

Clarenceville picks Brandemihl, Burr for trustee

On Monday, June 13, residents of southeast Farmington Hills will be going to the polls to elect two members to the Clarenceville Board of Education.

On the ballot will be two incumbents, Linda J. Brandemihl and Lisa M. Burr, and one challenger, Gary Garrison, running for two four-year terms.

The Farmington Observer recommends Brandemihl and Burr. Clarenceville voters are fortunate, though, because on June 13 there cannot be a wrong decision made.

Challenger Garrison also is a strong candidate and would serve the district well if voters choose him as one of the two winners.

The Observer does not find fault, though, with either incumbent and is impressed with the background, involvement, beliefs and commitment of each.

The Clarenceville board is functioning smoothly. Trustees are getting along with each other and the administration and responding to the needs of students and parents.

We do not see a need to unseat an incumbent. Neither is there a need to unseat an incumbent in the spirit of term limitation, although Brandemihl will be near that point next time around.

A life-long resident of Clarenceville, Brandemihl graduated from Clarenceville High in 1973 and attended the University of Michigan.

She has served as a parent volunteer in many capacities, has served the school board as treasurer, secretary, vice president and now is in her second term as board president. High on her list is improving the middle

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school program so that it becomes a true middle school.

Burr, a Clarenceville resident for 13 years, has been active in the Botsford PTO, with parents groups, with the Clarenceville Athletic Boosters Club, and as a sixth-grade catechist at St. Priscilla's Church in Livonia. She has served the school board as secretary and is completing her first term as a trustee. Her main interest is in maintaining Clarenceville as a viable district in touch with the needs of students.

Garrison has a valuable record of community involvement with Spree and with Beverly Park Playground, and has been active in school activities.

He is knowledgeable about the district, knows its history, and is committed to education. He would make a fine addition to the board, and we hope some day he achieves that goal.

The Observer is pleased with Brandemihl's leadership and with Burr's contribution to the board. We recommend both to voters. The Observer especially urges, however, that all Clarenceville residents vote on Monday, June 13. Nothing can be gained by remaining on the sidelines. Be an important part of the community's mainstream and vote on June 13.

Incumbents serve OCC well

Voters in the June 13 Oakland Community College Board of Trustees election can be confident of two things: First, there is high interest, reflected in the number of candidates—10 for two open seats. Second, there is a good variety of viewpoints and background experience to choose from in filling the positions.

Among the 10 candidates, three stand out as most knowledgeable on such issues as finances, though they don't speak with a common voice. Other important issues are the mission of the community college and the direction in which it is headed.

The strength of the college, with the growth of its campus sites and accessibility to the community, shows the importance of returning incumbents David Hackett and Richard Blonde to the board. But we do so with the caveat that both, if re-elected, renew their commitment with a rejuvenated sense of looking beyond the tried and true for solutions to OCC's problems.

Unlike Hackett and Blonde, who both support a millage increase for OCC, challenger Henry Woloson is opposed to an increase until the need has been proven to voters. Woloson may be expressing the "show me," anti-any-tax mood of OCC district residents, but to us he sounds more like a serious businessman.

Here we have three candidates, all sincerely interested in what's best, not just for the community college, but for those who use it. That's important, because it is an important community resource that stands ready to provide quality education, job-specific training and an improved quality of life at affordable prices for county residents.

Certainly there are issues, such as staffing and location of campuses. But let's take a look at what each of these three top candidates can bring to the board.

Hackett, a retired teacher from Rochester Hills, wears many hats: environmentalist, supporter of those who may have difficulty with tuition increases, lobbyist for increased funding and opponent of urban sprawl. He's been on the board since the college was founded in 1964 and is its current chairman.

Blonde, a data base analyst with Ameritech, is known to be a bright, objective decision-maker, fully supportive of Chancellor Patsy Fulton. A West Bloomfield resident, he was elected in 1990.

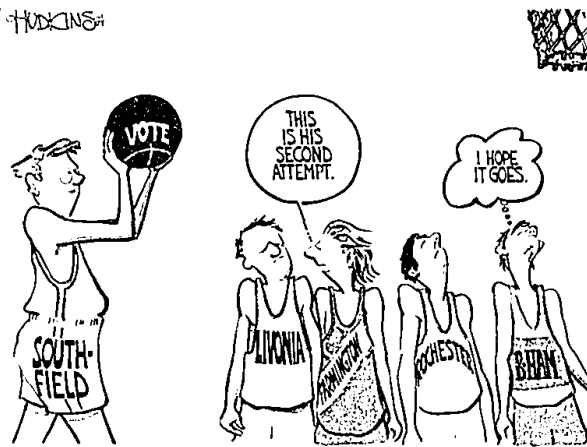
Woloson, from Clarkston, is very issue-oriented. He has business experience as an investment counselor, is not a one-issue candidate and voluntarily works with the OCC Foundation—a fund-raising program. He is concerned with job training, and keeps an eye on the needs of older adults as well as the younger set.

There are other candidates: Francis Riley, Pamela Davis, Carol Louise Crew, Paula Fleischer, Joseph Ajlouny, Jan Mueck and John Bushart.

We wish them well, but we see many reasons to return the incumbents Hackett and Blonde to the board. However, should a vacancy occur, or if voters want to introduce a fresh look to the board, Woloson would be the best choice among the challengers.

It's an important race for those who live within OCC's boundaries. The expectation of an OCC millage request ought to bring voters out to the polls.

ARKIE HUDKINS



LETTERS

She says thanks

I am a resident of the Kendallwood subdivision who wishes to offer my neighbors of Kendallwood Road a hearty thank you.

The county of Oakland is in the process of connecting the Minnow Pond project from 12 Mile down Kendallwood Road to 13 Mile Road. The residents on Kendallwood are having to endure truckloads of inconveniences for the benefit of the other residents in our area.

These residents are putting up with all the noise, dust, destruction on their property and many other inconveniences too numerous to mention.

The residents on Kendallwood that I have spoken to are upbeat and optimistic that the time they have to endure this major construction in their front yards is a price they are willing to offer for the overall benefit for themselves and their neighbors.

I wanted to extend a thank you. Your inconveniences have not gone unnoticed.

Anita Bogoard, Farmington Hills

Schools

The Albanian parents have expressed our concerns since the 1988-89 school year. We have tried to discuss and solve this unfortunate matter with the school officials, but our efforts have been unsuccessful. Every step that was taken by the Albanian parents is legitimate and in compliance with the law.

This illustrates the article that was published in The Detroit News in which this article clearly stated that the U.S. Civil Rights and U.S. Department of Education believe that Farmington Public School is required to hire a teacher if there are 20 or more eligible for bilingual program from a single-language category.

The bilingual program was designed for this purpose to assist and serve these students by a certified teacher, helping them to integrate in the regular classrooms.

We would recommend both authors of these two articles to educate themselves about the subject before making irrelevant comments about the topic.

Both articles were inconsistent and really missed the boat.

Doda Lucaj, Farmington Hills

About the goldfish

Our class had a debate about the Heritage Park pond. We discussed both sides of the issues. In the end, we decided that we agreed with the removal of the goldfish. Our vote was 12 to 7.

Here are some of the reasons why we felt this way:

1. Goldfish are very dirty fish. As a result, it would be hard to keep the pond clean.
2. The goldfish are taking up all of the space.
3. The goldfish might be eating all of the food in the pond. Then, there wouldn't be enough food for the other fish.
4. You can't fish for goldfish.
5. You can't eat goldfish.
6. Goldfish don't naturally belong in the pond.

We also thought that it would be a good idea to put a sign by the pond. The sign should warn people not to put goldfish into the pond.

Pam Ellis, second grade teacher, Flanders Elementary School

Paper was misled

I am writing in regard to your recent article on the alleged discrimination toward the Albanian students in Farmington Public Schools.

I would like to inform you that your paper was misled and manipulated by an individual's personal politics.

If you had spoken to the parents who signed the "complaint letter" you would have learned they were told to sign it without knowing the true contents of the letter.

Albanian students receive a quality education from Farmington Public Schools, and no one prior to this has complained to teachers, principals or the bilingual department.

This complaint followed the hiring of a certified teacher into the bilingual department, a position which your paper correctly reported as having no Albanian applicants, even though the position clearly stated Albanian endorsed teachers were welcome to apply, as well as all other language groups served by the Farmington Public School's Bilingual Department.

It is a shame that your paper was so quick to condemn the district and be used for someone's "sour grapes."

I believe it is your responsibility to print this in the name of the quality education bilingual students receive in Farmington Public Schools.

Tony Juncaj, Farmington Hills

Lucaj's response

I am responding to two articles: "Doda's Complaint" and "About Albanians." They were published Thursday, May 26, on the Opinion page.

I regularly read the Farmington Observer. Thursday's issue got my attention because of two articles published about Albanian community's complaint against Farmington Public

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:
Will you miss Joe's Feed Store when it closes?



"No, but I'll miss the customers."
Marjo Wickens, manager
Farmington Hills



"Definitely. They're friendly people at Joe's. Everyone's so nice."
Frank Seloggs, customer
Livonia



"Yeah, I'll miss mixing the bird seed and unloading the trucks."
Ron Brown, employee
Southfield



"I'll miss it quite a bit. I get all my pet stuff here. They're friendly."
Al Stabrava, customer
Southfield

We asked this question at Joe's Feed Store in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Observer

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