

Community Corner

This week's question:

What the worst job you ever had?

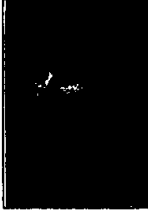
We asked this question Monday morning in several downtown Farmington locations.



"I was a commercial roofer for 12 years. That could be bad, especially on a day like this (raining)."
— Roger Gibson
South Lyon



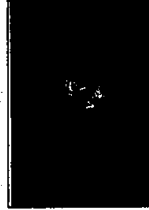
"I worked in a senior citizen home when I was 17. To me that was hard work."
— Gail Marshall
Redford Township



"I've never really had a bad job. I just enjoy working."
— Peggy Nakamura
Redford Township



"Being in the Army... It was full of incompetents."
— Craig Rascho
Northville



"Probably baby-sitting for eight kids, cleaning up after them was awful."
— DeAnn Board
Livonia



"Loading auto parts into boxcars for Chrysler Corp. back in 1933. It was hot in the summer and cold in the winter."
— Lewis Austin
Farmington

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48009-0910. Telephone 544-1100.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES (in Oakland County)
One year... \$36.40
(Elsewhere in Michigan)
Newsstand... per copy, 50¢
One year... \$55.00
(Elsewhere in U.S.A.)
One year... \$60.00
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, 21628 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48336 (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric's ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

clarification

An incorrect phone number for Picturesque Photography in Redford was included in the cover story of Monday's Monthly Album. The correct number is 533-3739.



Forest Service - USDA
"We give a hoot, so we won't pollute!"

Historic process put on back burner

Continued from Page 1

the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission, which requested the historic designation.

The commission asked the council to protect the outbuildings, including the barns, stable and caretaker's house, by putting them in a designated historic district. The former Eleanor Spicer Estate House — now a visitors center for the park — is in a similar district for protection.

A Nov. 13 letter to the council from parks and recreation commission chairman Dennis Fitzgerald, however, asked the council to wait until an ad hoc committee charged with establishing a working farm that may use one or more of the outbuildings had completed its study.

"The utilization of the outbuildings will certainly be reviewed as part of their consideration," Fitzgerald wrote. "The commission also felt that the ultimate decision on utilization of the buildings will affect decision on expenditures needed not only for rehabilitation of the buildings but also on general programming costs."

BECAUSE THE historic designation process can be lengthy, Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi suggested that the ball should get rolling. When reports and public hearings have been held for the designation, the council can then delay a final decision if the working farm committee hasn't completed its work, he said.

Only councilmen Terry Sever and Ben Marks agreed with Vagnozzi. The remaining four councilmembers — Nancy Bates, Larry Lichtman, Jon Grant and Joanne Smith — just wanted to wait until the working farm committee's work was complete. The working farm was committee was appointed only a few weeks ago.

"I personally see no urgency here to put this in a historic district and starting this in motion," Grant said.

Bates said she "would have no problem with this" if the historic district commission and ad hoc working farm committee got together to discuss the issue. "I feel the other commission deserves our respect to wait."

But Mochlman said historic district commission

members had not been invited to a meeting. "Let them do what they want with the inside," she said, referring to parks and recreation commissioners' plans for a working farm.

"We just don't want to knock them down," Mochlman said. "We want to keep the outside."

Marks also surprised Mochlman with news of a state bill that could prevent changes to the interior of historic buildings. If the bill became law, the interiors of historically designated outbuildings may not be able to be changed for a working farm, Marks said.

Mochlman also provided the council with a synopsis of the significance of the Spicer outbuildings. The structures provide "a panoramic perspective in one site of farm buildings of the 19th century clear through to suburban estate living of the 20th century of which Farmington was such a center."

The caretaker's house dates around 1850, the large barn, 1880, and stables and chauffeur's quarters, 1916.

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