

Pipe dreams?

Council must finish project

To have to worry about persistence of flooding is not a way to live.

William Costlick,
 Farmington Hills city manager, 1989

Residents must ride roughshod over the city council to assure relief as fast as possible.
 Farmington Observer opinion, July 6, 1989

Hip hooray for the Farmington Hills City Council. It seems intent on finishing a flood control project it started almost four years ago in the flood-prone Kendallwood subdivision.

And the council is sticking to its plan (council members have called it "a promise") despite some rather spirited and vocal opposition from subdivision residents.

Those detractors (their stories have been told in recent Observer articles and in letters to the editor) say the project is overpriced at \$12 million and not really needed.

We suspect, however, that a lot of these folks would just rather not be bothered with the bulldozers, noise and dirt that come with a major drain project.

Well, perhaps they didn't live in Kendallwood on June 21, 1989, when the rains came and the creeks (actually, they're called drains) rose, causing misery and flooded basements in more than 200 homes in the sub in the 12 Mile and Farmington Road area.

Or, maybe they were the lucky ones whose houses stayed high and dry during that great downpour.

Anyway, it's easy to forget to take your medi-

cine when you're feeling a lot better. And, flood-wise, things have been better in Kendallwood. Last summer was cool and very rainy, yet no flooding was reported in the subdivision.

But council, remembering '89, is determined to fix what was wrong.

What is planned is a bypass pipe 8 1/2 feet in diameter running south under Kendallwood Drive from a detention basin at 13 Mile and Farmington roads. A trench about 28 feet deep and 60 feet wide will have to be dug to accommodate the new drain.

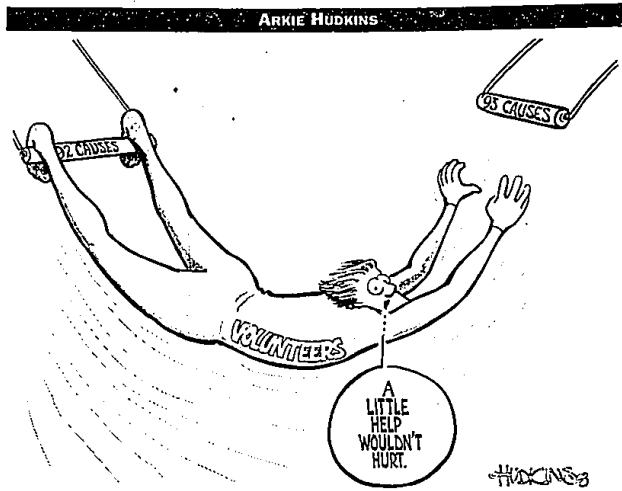
The drain, hopefully, will keep the nearby Minnow Pond Drain from overflowing during rainstorms. The total cost might be as high as \$22 million with interest on the sewer bonds. But that's the price you pay when you've built on a flood plain.

Now, please understand: We're not trying to stifle anyone's opinion. The city has promised public hearings on this project, and drain detractors should attend and let their feelings be known. They also should continue to write the newspaper, if that's how they best express themselves.

Maybe the last word hasn't been said on this issue.

Sure, it'll be dusty and noisy and inconvenient for a little while in Kendallwood. Any construction project is. But right now it's our thinking that the city should get this drain underground and flowing as soon as possible.

There were serious floods in the Farmington area in 1989, 1981 and 1968. At the Farmington Hills City Hall, they like to talk about the "100-year rains" that cause the flooding. It'd be nice to be ready when the next one comes.



LETTERS

Story Incomplete

After reading Sunday's edition of the Oakland Press and Thursday's edition of the Farmington Observer, I was very disappointed.

There was an article about Michael Dwyer, the police chief's son. In my opinion, the stories were incomplete.

Michael Dwyer has had his problems with alcohol and drugs and made some wrong decisions, but for the past six months he has made a difficult turn for the better.

He attends seven to 10 support group meetings a week. The person that was written about is not the same person he is today. He is proving himself every day of the progress he is making.

True enough, his choice of friends wasn't the best, and his past wasn't the best, but all of his associates are in recovery.

I was disappointed that he wasn't credited for the positive changes he has made to better his life and the lives of people around him.

I feel that good as well as negative should be noticed.

He called FHPD of a possible drug deal, where one arrest was made and cocaine and cash were confiscated. He assisted a Mobil employee who was being harassed by a drunk customer. He noticed something was wrong and notified Farmington police.

He has alerted 911 of a possible crime occurring at Sunshine Accura where one arrest was made for auto theft.

These things go far beyond his job at Bob Saks, and I feel he should be recognized for the good things he does, too.

So many of us say we are going to change things in our lives and we never do. Not only has Michael Dwyer said he is going to change, but he proves it every single day of his life.

Annette Robinson, Farmington Hills

number of rehospitalizations for clients in crisis.

Increased residential support programs would reduce the stress for clients trying to live on \$441 per month. (Typical funding for S.S.I. clients trying to live independently).

What a tragedy it would be to disrupt programs and clients in our present system by the failure of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to accept full management when the opportunity exists to receive funds to build on the solid foundation of services designed and perfected over the last decade.

This is no time to start again at ground zero simply because a few details of the contract remain unresolved.

It is time we put our responsibilities for this challenged population ahead of our fears of the unknown and grasp the opportunity for full management which now presents itself.

Karl R. Disler,
 Oakland County Community Mental Health Services

Editorial knocked

In response to your editorial on "Stop attack on abortion rights," I can also say "Stop attack on unborn babies!"

Your analogy between vasectomies and birth is apples and oranges. Where is your sense?

A man can prevent a pregnancy, but you want women to be able to elect to terminate that pregnancy for you.

You have no idea what a woman or a baby goes through during an abortion.

That's why the pictures and information must be shown to the woman. She must see and understand what she is terminating. It's LIFE!

That baby growing inside her was fertilized and is made from God's plan for reproduction of this planet.

The only way it can be stopped is by destroying the babies arms, legs, and head. The head is crushed, and the limbs pulled off.

Example: the child who was born with only one arm after her abortion failed.

The other method is burning the baby with a salt solution. Would you like to die that way?

It's easy for men to legislate how a woman is to get rid of this baby, but in reality it is murder, and I will never vote for it, and I don't want my tax monies going for it either.

Edna Venturino, Westland

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

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

When in doubt, just hang up

When it comes to suspicious telephone solicitors, let's borrow a tactic (and the phraseology) of the anti-drug zealots, who tell us: "Just say no."

Now the good advice is: "Just hang up." Slam the phone on those pesky, annoying, overbearing — and often unscrupulous — telephone solicitors, if you don't like what you're hearing.

In so doing, you'll be joining authorities from across the state who have launched a "Project Hang Up" campaign to put con-artist callers permanently on hold.

The Michigan State Police Troopers Association, according to press reports, organized the effort after people began complaining about mistreatment from fund-raisers claiming to represent law enforcement groups.

Indeed, many local telephones are rung to raise funds for POA (police union) causes, but very rarely is it a police officer doing the calling and asking. It's probably someone from an independent telemarketing firm on the other end of the line.

Many residents complain about such begging calls. They can be annoying, especially when they come at dinner time. Small business owners and the elderly are favorite targets of the telemarketer, who preys on their fear of crime.

Some boiler-room beggars claim to be raising money for bulletproof vests for cops or playground equipment for kids or drug education programs in schools.

Sometimes special treatment for the giver ("Hey, put our bumper sticker on your car") is implied, or there is a hint that police response time won't be as fast without the donor's help.

■ The good advice is: "Just hang up." Slam the phone on those pesky, annoying, overbearing — and often unscrupulous — telephone solicitors, if you don't like what you're hearing.

Some solicitations are on the level, however annoying, but many are unscrupulous. Such scams bilk state residents out of as much as \$15 million a year and damage the image of law enforcement agencies, an Associated Press report said recently.

Now, we're not against police unions soliciting. We're not even against telemarketing with its boiler room operations. You can always say no and . . . just hang up.

Citizens who are thinking of giving an answer to a telephone plea should feel free to ask plenty of questions if they have any doubt. If the caller is rude or evasive, or if there is the least little suspicion, yep, you guessed it: Just hang up!




A new state law that took effect last December requires solicitors to register with the state and forbids them to say things that might intimidate people to give.

We're happy to have the help from Lansing. But residents should remember that they hold the real power here, hold it in their hands — the hands that hold the telephones.

Oh, was that noise we just heard the sound of a telephone receiver being slammed down?

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION: If you could have a private audience with President Bill Clinton, what would you tell him?

 Susan Desikarala Farmington	 Fay Nelson Farmington	 Anna Fraser Farmington	 Les Rowe Farmington
'Don't touch Social Security disability, Medicare and Medicaid.'	'I'd tell him that it's about time he did something about getting peace in the world.'	'I'd say that I hope he lives up to his promise. We'll give him time. I'm satisfied with him so far.'	'I'd tell him to do what he said he'd do, instead of telling all these lies.'

We asked this question at the Farmington Place senior citizen residence.

Grasp opportunity

After 21 years of working with chronically mentally ill adults in Oakland County, it is exciting to hear of the possibility of full management.

Over the years, there has been a slow but steady increase in the services provided to this population.

Recidivism has been greatly reduced, and recently developed programs have increased opportunities for improving quality of life.

Case management has successfully linked clients to, and maintained them within, a multitude of community services; however, there is still a need for intensive programs to work with those having special needs.

Full management would provide new funds for Oakland County to fill the gaps in our present system such as more assertive community treatment teams for resistant clients and mentally ill substance abusers. Short-term residential crisis centers could prevent a considerable

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