

LETTERS

Council replies

There is a special interest group called Voters' Voice which has tried to force the Farmington Hills City Council into litigation that could result in expanded commercial zoning, increased density and the possibility of millions of dollars in money damages.

The proposal in question came to council with the approval of the Planning Commission (9-0) and the Planning Consultant and City Attorney. The citizens were not satisfied. Council agreed to let a group called Voters' Voice work with the developer to make changes.

Recently members of your council have conducted the business of the city while recall petitions against the mayor were being passed down the aisle of the council chamber by members of Voters' Voice in an attempt to intimidate council.

has approved more park land, more recreation land, more open space than any other council. Since 1987 the Council of Farmington Hills has spent more than \$2 million trying to preserve the zoning in our community.

As expected following the vote on the project for 12 Mile and Middlebelt, petitions are going to be circulated by Voters' Voice in an attempt to recall five more council members.

All of these city officials have made major contributions to our community throughout the past years. We need their seasoned, informed leadership. Mayor Lawrence Lichtman, Mayor Pro Tom Joanne Smith, Councilmembers Nancy Bates, Jon Grant, Cheryl Oliverio, Terry Sever

Get it right. Throughout the debate on the 12 Mile-Middlebelt issue, you have refused to print any letters of support, although I know you have received some.

I hope, in the interest of accuracy, you will follow my response to Stella Menton's false charges. The Michigan National Corp. headquarters was developed without any zoning change.

This has kept the city commissions independent. Different points of view abound on the commissions. An elected city mayor could have considerable influence through commission appointments long after leaving office.

I believe that the best vote on Local Proposal "I" is NO on Nov. 8.

A vote for Joe. I was greatly impressed by the article on Congressman Joe Knollenberg written in the Oct. 13 edition of the Farmington Observer.

Here's a 'no' vote. On Nov. 8 Farmington Hills voters will have the opportunity to vote to amend our city charter to

allow for an elected mayor. It seems to me that this idea has several problems.

First, in a city manager/city council form of government, the purpose of the manager is to run the day-to-day operations of the city.

The manager has the task of administering policy and may suggest agenda items, so each party, manager and council, have clearly defined roles.

Second, the council members who voted to bring up this charter amendment have said that this change will give the mayor more "clout."

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District are fortunate to have Joe Knollenberg, a man who puts his money where his mouth is.

Kim McKenzie, Farmington Hills

Breshgold responds

I was amused to read Mary Zick's claim in her letter that appeared in the Observer that I was a career politician.

The fact is I have never held public office but, like Joe Knollenberg before he went to Congress, I have been active in political party politics.

If I am a career politician, then certainly Mr. Knollenberg is one as well. If Mr. Knollenberg is really committed to term limits, then he should sign a pledge, "a contract for the 11th District," that he will not run for a third term.

This idea, I suggested, might help the United States stem the loss of good-paying manufacturing jobs to foreign nations like Vietnam and China.

I was called by Mr. DeVries, who was embarrassed to tell me that and apologized for the personal attack on me.

Mike Breshgold, candidate for Congress, 11th District

Spare us 'new Dems'

Another "new Democrat!" The candidate running against Congressman Joe Knollenberg in the 11th Congressional District says, "I want to see more tax relief for the middle class."

In 1992, candidate Clinton and the Democrats talked that same talk. In 1993, President Bill Clinton and the Democrats in Congress gave us the

largest tax hike in history, and the people of the 11th District sent an extra \$1.4 billion dollars to Washington. Not to worry though, the Democrats spent that money wisely, on things like the earthquake relief bill, which provided \$5.6 billion dollars for quake victims, and \$6 billion in pork for their Senate leader, West Virginia's Robert Byrd, and friends.

Mr. Breshgold says that he would make up the lost tax money by cutting loopholes at the federal level, which simply means he can find other ways to tax you.

By the way, when will Mr. Breshgold's "worldwide agreement that would include a global minimum wage" take effect? Thanks anyway, I'll vote for Congressman Joe Knollenberg.

Robert L. Hallmark, Southfield

He lost a vote

Michael Breshgold stated in your article that he supported the so-called Clinton Deficit Reduction package.

Does he have any idea what these mean to senior citizens like me and my friends?

I guess President Clinton and Mike Breshgold are a lot alike — they both have no concept of what is important to seniors.

Now, Breshgold tells us that he now only thinks that this is good but that he supports the single-payer system that would have me wait in long lines for sub-standard health care service.

Breshgold needs to wake up and start listening to senior citizens. We may be older and a little slower, but I for one will not be voting for him this November.

Helen Lippert, Livonia

Problem of crime demands tough action, not just talk

Judging from the political ads on TV, by far the safest place to be in Michigan these days is on the campaign staffs of folks running for office.

The politicians aren't dumb. All the polls agree: Crime is the No. 1 issue this fall, far edging even taxes, and whether Engler and his friends are just waiting until next year to amend the constitutional prohibition against public aid to private and religious schools.

In the United States, a greater proportion of the population is in prison than in any other developed country in the world; Michigan in 1993 incarcerated 36,000, almost tripled since 1983.

The conclusion is clear to me: We're on an anti-crime binge, spending at a prodigious rate, filling up every newly constructed prison cell as fast as we can open it. And yet the crime rate has hardly budged.



PHILIP POWER

original before election day: Liberals hate the death penalty, and there is some evidence that trials that involve the possibility of death upon conviction cost an enormous amount. Yet I keep wondering just why society should be obliged to pay the \$25,000 annual tab to keep an inmate, miserable but alive, in jail for life.

They never thought she'd live to outgrow them.



The toddler who learned to walk in these shoes was born with children's leukemia. If she had been born thirty years ago, chances are she wouldn't have survived long enough to learn to crawl.

The United Way supports some 140 agencies in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties that help the elderly, the illiterate, the disabled and many more.

Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS is sponsoring this message in the interest of the Greater Detroit community.