

LETTERS

A great big thanks

Nationally, firefighters have one of the most respected reputations in today's work force. Here in Farmington Hills we witness this appreciation every week as citizens or businesses call or write the fire chief to commend the efforts of members of this department almost daily.

These congratulations are certainly appreciated by the dedicated men and women of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. It is rare that members of the department have the opportunity to really thank a citizen for their kindness.

Recently, when the weather hit 60 degrees, firefighters from Fire Station 3 decided to go shopping for lunch and barbecue some hamburgers back at the fire house. We selected the items for lunch that day, but while in the check-out line, we were dispatched to a medical emergency. After rendering aid to the patient, we returned to purchase our items for lunch. The cashier told us that our groceries were purchased and delivered to the fire house by a woman named "Toni." We had briefly spoken with a woman and her young daughter while shopping, and realized that this was the "Toni" the cashier spoke of. On returning to the fire house, some off-duty firefighters indicated that a woman and her daughter had just dropped off groceries for the firefighters on duty. She would not take money nor would she leave a name or personal information. We were astonished!

In more than 25 years of seniority on the firefighters on duty, none of us could think of a nicer gesture by a citizen of this city. A retired firefighter with more than 35 years on the job witnessed the purchase at the grocery store and mentioned to the cashier that in all his years on the job, no stranger ever purchased the groceries of his crew, then delivered it to the fire house. He added that these firefighters must be pretty special. The fact is that none of us knew this wonderful woman. Needless to say, we did feel pretty special.

The firefighters on duty that day want to say "thank you" to Toni and her daughter for this very special random act of kindness. It was definitely one of the nicest gestures we have witnessed in our careers and will be remembered for a long, long time. Thanks again.

Denny Hughes, Inspector
Stan Barnes, firefighter
Jason Gilbert, firefighter
Farmington Hills Fire Department

Offended by ad

I was amazed to find the ad for Herald Whole- in the Home Spotlight magazine insert in your paper. I am offended by it. I have an 8-year-old son who regularly looks through the Observer and the inserts. I'm curious to know why it is necessary to put a naked woman in a magazine to advertise hardware and plumbing. I understand business and the right to free speech, etc., and this certainly caught my eye, but in a hometown paper? Why? Couldn't we leave the naked bodies in adult magazines? It's bad enough the things your kids are exposed to everyday, silly me to think a home magazine insert for the Observer is acceptable reading for an 8-year-old! I hope in the future you will look a little closer at the advertisers and their ads.

Maggie Ballant
Livonia

Places for teens needed

There is a big problem with teen loitering in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

Teenagers in Farmington/Farmington Hills are getting into trouble for loitering because the Farmington police ticket kids for being in places like restaurants and gas stations or just standing around. If there were more places in Farmington where teenagers could hang out, this would not be as big of a problem.

Christa Robinson
Power Middle School
Farmington

Congrats, Governor!

Congratulations to the governor for his executive budget recommendations for higher education in the 1999-2000 budget.

The governor's recommendations will provide increased funding for all state-supported schools. Very importantly, however, it will also more fairly allocate funding on a per-student basis by giving extra funding to those colleges which have limited their tuition increases.

Michigan State University has shown great restraint in limiting tuition increases to the rate of inflation for several years. It is only fair to reward this restraint by providing increased state funding. Failure to reward that restraint would be a disincentive to future tuition limitations and could cause a return to high tuition increases.

The budget recommendations also narrow the wide gap in per-student funding at Michigan's large research universities. The 1998-99 appropriation per student is \$10,128 for Wayne State, \$9,042 for U of M, \$6,280 for Michigan Tech and only \$7,570 for Michigan State. This is very troubling, especially in light of the fact that MSU educates many more students from Michigan than any other college.

In addition, during President Peter McPherson's administration, Michigan State has made major advances. These have included carefully controlled costs and improvements in educational quality (such as a 73% increase in Honors College enrollment and a 7% growth in study abroad). MSU has continued to be a national leader in practical research and has committed \$41.5 million to technology advancements in the past four years.

This has created great enthusiasm among MSU students and alumni, with an increased enrollment of almost 4,000 students. However, the low per-student funding threatens these significant advances and, indeed, the educational quality of tens of thousands of students from Michigan.

The State House and Senate will be considering the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendations in the near future. I hope our representatives understand the importance of this issue and adopt these recommendations in their entirety.

Alan C. Harnisch
Franklin

Fest suggestions

During the past few years, I've noticed that the Founders Day Festival hasn't been as exciting and fun as it was before and not as many people come anymore. Just recently, I heard that a new organization was running the festival this year. I was glad to hear that because I think that the Founders Festival needs some changes to improve it. Maybe if it was changed a little, more people would come again.

I didn't get a chance to visit the Founders Festival last summer because I was out of town, but I still heard some complaints from my friends who did go. Here are some suggestions that I think would make the festival fun again. First, I think there should be more evening events. My mother and my neighbors enjoyed it when there was a concert or something at night. Or maybe it should stay open longer so people who don't have time to go during the day can come at night. I also think that there should be other activities rather than having tents for people who sell crafts. For people who don't like crafts and shopping for little things like that, there really isn't that much to do. I hope you take these suggestions into consideration.

Justine Elster
Power Middle School

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Quit Smoking:
Providence Medical Center - Farmington Hills
Thursday, April 8th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm,
30655 Northwestern (at Inlander),
Farmington Hills.

Novi Park Providence Medical Center - Providence Park
Saturday, April 10th, 10 am - Noon,
47601 Grand River Avenue
(Beck Road entrance), Novi.

Southfield: Providence Hospital
Saturday, April 17th, 10 am - Noon,
22250 Providence Dr., Southfield,
Medical Building. FREE PARKING
in Med. Bldg. parking lot with ad.

Weight Loss:
Providence Medical Center - Farmington Hills
Thursday, April 15th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm,
30655 Northwestern (at Inlander),
Farmington Hills.

Novi Park Providence Medical Center - Providence Park
Saturday, April 10th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm,
47601 Grand River Avenue
(Beck Road entrance), Novi.

Southfield: Providence Hospital
Saturday, April 17th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm,
22250 Providence Dr., Southfield,
Medical Building. FREE PARKING
in Med. Bldg. parking lot with ad.

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PROVIDENCE



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IBJ

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Of Livingston County

Presents

Douglas E. Stites

Chief Operating Officer of the Michigan Jobs Commission

Wednesday, April 7th

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the

GENOA WOODS
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE & BANQUET CENTER
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Brighton at I-96/Grand River

\$25 Per Person • Includes Lunch

Stites will be discussing

- Recruiting Employees
- Training Employees
- Retaining Employees
- Technical Training Center Grant Funding

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