

# Buy land now for recreation

By Ben Marks  
special writer

I read with great interest the Observer editorial of March 7, but before I get into my response, I would like to apologize to the citizens of Farmington Hills for the lack of debate that we had on the Copper Creek golf course issue.

The council spent more time debating the location of basketball backboards that were located on private property than we did on the purchase of a revenue positive recreational facility for the residents of all ages.

Now to the editorial. I feel that your editorial did not go far enough to present the other side of the argument as to why the city should have moved ahead with the purchasing of the golf course at Copper Creek.

The reason you gave as to why Stan Aldrich decided to sell the course is probably well founded. It has been the position of Farmington Hills to be very concerned as to where and when a liquor license should be granted.

You were also correct in your statement that approval would be difficult to come by since the location of the course is in a residential subdivision.

As long as I have been involved in the affairs of the city, the proximity of residential, schools, and churches has been a priority ingredient in the consideration of the issuance of a license.

The reason I felt that Farmington Hills should have seized the opportunity to purchase the Copper Creek golf course, one has to just look at other cities who own and operate golf courses. To name a few, Southfield-3; Birmingham-2; St. Clair Shores-1; Livonia-3; Troy-1.

In addition to providing their citizens an outstanding recreational facility, it also represents an entity that is supported by its own revenues, not tax dollars.

It also illustrates that a governmental agency can operate such a facility to the satisfaction of its residents.

ANOTHER INSTANCE of how beneficial these kinds of facilities are to a city, Southfield is looking to building a fourth golf course if it can find the land to accommodate it.

The statement you made that the city should have addressed these kinds of acquisitions in the '60s and '70s couldn't be more correct. But in defense of the city, it should be noted that the purchase of park land and golf course property was not a high priority at the time.

I refute your comment that the time to make these kinds of purchases has passed us by. Five years ago the city with the support of the citizens passed a park millage for that very reason, to address all recre-

## guest column

ation needs.

At the present time, in concert with this philosophy, the city is now asking the citizens to continue this funding so that we can continue to address the recreational needs of the residents.

In response to the argument that the area surrounding the golf course would be strewn with all kinds of litter is an unsupportable allegation. All one would have to observe is the attention the property line of San Marino where it abuts the residential has received.

That area is and always has been policed by the city. I'm sure the residents in that area will attest to this.

Answering the fear that the city is putting itself in direct competition with the private sector is also unsupportable. The very fact that many cities look to this recreational facility as an integral function of the Parks and Recreation Department.

THE CITIZEN that addressed the Council at the public hearing did not represent the opinion of the entire subdivision, however, it appeared to all, that was the assumption. A letter attesting to the subdivision position is on file at the city office.

We on council and the city attorney did not know what the legal ramifications would be if the city would in fact purchase the golf course since we had not had the opportunity to study the master deed. This was the reason of postponement was requested so that a clearer understanding of the situation could be reached.

No matter what the residents felt they were entitled to, the city should have been given the opportunity to address those concerns.

A statement was made that night that San Marino golf course was always losing money, that could not be farther from the truth. San Marino is the only entity that the city owns that does not cost the citizens one tax dollar.

We have missed a unique and golden opportunity to serve the citizens of Farmington Hills.

Mr. Editor, now is the time for the city to purchase any, all the land that we can, for all recreational needs.

I pray that our park millage referendum will again be supported by our citizens, allowing the city to continue that special commitment to acquire land for parks and recreation development.

Ben Marks, a builder, is an elected member of the Farmington Hills City Council.

## from our readers

### We speak; Kroger listens

To the editor:

I want to commend the people of Farmington and Farmington Hills for taking the time and effort to petition the Kroger Corp.

You've had a cause and you will have an effect, even though the results aren't what you expected. The direct result of your effort is that Kroger is proposing to provide transportation for area seniors, perhaps a subsidy to the current senior transportation program.

If you had done nothing, taken no action, I doubt if there would be any offer at all from Kroger.

Perhaps more will come of it. Everyone talks about the power of "PACs" (political action committees). Well, this is exactly what you've been, a grass roots PAC, and I admire you for it.

Keep your spirit and tenacity. This society needs it.

Thank you.

JoAnne McShane,  
councilwoman,  
Farmington

### He praises Sen. Riegle on liability

To the Editor:

Federal Product Liability Reform (\$640) has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, and our own senator, Donald Riegle, is among the 31 initial cosponsors of this important piece of legislation.

Although I must admit that I did not vote for Sen. Riegle in the last election, his consistent support of product liability reform has convinced me to cast my ballot in his favor in future elections.

I am president of a small machine tool company which has been the victim of today's product liability system. It is a system rife with uncertainty as the laws governing product liability are determined almost exclusively by state court judges on a case-by-case basis.

To make matters worse, the judge-made rules are retroactive in

their application. It's as though you were driving down the highway with all the speed limit signs pointing in the wrong direction. You wouldn't know the speed limits until you saw them in the rear-view mirror.

Current product liability rules foster confusion, unfairness, and wasteful transaction costs. S. 640 reforms some of the unfairness, unevenness, unpredictability, and inefficiency which characterizes today's system.

It does so by establishing fair and balanced guidelines which encourage manufacturers and product sellers to keep their products safe while protecting the rights of injured consumers.

Sen. Riegle deserves support and appreciation from the citizens of Michigan for his outstanding leadership on this bill.

Bruce L. Moore,  
president, CEO,  
H.R. Krueger Machine Tool Inc.,  
Farmington

### Please stop their paper

To the editor:

Please cancel our subscription. Tom Baer's millage election coverage was pathetic.

He should have learned the facts and reported them, not written a half-hearted endorsement trying to keep Headline happy.

You can't please all of the people all of the time. Tom. Learn to report the facts to your subscribers and not worry about offending big spenders.

You'll have a paper worth reading.

John Weiling,  
Farmington Hills

### Let's stop being rude

To the editor:

Goodwill is something the world needs. One of the hardest words in our vocabulary is "Hi." It has become hard for us to say that to others.

Manners and being polite are things of the past. It has become easier to be rude and to cut people down whether we know them or not.

And we do acknowledge people. It has become easier to ignore. But none of us are any better than those we ridicule.

While some try to promote

goodwill, their reward is inconsideration. To receive goodwill, you must learn to give goodwill.

Florists can do nice things with flowers, but flowers alone can't create goodwill. Only people can.

Tom Baer, Aldo Vagnozzi and places like Baskets and Blooms are goodwill agents.

It never pays to be rude or thoughtless. Before we are critical of someone else or put someone down, shouldn't we be a little bit more sure of ourselves?

How do we wish to be treated by others? Would we want to be put down? Do we help to create goodwill, or do we throw stones?

We all have the power to create goodwill. We should not run it. But some will. And that's sad. God bless us all.

Vernon C. Klepinski,  
Farmington Hills

### Let's not glamorize fur industry

To the editor:

In response to your recent article on "Fabulous Furs" (Feb. 2), I feel it is high time we stop glamorizing this barbaric industry.

Don't these people realize their coat is the end result of the misery, suffering and deaths of hundreds of animals? In trapping only one out of four animals killed is the "target" animal (i.e. fox, raccoon, etc.).

The rest are "trash" animals (opossum, skunk, squirrel) or pet dogs and cats.

Ranch raised animals fair no better. As wild creatures they live painful lives in tiny cages, frozen with terror or pacing panic stricken until they are poisoned, beaten or electrocuted.

John Tunis says his "customers are tired of being told what to do. It violates their rights."

(One hundred fifty years ago the elite of our country had the right to own another human being. Slowly our society accepted the inhumanity and cruelty of slavery.)

Animal rights groups are only pushing for a moral and enlightened world.

Joann Shetter,  
Plymouth  
Anne Hugler,  
Canton

### Abortion — a disgrace

To the editor:

It is time everyone stops searching for constitutional threads to support pro-abortion stances like "equal protection," "privacy," "choice — a misnomer," etc. It is time to face abortion as the disgrace it is, and that we are dealing with human life because:

No one will ever be able to prove when a person becomes a person. A better starting point on this issue is the developmental nature of the human person. There is no fixed point when we finish the lifelong process of becoming who we are.

Call the fetus anything you want. It is a developing infant. Call an infant anything you want, it is a developing child. Call a adolescent to adult.

Call an adult anything you want, he or she is a developing human person. At all stages we are dealing with human life no matter how thin one tries to shave any constitution to try to avoid this fact.

Paul Kuebler,  
Birmingham

### Opinions are to be shared

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Every suit, dress, blazer, skirt, pant, or short and raincoat is included in this event. Simply purchase any two outfits\* and receive 20% off the total price. After that, you'll receive a bonus coupon for 20% off any women's wear purchase you make through April 7.

Sale ends Sunday, April 7.

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