

## Community Corner

This week's question:  
What are your feelings about Earth Day and other efforts to help the environment?

We asked this question on April 22 — Earth Day — at the Crossroads shopping center in Farmington.



"It means a lot to me. Our environment is really going downhill. People need to beautify the Earth."  
— Alan Halse  
Farmington Hills



"I'm for it. Take all the old cars out of circulation. It would cut down on the pollution."  
— Andre Duscio  
Farmington Hills



"It's a good idea... just for the public awareness. We need that."  
— Mary Picard  
Farmington Hills



"It's a great idea. This Earth is going to be our home for a long time."  
— Frank Sawicki  
Farmington Hills



"I recycle... it's a good idea. Recycling is a good place to start saving our Earth."  
— Cathy DeNio  
Farmington



"I use a lot of recycled stuff at home. It helps keep down the garbage."  
— Alvin Broadman  
Farmington Hills

## Soldier visits with student pen-pals

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a personal connection with our class," he said.

Blindon, for example, is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a former Farmington Hills resident who graduated from North Farmington High School in 1985.

His in-laws, Sandra and Nelson Hamblin of Farmington Hills, are acquainted with the parents of one of Swanson's students, Bryan Bahri. Bryan's mother, Carol, arranged for Blindon to visit the class during his month-long leave — the week of which was spent with family and friends in the area. Blindon and his wife live in El Paso, Texas.

"I've been home (on leave) since March 27, but it seems like just yesterday that I got back," Blindon told the class.

WAS HE EVER scared? Did he see any bombing? And, what did he long for most during his duty in Operation Desert Storm, the students wondered?

"I would have liked a fresh salad, a shower and to see my wife," said Blindon, assuring the youngsters that any dangerous situations he and his unit faced were "few and far between" and that the only bombing he actually witnessed was in Basra which "was us bombing them — my favorite kind."

As for the chemical weapons threat, another topic which plagued the students' interest, Blindon downplayed the potential effects.

"Chemical weapons are not nearly as devastating or potent as many people make them out to be... and we had our protection, we had masks and suits," he said.

## Furor grows over bid for flower stand

Continued from Page 1

makes it difficult for permanent businesses to operate."

THE CHAMBER'S board of directors voted to request a review of the ordinance.

"We had not taken a position on it before," said Jody Soronen, chamber executive director. "We got calls from florists and similar businesses who asked for help."

"They (business owners) object because these type (seasonal, temporary businesses) are obviously competing. They feel it's unfair competition. They (temporary businesses) don't have to live up to or be responsible for the things the established, permanent businesses must."

City staff will review the ordinance and report back to the city council within 30 days. The ordinance, which allows temporary uses, doesn't specifically distinguish between giving permits to charities and fund-raisers or business-type operations, city planner Ed Gardiner said.

"It seems some of it is being abused," councilwoman Jean Fox said. Temporary businesses, such as flower and fruit stands — especially those that return year after year — compete with permanent businesses that pay taxes, she added.

FOX SAID SHE believes the intent of allowing temporary uses was, for example, for tent sales. Heinrich

agreed, adding he believes the intent included emergency situations, charity functions and fund-raisers.

Heinrich told the council he and other chamber members don't believe the ordinance was designed to provide a "loophole" for some to avoid complying with certain requirements and regulations faced by permanent businesses.

Hesano received approval from the city's zoning board of appeals to have his temporary stand near Langans March 28-April 2, and May 1-July 21.

At first, the ZBA denied the request even though the planning commission gave its blessings after a re-

quired review. After Hesano reduced the time he would operate the stand, the ZBA approved the temporary use, according to zoning officials.

The city has not received zoning or code complaints about Hesano's temporary sales, zoning officials said.

Hesano also requested a temporary permit for a flower-and-plant stand at Drake's Lane, 3500 Grand River. The planning commission recommended denial. It's unknown whether Hesano will take it to the ZBA.

The ZBA restricts temporary uses to 12 months but can extend the time limit.

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