

from our readers

She's happy to see story

To the editor:
What a delightful surprise it was to find the story of Emily Helen Butterfield's induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on page 1 of the Creative Living Section of the Nov. 12 Farmington Observer. It was an even more delightful to see her pen/link sketch of imagined first cabins at Neebish Island in the paper. I had no idea the sketch would reproduce so well.
Thanks so very much for running the story in a prominent position in the paper. People should visit the Women's Hall of Fame when in Lansing. The display is in the historic Cooley-Hase House, 213 W. Main Street, south of the State Capitol.
Thanks for your interest in giving this deserving lady some recognition.

Elizabeth C. Lee,
Novi

to note that there is a middle of the road on most issues which will make the majority happy.
I think we should be patient and see the outcome of the master plan.

SINCE HERITAGE Park has become an issue of sorts in the Observer, I decided I would spend some time observing people at the park. On one of the nicer late summer days, I and my son visited the park. There were mothers and their children enjoying the use of the lovely pavilion near the park playground. A young couple arrived to feed the ducks and geese at the pond near Farmington Road.

A group of joggers had just finished running the trails. Several senior citizens had left their cars and were comfortable with walking the new foot trails. Some drivers were just in the park for a pastoral ride. Avid walkers had their sticks in hand on the wooded trails. Along one trail I stopped to converse with a bird-watcher who comes to the park regularly to spy on nature.

Where else nearby can people enjoy their day in the privacy of their own park?
I hope the Department of Special Services keeps doing a good job with Heritage Park. More residents need to enjoy a touch of nature in our city-owned park.

Our park is looking good

To the editor:
I am disappointed in the recent letters to the editor and the discussion regarding the efforts at Heritage Park.

Dan Potter, director of the Special Services Department, has taken undue harassment for doing his job well.

The plans to purchase the former Spicer property were ready in place before Potter even took over his responsibilities as director. He and his staff are only following the specifications of a master plan that was available to the general public well in advance of implementation.

Now, we have the Johnny-come-latties who are wondering why certain things are being done at the park. There are people who have lived in this community only for one or two years, and they have decided to voice their opinions.

I learned a long time ago that you do not have the prerogative to voice your opinion unless you are involved and know what you are talking about.

I'm aware that in such a large project as Heritage Park there are going to be factions. There are the naturalists and those with opposing views. However, I'm sensible enough

dropped off at our box locations. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Don Ritten for their generosity. We know the soldiers will appreciate your efforts.

Our drop-off locations are: Farmington and Farmington Hills city offices, both branches of the Farmington Community Library, and the Farmington Hills Fire Department office on Drake Road.

Items the soldiers have requested are: juice boxes, fruit cups, soups, crackers, cookies, nuts, hard candies, gum, facial tissues, bathroom tissue, toothpaste, lip balm, band-aids, Q-tips, sanitary napkins, baby powder, balls, Frisbees, paperback books, magazines, small games and a lot of letters.

We certainly do not expect large quantities. Every item will be greatly appreciated.

Dan Baranyal,
senior patrol leader,
Boy Scout Troop 110

Thanks for success story

To the editor:
Many times we read and hear the negative news about drug raids, tragic deaths and racial prejudice.

But, with the Thanksgiving holiday just over, I would like to share with you a success story of a not-for-profit agency and a local business. On Sunday, Nov. 11, D. Dennison's Seafood Tavern closed their doors to request a new ethics resolution. The other council members went on record in saying they cannot trust Jean Fox and Aldo Vagnozzi, as they have no credibility whatsoever. My question is why the resignation of these two people was not offered immediately?

They let us all down, risking our future by making all of us liable for potential huge legal settlements with their deceit and political ambition. If they won't own up to it, I feel it is every resident's responsibility to get them removed from office before they do more harm.

Their disruption of the council is continuous and degrading to our city. For the good of the taxpayers of Farmington Hills and the city council itself, we must remove this scar on our city.

The legal settlement "only" cost \$130,000 this time. How much will they cost us next time if we give them the chance?

Albert J. Ludwig,
Farmington Hills

Sign criticism is ill-founded

To the editor:
Once again your public opinion column contained a letter from one of my neighbors complaining about the abundance of political signs dott-

ing our neighborhoods.

Since I was largely responsible for breaking the ban on political signs in Farmington Hills, I am personally affronted by such criticism and believe it to be ill-founded.

On a trivial basis, the writer complains that the signs block out the beauty of the trees. However, the majority of the signs are located along Orchard Lake Road and other major thoroughfares where, unfortunately, no trees exist.

Further, the signs are merely a few feet tall and certainly could not eliminate the view of the many majestic trees in our neighborhoods.

More importantly, though, when our young men and women are standing on the front lines in the Persian Gulf, prepared to give their lives for the cause of freedom, it is hard to understand criticism of those who wish to exercise that freedom.

David L. Haron,
Farmington Hills

City council lets him down

To the editor:
The city council meeting of Nov. 19 was a farce. It was an embarrassment to every resident of Farmington Hills.

Our mayor and mayor pro tem admit to lying to the other council members and the entire city on several occasions, yet they have the gall to request a new ethics resolution. The other council members went on record in saying they cannot trust Jean Fox and Aldo Vagnozzi, as they have no credibility whatsoever. My question is why the resignation of these two people was not offered immediately?

They let us all down, risking our future by making all of us liable for potential huge legal settlements with their deceit and political ambition. If they won't own up to it, I feel it is every resident's responsibility to get them removed from office before they do more harm.

Their disruption of the council is continuous and degrading to our city. For the good of the taxpayers of Farmington Hills and the city council itself, we must remove this scar on our city.

The legal settlement "only" cost \$130,000 this time. How much will they cost us next time if we give them the chance?

Albert J. Ludwig,
Farmington Hills

Vagnozzi: his choice for mayor

To the editor:

On Monday, Nov. 26, the Farmington Hills City Council will continue its longstanding annual tradition of elevating the mayor pro tem to mayor.

This custom, respected every year since the birth of the city, means that Farmington Hills' next mayor will be councilman Aldo Vagnozzi.

Vagnozzi has served the city honorably during his tenure on the council. He has always kept the interests of the public uppermost in his deliberations. He is so honest that he is often called "the conscience of the Hills." His style and positions appeal to Republicans and Democrats alike.

Indeed, Vagnozzi was by far the top vote-getter among all council candidates in the 1989 city election.

We are confident that as mayor Vagnozzi will continue to serve faithfully. We wish him well.

Mark Steckloff,
Farmington Hills

Writing is rewriting

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Philip Power's recent column on educational reform and Public Act 25. Mr. Power's comments on a variety of issues suggest an unfamiliarity with widely accepted principles in public education, but particularly an ignorance of research in effective writing instruction.

As the representative of a group of English teachers at Birmingham Groves High School, I am compelled to set the record straight.

MR. POWER argues that the suggested outcomes in writing are "bewildering" because they focus on such areas as "prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, publishing" instead of "the idea that children should learn to write clearly, logically, and quickly."

Perhaps these terms are bewildering.

ing to Mr. Power because he has not bothered to survey what English educators have been studying for the past 20 years: the strategies that actually empower young people to write the kinds of essays he would prefer.

WE WRITE clearly and logically when we devote time to thinking (prewriting); we write clearly and logically when we give words to our thoughts (drafting); we write clearly and logically when we evaluate what we have committed to text and make appropriate adjustments to clarify our meaning (revising); we write clearly and logically when we take the time to edit our work so that it contains a minimum of errors (proofreading); we write clearly and logically when we analyze our audience and adjust our messages to persuade, inform, entertain or reveal our understanding of our subject (publishing).

As for writing "quickly," Mr. Power fails to identify any particular advantages to that value. English teachers current in the development of writing instruction will argue that when students actually develop proficiency in the elements of the writing process described above, the ease of writing is a natural consequence.

PERHAPS THE ultimate testimony to the need for helping students to think and analyze an approach to subject matter is Mr. Power's cursory dismissal of an entire movement in writing instruction in two sentences. That kind of analysis is superficial at best, and probably destructive of real efforts to improve our schools.

One thing we can all agree on is that schools have not gotten better until we abandon the rhetorical flourish in favor of reasoned analysis and empirical research. By those standards, the assessment of student writing demands that we focus on narrowly defined and archaic principles that do little to help students think about what they are doing when they write.

Writing is a way of thinking our way into a subject. Mr. Power. It's clear from your comments that you haven't really progressed past the prewriting stage.

We all look forward to the revision that really is worth publishing.

John Klemme,
English department head,
Groves High School

Heart Spa



The Medical Fitness Center is a complete Health Spa facility. We have the latest in fitness equipment, including the new Keiser Weight Circuit.

Run or walk on our 1/10 of a mile banked indoor

track. Relax in our therapeutic Whirlpool or Sauna.

Your Fitness Program is directed by Exercise Physiologists, Dieticians, R.N.'s and Doctors. Call now for an appointment for FREE Fitness Evaluation.

COUPON

ONE FREE VALUE FITNESS EVALUATION

Have one of our exercise physiologists give you a fitness evaluation including health risk factors. ABSOLUTELY FREE!

call **425-5544** for appointment good thru 11-30-90

MEDICAL Fitness CENTER

17940 Farmington Road
(Between 6 & 7 Mile Roads)
Livonia
Ph: 425-5544

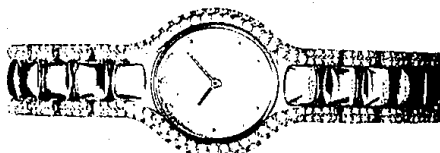
EBEL

the architects of time

Please join Robert Alexander Jewelers and Ebel for an exclusive showing of the entire Ebel watch collection.

Thursday, November 29 • 6-9
Friday, November 30 • 10-9

For a limited time only, preview this spectacular selection of timepieces. From the elegance of 18 karat gold watches enhanced by diamonds and precious stones, to the accuracy and dependability of the sports models, Ebel stands the test of time.



Robert ALEXANDER Jewelers

AWARDED CERTIFICATE BY GIA IN DIAMOND GRADING

32419 Northwestern Highway Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334
Located between Middlebelt and Fourteen Mile Road
313-855-0040 Holiday Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-8 Sunday 12-5