

Community Corner

This week's question: Farmington's new sign ordinance has drawn some criticism from merchants. How do you feel about advertising signs in store windows?

We asked this question at Maple Drugs in the Uptown Plaza.



"I see nothing wrong with the signs. I think maybe the city's trying to control too much."
— Roger Duchan
Farmington Hills



"I think (the signs) are great. The stores should advertise. How else are the customers going to know?"
— T. Hanson
Detroit



"They (the signs) are all right. They should have them, although I don't think they should cover the entire window."
— Madeline Freda
San Carlos, Calif.



"As long as they're on the inside of the window and the person is paying the taxes... that person should be able to put up what he or she wants."
— Aron Rodditt
Farmington



"You need ads — as many as you can manage. I don't know why the city would want to get involved."
— Nelly Afran
Melvindale



"I think (the signs) are great. They're not covering too much of the window and they're not blocking the view."
— Nellie Chapman
Taylor

Group would study need for seniors center

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The big question of whether to take over the Mercy Center on 11 Mile or buy or build a new facility will dominate the new committee. Mercy Center is still a possibility but at least a year away because center officials are conducting their own long-term study of their future, including what to do with the facility.

"That still has to be our number one solution," Sever said, about Mercy.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi added: "It would let Mercy know we are not going to wait forever for them to make up their minds."

WHILE THE council gave the new committee its blessing, it also had some suggestions. Number one among them is that committee members should be people with "sophisticated backgrounds and financial backgrounds," said councilman Larry Lichtman.

"First, I'd like them to study and see if there is a demonstrated need for a permanent facility," Lichtman said.

Secondly, Lichtman continued, he wants the committee to investigate options for land; whether a facility should be built on city-owned land or whether land should be bought. And

then there's the possibility of the Peltz-MDOT land, he added. Vagnozzi, however, reminded Lichtman that Peltz-MDOT has already been reserved for a new li-

brary if voters in the future agree to finance the project. Vagnozzi and city manager William Costick have been charged with forming the committee and provid-

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— Larry Lichtman Hill councilman

ing names of potential members. As with the other two committees, councilman Ben Marks suggested that council members serve only as liaisons and not members.

The sports and Peltz-MDOT committees are expected to begin meeting in September. Vagnozzi has appointed Quaker Valley resident Mark Davis as the Peltz-MDOT temporary chairman. He hasn't picked a chairman for the sports committee yet.

"They will only be temporary chairs. They will elect their own (chairmen) at the first meetings," Vagnozzi said.

Police offer tips for cooking outside

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or business people with questions, concerns or suggestions should contact the department at 473-7262.

With summer in full swing, outdoor barbecuing remains one of the most popular activities. But it can also present serious health and safety hazards, said Farmington fire marshal Joseph Schornack.

In Farmington, Schornack added, the use of gas grills and barbecues above ground level in any apartment complex is prohibited by law.

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, more than 10,000 people were injured in grill accidents in 1990 nationally.

The Safety Council for Southeast Michigan offers tips for safe outdoor cooking this summer.

- Always use a clean grill and keep any barbecue attended. Place it on a level surface away from children, bushes and flowers, chemicals and the house and garage.
- Use long-handled utensils and wear an apron. Have a water bottle and extinguisher close by in case of a sudden flare-up.
- Use lighter fluid carefully and only use the suggested amount. Nev-



er squirt fluid on a fire or hot coals.

• To start the fire, throw a lighted match onto the coals or use a fire-place match. Wait until the coals are ash-covered — about half an hour — and spread them out evenly before cooking.

• Douse the grill thoroughly with water when finished. Allow the coals to cool overnight, then dispose of them in a non-flammable container.

Also, Schornack suggests summer vacationers: make your home look occupied while away, drive a tuned-up car with proper safety equipment and precautions, and make sure all family members know how to swim if vacationing near water.

If camping, he added, don't forget to take fire precautions like keeping the fire and stove a safe distance from the tent.

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The city council Monday also adopted a list of recommendations prepared by Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi to address the power outages. The recommendations will be included in the presentation to the public service commission next week.

RECOMMENDATIONS include:

- Request that Edison set priorities to restore service to cover nursing homes, hospitals, other essential services, and downed wires and traffic signals.

- Request a better system of reporting the loss of electric power by citizens.
- If the current Edison phone system can't handle the calls, the utility should expand the system and place staff in community-based offices so residents can report the outages in person.
- Edison should be required to indicate to residents approximately when they can expect power to be restored.
- The city should request Edison to furnish a record of outages over the past few years and what plans the utility has to correct recurring problems.
- Edison should be requested to furnish plans

for a long-range program to alleviate these problems in the future. Suggestions include underground wiring and commitment of more money for maintenance.

• The city should develop an emergency plan for future massive interruptions of service that could include making dry ice and water available to residents.

• This program must be carried out in cooperation with other communities through the South Oakland Mayors' Association and other regional groups to ensure that resident discomfort is kept to a minimum in future outages.

clarification

Concerning our story "Miss Farmington '91 begins 1-year reign" published July 18, first runner-up to Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills is Jeannine Palkowski. Second runner-up is Wendy Kalczyk. The positions were switched under the two girls' pictures.

clarification

Articles in the July 22 and July 8 editions of the Farmington Observer or gave incorrect information about nominating petitions for the Farmington City Council race. Nominating petitions are now

available at the Farmington city clerk's office and can be circulated anytime. Candidates must have between 50-75 signatures of registered vot-

ers on their petitions. Candidates can return the completed petitions between Aug. 6-16, petitions must be returned no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16.

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