

from our readers

Jan Dolan says vote yes

To the editor:
It is with great pride that I agreed to serve as an honorary chair of the Say Yes to Parks millage renewal last before the voters in Farmington Hills.

As a member of the city council in the late 1970s, I served on a subcommittee that presented the master park plan for the city. The 200-plus acre parcel that was later to become Heritage Park was just a gleam in the council's eye at that time.

Over the years, it has not only become a reality but a jewel in the city's crown. The initial park millage funds were used to develop that park along with Pioneer Park.

We need to continue to address the growing needs of our residents. By renewing the millage, more land could be set aside for active recreation and senior activities.

I urge you to continue the excellent start Farmington Hills has made in the purchase and development of park lands and recreation facilities for all to enjoy.

Vote yes on May 7.
Jan C. Dolan,
state representative,
Farmington Hills

Her reasons for voting yes

To the editor:
I would like to express my opinion about the upcoming millage renewal.

The city of Farmington Hills needs community support so that the city can keep its commitment to our senior adult population.

Providing a permanent site for the Senior Center is part of that commitment. It is estimated that in the Year 2000, approximately 20 percent of our population will be over 60 years of age.

The needs of the senior adult population have been documented and researched by the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the city. These recommendations are based on how the Senior Center has been used and on demographic projections of future use.

I would like to emphasize that it is not just senior adults who benefit from using the center. Adult children who discover that they need information or assistance with an aging parent find that help at the Senior Center.

Whether it is information, home-delivered meals, or a few hours of respite, these and many more services are available whenever they are needed.

I would like to see these valuable programs continue, and expand, so

that the needs of senior adults and their families are served. The millage renewal will make that possible.

I urge voters to remember how important a yes vote is, not only for our senior residents but for residents of all ages. Vote yes for millage renewal on May 7.

Kathleen Poborsky,
Farmington Hills

Mayor says: vote yes on parks renewal

To the editor:

The residents of Farmington Hills face an important decision at the Tuesday, May 7, special election when renewal of the parks and recreation millage is put before the voters.

Just as the favorable vote five years ago allowed us to purchase Heritage Park and to improve active sports facilities, this renewal will allow us to continue this progress and to substantially affect the quality of life for all age groups in our community.

As mayor of Farmington Hills and honorary co-chair of the Say Yes to Parks Committee, I urge you to vote "Yes" on May 7 to renew and continue the present funding of the parks and recreation program under the guidance of our Special Services department.

The Farmington Hills City Council is solidly behind this proposal that will allow us to finance programs for all age groups and to close the gap in such areas as senior citizens programs, active sports, bike trails, nature and picnic facilities, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

The eight-year renewal will allow us to purchase precious scarce land for our growing school-age youth for such sports as baseball, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

The senior center, which is now run on a year-to-year lease arrangement, would be able to acquire permanent facilities which could also serve the cultural groups, which now must depend on finding rental space for practice and performances.

The plan calls for establishing a teen center program that will do much to solve the needs of an age group that is prone to just hanging out because there is no activity for them at the city level.

THE PROGRAM also responds to the desires of the 1,600 people who responded to our parks and recreation questionnaire by allocating funds for the beginning of a bike path network serving our major parks and school children.

In addition to funding additional improvements at Heritage Park the proposal calls for use of the Peltz-

MDOT property at Farmington Road and the Expressway as a nature center and family picnic areas.

All in all, the parks and recreation renewal millage proposal represents a prudent approach to providing activities for all age groups within the present tax structure and it guarantees that all facilities will be in place when our city reaches its population around the year 2000.

Since this is a renewal and we have operated for five years under the original parks and recreation millage you can judge our promises in the future on our performance over the past five years.

In many instances public officials receive high marks if they achieve a substantial portion of a program's goals. In the case of the performance over the past five years we are betting close to 100 percent, having fulfilled every promise but one which is currently underway.

Yes, we want you to judge this renewal on the basis of past performance. If you do, I am sure that you will vote "Yes" on the parks and recreation millage renewal on May 7.

Aldo Vagozzi,
mayor,
Farmington Hills

Yes vote: 'positive response'

To the editor:

Today the nation's older population is healthier, better educated and living longer than ever before.

At the same time, however, there are many more older persons who require assistance, but who find that, for a variety of reasons, help is not available to them from their families.

The demographic changes taking place in our country present a challenge to us all to begin to prepare for the time in the not-too-distant future when one in four of the people in this country will be 60 years of age or older.

This demographic revolution will translate into a local need for expanded programs and services at the senior adult center.

The quality of life for many older adults and their families in Farmington Hills depends on the continued support of the community. Approval of the millage renewal will make this possible.

A yes vote on May 7 for the millage renewal will be a positive response to the changing opportunities and challenges we will face as families, as employers, and as a community in our effort to fulfill the goal of the city-wide "Year 2000 project." "To make Farmington Hills the most liveable city in the state."

Dr. Karen Hoss,
chairwoman,
Commission on Aging

Affluent teens marred cruise

To the editor:

Recently I had the opportunity to take the vacation of a lifetime — a seven day cruise on the Caribbean. Like most people awaiting their first cruise, I was busily packing with anticipation of every possible need from sea sickness to sunburn to Montezuma's Revenge! Nothing would ruin my trip to paradise, or so I thought.

I had the misfortune to find myself sharing the cruise with 700 teenagers from West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Franklin, and Farmington Hills.

There was just no way to prepare oneself for the rampant discourtesy, vulgarity, and self-centered attitudes displayed by these teenagers. They demonstrated no consideration for the other passengers on board, passengers who had worked and saved all year for this trip and not been gifted by a well meaning but irresponsible parent.

A variety of international travelers were on board and I found it to be an embarrassment to have to defend all American teenagers due to the atypical behavior of these 700. Unfortunately, many people grudgingly accepted their behavior as a trait of the affluent neighborhoods from which they came.

"Well, what do you expect? They've been given everything all their lives, why should they have any consideration for anyone else? After all, the world revolves around them, doesn't it?" Well, it doesn't.

It was a tough lesson to learn as they were scrambling to come up with the \$3,500 one teen lost in the casino or to pay off that \$2,700 bar bill another had accumulated during the week. As more than a dozen of them were turned away at the Miami U.S. Customs Office for drugs, they should be counting their blessings that they were only shipped back to Jamaica to find another way home instead of being arrested and prosecuted. They were warned repeatedly by the ship's crew not to attempt to smuggle in drugs, but they were sure it didn't mean them. They were smarter than the drug dogs right? Wrong. They got caught and the silent applause from the other passengers who had had their vacations ruined by these kids was deafening. It's a shame that their parents had failed them so miserably when it came to dealing with the world beyond the confines of Oakland County. Their parents have given them everything. Everything but the ability

to know right from wrong, to treat people with respect and courtesy, and a sense of reality of what is considered acceptable adult behavior in our society.

As for me, when asked about my trip, it's difficult to remember the sunny skies, azure blue seas and beautiful beaches without having an obnoxious teenager mar my vision. I will probably take another cruise again in the future but you can be assured it will be during the school year, preferably during exam week, therefore limiting the possibility of a repeat performance by these affluent teens.

Susan C. Ayres,
Birmingham

Be fair, says backer of DeVries

To the editor:

Your editorial of April 25 asks why only three candidates are running for the school board this year. Why do you ask when you already know the answer?

Three weeks ago you received a press release declaring that three past school board candidates (John Akouri, Kim Jaske, and myself) and Gary Sutter (a district parent who had taken out a nominating petition) had decided not to run in this election because they felt it was important to support a single candidate, Richard DeVries.

So why are you pretending not to know why there are only three candidates? It is one thing to neglect to report a news item, but it is far worse to actively pretend it did not happen.

Neither is this an isolated occurrence. In an equally misleading fashion, in an earlier editorial you implied that the candidates who advocated fiscal responsibility (DeVries being the only one who has) couldn't

explain how to do it. But when DeVries specifically explained how it could be done, at the school board budget meeting, you made no mention of it.

Why don't you fairly report this election? If it's so bad for a corporation, like an insurance company, to dictate public opinion with a few newspaper ads, wouldn't it be just as bad for your corporation to do the same thing on the editorial page?

Robert N. Ranney,
Farmington Hills

Needed: 3rd judge, more space

To the editor:

The 47th District Court needs a third judge and it sorely needs more space.

Kenneth Kemp, in his letter to the editor (April 18), correctly describes the court's hallway on jury trials and other busy days. In fairness to the city attorney, I am advised he was ill on April 8 and came directly from the doctor's office to court that afternoon as soon as his physician had seen him.

When a defendant in a criminal case fails to appear, the court's only recourse is to issue a bench warrant, which it did. If police officers were utilized to track down every person who does not appear, they would have no time to apprehend those who are currently committing crimes or to respond to calls for help.

Because of the court's busy docket, it is certainly true that the prosecuting attorneys often do not have the opportunity to deal with cases until the day set for hearing.

The court very much hopes that a third judge and an addition to the courthouse can be authorized very soon.

Margaret Schaeffer,
Frederick L. Harris,
district judges

Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.

That's why the Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy. Letters should be typewritten or

printed legibly and kept to 300 words.

Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

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Marty Bell

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