

## On the stump Rally might be worth a look

Sometimes we think the good people of the Farmington area are getting just a bit evented out these days.

Seems as though it's been one community whoopee-doo after another on the weekends all through May and on into June. Let's see... didn't Farmington folks just turn out big time to rescue the Rouge for the eighth or ninth time, and didn't they pick the police station at the Hills Police Open House a couple of steamy Sundays ago?

Of course there have been the usual complement of banquets, awards ceremonies, benefit runs, concerts in the park and summertime programs for the kids. And, hey, what's that looming on the July horizon? Why it's the Farmington Founders Festival, the biggest community event of them all.

So, with all that's going on in our town, even in the dead days of summer, something like that "old-fashioned political rally" scheduled for 1:5 p.m., Saturday, July 2, at Heritage Park just might get lost in the crowd.

Well, we hope this political rally - sort of a pre-air candidate forum - gets found by lots of Farmington-area residents who care about their community and how it's governed.

We also hope the politicians and wanna-be politicians find their way to Heritage Park that Saturday. Some of the challengers have been playing hard to get. You know who you are. We'll be taking names.

Candidates for governor, U.S. senator and

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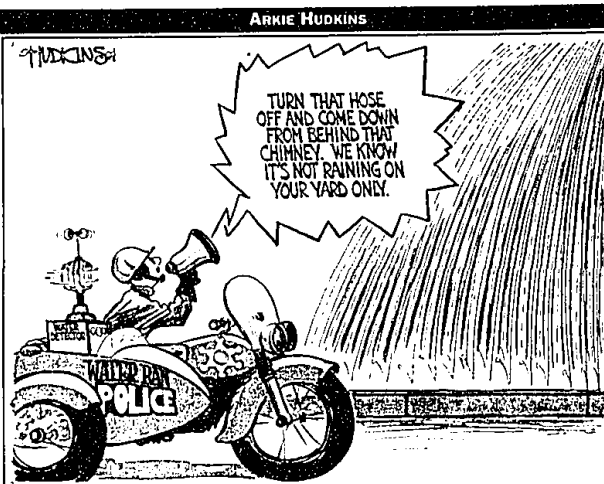
representative have been asked to participate. If they're smart they'll show. Political pundits have called areas like Farmington crucial in deciding the gubernatorial race. Hopefuls for the state and county races also are expected to talk and listen.

Each hopeful will have his/her time on the stump. Of course, questions from the audience will be encouraged.

The event will offer more than just politics. Representatives of Farmington-area civic groups will be on hand to answer questions about their activities. There will be hayrides, food, clowns and an appearance by Farmington Hills' own Parkey the Panda.

Music will be provided by the Farmington Community Band and the Sweet Adelines Barbershop singers. A local classic car club will display antique autos, weather permitting. There'll be plenty to eat and lots of pop, lemonade and iced tea to wash it down with.

Sure, it's just another Saturday doings in town, and we realize everybody's very busy. But we think this "old-fashioned political rally" is worth a look. We thank the city of Farmington Hills and the Committee to Increase Voter Participation for co-sponsoring it.



ARKIE HUDKINS

## LETTERS

### On mayor debate

Does anyone on Farmington Hills City Council listen? The June 13 city council public hearing on a council initiative for an elected mayor was a sad display. For two public sessions on this matter, there has been not one citizen who has supported the proposal. Because of that, those council members who support the initiative have set a new date, June 20, to try and find people to speak in their favor. That makes it seem that public support is at best, contrived. Council members, please listen. You may hear something. We, the people of Farmington Hills do not want an elected mayor. We have a city manager form of government that works and works well.

We don't need an elected mayor with more clout or an agenda. Our present form of government gives "clout" and the agenda-setting process to the people who need it. That is the city manager as executive and the council at large as the legislative body. We don't need two executives.

Appointments to commissions are often political. We want to minimize politics. An elected mayor with a set agenda can make appointments that can affect the city for years. Rotation of the mayor yearly reduces risk of an ill-thought agenda.

Please don't hide behind "Let the voters decide." We elected you to make thoughtful decisions. Otherwise, we don't need council members who refused to do what the people ask through public hearings and studies. And last, council, understand why we elected you. It was not to acquire "power." It was to think and act in the best interest of the city of Farmington Hills. For two public sessions, the people have spoken. Please listen.

Stuart L. Selis, Farmington Hills

and so on.

The two or three homeowners who spoke out against the budget within their allotted three minutes, were rolled over by Costick's juggernaut as the council voted unanimously in favor of the budget as presented with two members giving accolades to the city manager.

An interesting contrast to the few homeowners was the large contingent of city employees present (department heads, assistants) who lent an impressive support to the administration's presentation. Sort of protecting their turf, so to speak.

What was conveniently stressed was the supposition that the budget was so carefully crafted that there was absolutely no way to cut out any item without incurring total disaster to the community.

To his credit, one council member publicly stated that he voted in toto for the budget with a clear conscience and in the fullness of his soul.

I pray that will suffice to square with any financial crisis which may lie down the road ahead, unseen, unexpected, and unprepared.

Albert Rosen, Farmington Hills

### Lions say thanks

Speaking for the Farmington Area Lions Club members in this area, we wish to thank the Meijer stores for their recent drive to collect used eyeglasses for the Lions Clubs.

It is my understanding that about 7,000 pairs of glasses were collected in the tri-state area of Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Soon these glasses will be processed through the facility at Muncie, Ind. and be on their way to help people in the less fortunate countries around the world.

The Lions in the immediate area of the Meijer store in Northville wish to thank the store's personnel and their customers, who turned in about 300 pairs of used eyeglasses during the period of May 16-30.

These glasses have been sorted and boxed for shipment to the Muncie location for repair, cleaning, and checking for the existing prescription; and then they also will be on their way to help some who need glasses.

If people have used eyeglasses that they want to donate, contact your local Lions Club, or you can contact me at 476-0207 and I will attempt to inform you of the closest collection point.

Again we wish to thank everyone who continues to help the Lions in this very worthwhile project to help the visually handicapped.

Dick Carvell, Farmington Area Lions

## Regional approach to water

Water, water everywhere... but not a drop to sprinkle on your lawn today... unless, of course, your address ends in an odd number.

In the waning days of this heat wave and resultant "water emergency," many of us are on the odd-even system that regulates outdoor water use. Those with even street addresses water their lawns on even days; odd addresses on odd days.

Actually, a bit of conservation isn't too much to ask if there is a real emergency, and considering the circumstances - a heavy demand for water because of dry weather conditions and an ongoing delivery problem with the supplier - we guess there is, or was.

But when this blistering heat finally eases up and the water mains are repaired and the sprinklers go on again all over southeastern Michigan, we've got to talk about this water situation.

Now please remember: No matter what the politicians or engineers or TV talking heads say, there is no water shortage in metropolitan Detroit. How could there be when its residents sit at the edge one of the largest supplies of fresh water on Planet Earth - the Great Lakes?

No, we're not short of water, probably never will be. It's our delivery system that has come up short during this emergency.

Most of us get our water from Detroit, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to be specific, and there have been some real problems with that entity over the years.

We wonder if Detroit Water - with its antiquated mains and equipment, and shot through as it is with constant city-suburban squabbling - is what we need to supply water

to an expanding metropolitan Detroit.

We badly need a regional authority to control anything as crucial as water delivery in an area as large as metro Detroit. And that authority should have... well, authority.

It would be empowered to set standards and make them stick. It should be vastly different than a toothless planning agency.

Its word would be law, and it would put an end to the petty politics that divide Detroit and its suburbs over issues like water.

What petty politics? Well, over the years, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has been run more as a jobs program than as a water delivery system for everyone in south-east Michigan.

Suburbanites can serve on the Water Department Board, but only those selected by the mayor of Detroit. Only Detroiters may work for the department. That's petty - and it shuts out a lot of talented people whose only shortcoming is that they don't happen to live in the city of Detroit.

More importantly, we need a strong regional authority that would control the kind of runaway suburban (or should we say exurban?) development that has led to excessive demands on the water delivery system and other infrastructure.

State Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, was gutsy enough to propose a regionalized water system for metropolitan Detroit. But, like a lot of good ideas to come out of Lansing last year, it got steamrolled by that juggernaut of education reform that eventually led to Proposal A.

Keep at it, Sen. Honigman. Now it's time for Proposal W - for water reform.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### QUESTION:

What's on your mind these days?



"Cooking... I'm reading Gourmet magazine."

Marie Hans Farmington



"North Korea's on my mind. I'm just not sure what's going to happen there."

Mary Trevisan Farmington



"The whole world situation. There's fighting and killing everywhere. It's scary."

Carol Laskary Livonia



"The Farmington Founders Festival is on my mind... the parade and all the events. The library people will be in a foot."

Wendy Scott Southfield

We asked this question at the downtown Farmington branch of the Farmington Community Library.

## The Farmington Observer

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