exempt bonds to provide low-interest loans. The developers bought property from Inman on a land contract. Inman was out of town and unavailable for comment.

"The community did not put out any money," said Costick, an EDC

member. "Not any part of the issuance of bonds is of expense to the city or the EDC."

A couple of council members suggested additions to the city's new code of ethics. Aldo Vagnozzi urged inclusion of rules for political contributions. "Money, contributions at all levels are tearing our political system apart and causing the disdain many people have for the political process."

Councilman Terry Sever urged that any future discussion about ethics should not be restricted to "just the recent case listed in the newspaper."

Discontent grows as national budget crisis worsens

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called the budget spat "irresponsible."

U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, may not agree on limiting the terms — he's in his 17th two-year term — but he conceded that Congress has shirked its duties.

"The people are angry, and I agree," said the U.S. representative of the 18th District, which includes most of the Observer & Eccentric's Oakland County coverage area.

"There is no excuse for not having the budget and spending bills in place before the start of the fiscal year," he added in a prepared state-

ment. "We have a job to do for this country and, quite frankly, it's not getting done."

Broomfield blamed partisan politics for the budget woes and accused "the leadership of this Congress (of) blocking at every turn the kind of responsible legislation we so desperately need."

JUDITH COOK OF Farmington summed up the bickering by saying, "I do not have a good impression" of Congress' actions. While she said she opposes limiting congressional terms, Cook added that "if you don't like your representatives, then vote them out of office."

'The people are angry, and I agree.'

— Rep. William Broomfield

Bill Hughes, a shopper at Troy's Somerset Mall, said the congressional squabbling has been a "disgrace."

"I just can't believe that people in that position can't come to a solution to this deficit problem without increasing taxes," Hughes said, adding that legislators could "cut waste" and avert tax hikes.

U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, a 17th District Democrat from Southfield,

blamed the problem on "the accumulation of 10 years of spiraling deficits" under Republican presidents

Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

"I think the nation got accustomed to kind of putting it (the deficit) off — living in a semi-dream world," Levin said Tuesday morning during a telephone interview from the nation's capital.

He added that he shared constituents' impatience. "I'm tired of the talking. I want us to get over (the

deficit) together."

Sara Booth of Birmingham agreed. And though she said that most legislators appeared earnest in their efforts to reverse the deficit, "most of them aren't good enough" to be effective.

"Nobody's facing the real facts," Booth said. "Everybody's going to have to bite the bullet."

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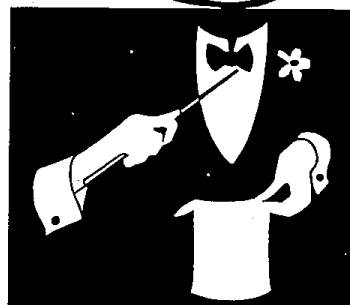
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HALLOWEEN IS FOR KIDS

You're invited to
a Halloween Party!
Saturday, October 27
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Children's Store
Birmingham

Come in your scariest
(or cutest!) costume
and join us for an
afternoon of fun and
magic. At 2 p.m.,
magician Mike Thornton
will amaze you with his
magic show. We'll have
witches, ghosts and the
Great Pumpkin here to
entertain and we'll have
balloons and treats too!



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