

LETTERS

Thanks, PTA

The Gill Elementary PTA: Please accept our sincere appreciation for the many hours of enjoyment that we have spent over the past few months as we watched our children challenge the equipment on your new playground.

No matter when we may go, it is so refreshing to see so many families having good, clean, no-quarters needed, fun.

Knowing some of the background on how the dream of a new playground actually became a reality, we truly hope that the alliance of efforts between parents, students, the Gill School staff and the business community may always serve as a positive example of working toward and achieving a worthwhile goal.

Steve and Linda Kaplan, Farmington Hills

On term limits

I read with interest, and, for the most part, agreement, your Oct. 8 editorial supporting term limitations through a yes vote on Proposal B. However, I differ with you on certain significant points and your editorial is silent as to others.

While I support, in concept, the idea of term limitations, I am not convinced that Proposal B is the answer.

More importantly, it seems to me that the basic problem is not how long people are serving as elected officials, but who is serving.

Term limitations will be meaningless if they simply result in more political hacks taking office or in these people shuffling about from one office to another at the expiration of each limited term.

When the idea of "citizen-legislators" was conceived by our founding fathers, "citizens" were not "common folks." Washington, Jefferson and the others were members of the landed gentry.

When they mixed with the people, they did not stray too far down the social ranks.

Nonetheless, they obviously were bright and capable men of vision who committed themselves to public service. More recently, in the storied days

of Camelot, it was said of the Kennedy Administration that it brought to government "the best and brightest." How many people today would assert that our elected and appointed officials represent our best and brightest?

A Sept. 7, cover story in The National Law Journal lamented the sharply decreasing number of attorneys serving as state legislators around the country.

The thrust of this story was that lawyers are finding it increasingly difficult to justify taking profitable time away from their law practices to serve full-time, for less money, as state legislators.

Although a lawyer by profession, I do not suggest that lawyers alone are competent to serve as elected officials. However, the decline in the number of attorneys in the ranks of state legislators is indicative of a greater problem in our country.

In our fast-paced society, too few qualified people are willing to make the time to participate in government and the interest groups that affect government.

As another election approaches, countless numbers of people can be heard complaining about the economic and social ills within our country and the lack of quality candidates to choose between.

How are we entitled to complain about government and those who govern, if we are unwilling to participate in the process? If we are to demand more of government, we must demand more of ourselves.

As President Kennedy (or perhaps his ghostwriter, Theodore Sorensen) so aptly put it: "One man can make a difference and every man should try." Lawrence A. Lichtman, Farmington Hills City Council member

Voters misled

As voters, shouldn't we be able to expect the highest level of honesty and integrity from those candidates running for district judge?

Judicial candidates must not mislead the public or change positions just because it is politically beneficial.

As I watched the judicial debate Tuesday evening on Channel 12, sponsored by the League of Women Voters,

it became apparent to me that candidate Marla Parker has misled the voters into thinking she is a "junior judge" and a full-time magistrate when, in fact, she works part-time, only a few days a month.

It seems to me she has been in violation of judicial ethics from the beginning of her campaign.

I was astounded to learn that she has tried only two cases in the circuit court of Oakland County in the past 10 years.

Her recent letter telling people her reform program will not require a taxpayer/court expansion contradicts what she stated to the Farmington Hills City Council on March 30, 1992.

At that time she was the leading proponent for more tax dollars, even though the Farmington Hills voters had rejected the proposal for a court expansion in November of 1991.

Marla Parker tells the Farmington Hills City Council one thing on March 30, but now tells the voters something different.

The question I have for her is, "Do you have so little trial experience as an attorney you must run on deception?" I, for one, am tired of politicians who will say anything to get elected.

If there was ever a need for integrity and honesty in our elected officials, it is now.

Kathy Barringer, Farmington Hills

Thanks for help

I want to thank you for the article regarding our woes with installation of sewers and water on Lyncroft Road, also, my own personal problem with damage to our spruce trees.

I wish to report that Mr. Biasell came out with Ms. Barrett and Ken Sedgeman from the Davey Tree Co.

The city is picking up the tab for pruning and deep feeding of the two damaged trees, thanks to your intervention.

I wish to thank Mr. Biasell and the engineering department for their prompt response and courteous concern about my problem of trees being damaged by the contractor installing sewers and water in our subdivision.

Quite often our complaints are registered and receive considerable exposure. Unfortunately when the city responds and shows empathy, and then follows up with action, it does not always receive the attention it deserves.

Once again I would like to urge the city to require some sort of written guarantee from contractors who are working in neighborhoods where damage to personal property and landscaping is a distinct possibility.

To say that the contractor carries liability insurance has no effect on the attitudinal problem of the construction workers while on the job site.

I would like to help prevent the kind of thing that happened to me from happening to someone else in the future.

Richard W. Steiger, Farmington Hills

On new programs

I was pleased to see you finally offered a story on the new year round school at Gill, but I feel it did not go far enough.

What about the answers to the many questions the community has regarding implementing such a program when the district is suffering financially from the "Robin Hood" and other state mandated cutbacks?

How much is this program actually costing? Surely someone has determined the cost of providing food service, buses, art, music, phys. ed., library service, support services, etc., that have to be sustained for both the traditional and year-round schedules. What is the per-pupil cost of the program as well?

Your article stated that MEAP test scores of the year round children would be compared to those of children enrolled in the traditional schedule.

Thus, comparisons will be made between children who are in classrooms with a 15 to 1 ratio as opposed to those in a 24 to 1 situation.

Team teaching and additional enrichment activities, such as cross grade field trips, certainly would have an impact on student learning. Will these influences be factored in when scores are compared?

It is obvious that many parents took a "wait and see" attitude about enroll-

ing their children in such a program. Others of us feel strongly that children should have a balance of structured and unstructured time in their lives, allowing them to "be children."

As Jean Piaget, the noted child psychologist said, "Play is a child's work." Children whose parents opt to allow them time for self-directed growth, plus the myriad of other life enriching activities that occur during a summer at home, should not be penalized by being denied the learning experiences being given to the children in this grand experiment.

The bottom line is, is funding this program a better use of those precious dollars than applying them to programs from which all students in the district could benefit?

Lynn Mallen, Farmington Hills

Change batteries

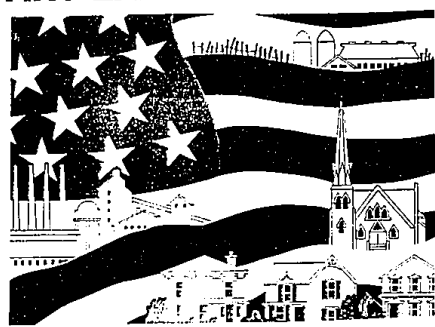
Each year, thousands of people needlessly die or are injured in home fires. Tragically, many of them would be alive or unharmed today had their home been equipped with a working smoke detector.

A working smoke detector cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by nearly half by providing an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape. The problem is that although 82 percent American homes have smoke detectors, nearly one-third don't work because of worn or missing batteries.

To reduce and prevent fire tragedies, our community, the city of Farmington Hills Fire Department, has joined forces with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer batteries for a compelling and effective national home fire safety campaign called "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery."

Check and change the batteries in your smoke detectors and take a few other fire safety prevention measures such as checking your smoke detector by pushing the test button, planning "two ways out," and practicing these escape routes with your family.

Richard A. Marinucci, fire chief, Farmington Hills

OUR TOWN
ART EXHIBITION & SALE

Thursday-Sunday, October 22-25
AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

380 S. Bates, Birmingham • 644-5832

Show Hours 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. • Free General Admission

sponsored by:



- Professional Women's Breakfast Thursday, October 22, 7:30 a.m.
- Luncheon With Linda Solomon, Thursday, October 22, Noon
- Art and Jazz III Friday, October 23, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Children's Workshops Saturday, October 24
- Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony Sunday, October 25, 4:30 p.m.

The Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale features 356 pieces of art from 250 Michigan artists and is a benefit for The Community House in Birmingham. Nationally recognized artist Glen Michaels is the juror of this year's show.

Garden Cafe

Friday & Saturday - Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tea served 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday - Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cafe Closed Thursday

Display for artwork generously donated by Contract Interiors Carvart

THE Special Events co-sponsored by:

HOME TOWN

AND

Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

ATTORNEYS ARE
POSITIVE ABOUT
FRANKLIN BANK.

"The personnel at Franklin Bank all know me...and they keep track of my accounts. At my former bank I felt like just another person in line."

DONALD A. VAN SULICHEM
Attorney at Law
Van Sulichem & Brown, P.C.
625 North Woodward, Ste. 1000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

You know the names of your clients, so why shouldn't your bank know yours. It's a small thing, we know. But at Franklin Bank we make a point to do just that.

Of course, there's more behind our friendly approach to banking than you'd think. There's the personalized relationship that grows as we learn all about your small business needs. We offer other important services too, many that save you money. Like the lowest fees for commercial checking in Metropolitan Detroit.

We know that small businesses and practices deserve as much attention as the big guys. So call or come in. Let us show you what personalized banking really means.



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