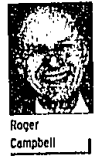


# Letter deserves a response

My faithful 1992 Ford has developed a "clunk." This is not to say it's a clunker. On the contrary, in spite of its nearly 150,000 miles, it runs smoothly, looks sharp and meets our traveling needs just fine.



Upon hearing this strange clunking sound, I consulted a mechanic and discovered the problem to be a broken motor mount. "Call Ford Motor Co.," he said, "I think there may be a recall on this part; if not, I'll fix it." Ford Motor was closed that day, so I called the service manager of a Ford dealer. "There was a letter to owners about this," he said, "but it contained a time and mileage limit. It's too late to have your car repaired."

So, while I write this column, the clunk is being removed at my expense. In his cover article in *Jubilee*, published by Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship ministry, Jeff Peck tells how a prisoner's life was changed when his wife took their car to a number of wrong automobile dealerships before finding one that could repair it. This devoted woman drove the 10-hour round trip through the Pocono Mountains to visit her imprisoned husband, John, every week. She never failed to show up until the day she developed car trouble and couldn't find a mechanic who had the part to fix the vehicle. Peck says this persistent wife spent the entire week going to Ford, Chrysler and Chevy dealerships, unsuccessfully looking for the needed part. Finally, on

Friday, she tried the Mercedes dealer, where the part was installed immediately.

No wonder. The car was a Mercedes. When her prisoner husband heard why his wife couldn't visit him earlier, he said, "That's the craziest story I ever heard. Didn't it occur to you that the company that made the car would have the part?" Peck says at that moment the prisoner's eyes were opened. "By couldn't visit him earlier, he said, 'That's the craziest story I ever heard. Didn't it occur to you that the company that made the car would have the part?'"

Peck says at that moment the prisoner's eyes were opened. "By couldn't visit him earlier, he said, 'That's the craziest story I ever heard. Didn't it occur to you that the company that made the car would have the part?'"

Finally discovering who could repair his broken life, John began steering a new course for the future. He had known very little about the Bible, but now started reading it daily to learn more about his newfound faith. Finding others in the prison who had made the same life-changing discovery and joining them for chapel services enriched John's life, bringing spiritual growth that was evident to his wife, his family and those incarcerated with him. When he was released from prison, John was a different man, giving much of his time to helping others find the answers he had sought so long. God specializes in recalls, especially when our steering equipment goes bad and we find ourselves out of control. He knows what's wrong with us and how to fix it. The Rev. Roger Campbell is an Independence Township resident and author of more than 20 books.

## POTPOURRI

**Blood Drive**  
The City of Farmington Hills will hold a blood drive 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today, Jan. 30 at the Costco Center in Farmington Hills. Great Harvest Bread Company will provide cookies and a gift basket raffle. For appointments call (248) 473-1816. Walk-ins welcome.

**Preschool Night**  
The Farmington Area Preschool Council will host Preschool Night 7-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, at the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. Teachers and representatives from area preschools will be available to answer questions.

**Senior Tax Help**  
Tax help for the elderly will be available Feb. 14 until 5 p.m. at the following locations: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Costco Center in Farmington Hills; or noon to 2:30 p.m. Fridays at the downtown Farmington Library.

**Bowl-A-Thon**  
Team Farmington Special Olympics 11th annual Bowl-A-Thon will take place Saturday, Feb. 15, at Drake's Lanes in Farmington Hills. There will be two sessions of bowling at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided at both sessions. For additional information call Nancy Meloché at (248) 888-9021.

**Valentine Dance**  
The Farmington Community Dance Band will hold a Valentine Dinner Dance at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills. Call (734) 261-2202.

**Broce Choir Performs**  
The Broce Tabernacle Therapeutic Choir will perform at 9:55 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Mercy High School. For more information call (248) 414-2763.

**Multicultural Speakers**  
The First Presbyterian Women will host speakers Karen Olsen and Priscilla Brouillette from the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council to discuss *Many Faces - One Future* at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 at First Presbyterian Church, 28165 Farmington Road. Call (248) 474-1670.

**Present Laughter**  
The Farmington Players will perform

*Present Laughter* beginning Friday, Jan. 31 through Feb. 22 at the new Players Barn in Farmington Hills. For ticket information call (248) 219-0800.

**Vegas Night**  
The Finnish Center in Farmington Hills will host Vegas Night 8 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Feb. 1. The cost is \$10 per person and includes food and drinks. Call (248) 478-6939.

**Sunday Brunch**  
Enjoy Sunday Brunch at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills Feb. 9, March, 9, April 13 and May 11 (Mother's Day). Call (248) 478-6939.

**Talent Show**  
Harrison High School will hold a talent show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. Call (248) 469-3412.

**Stronger Woman**  
Strengthen your body, soul and spirit 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Thursday morning through April 3 at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. This program offers aerobics and walking, speakers, crafts and food. Baby-sitting is available for children up to five years old. Call (248) 661-9191.

**Hospice Volunteer Training**  
Heartland Hospice of Southfield is in need of volunteers and will offer training sessions 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 and 22 at the Hospice Center, 28588 Northwestern Highway. To register call Mary at (800) 770-9859.

**Child Health Clinics**  
Oakland County Health Division offers free well-care services for children birth through school entry. For more information call (248) 424-7026 or (248) 926-3341.

## KID STUFF

**Chess Tournament**  
Farmington High School will host a chess tournament 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, for students in grades 1-5. Students must know how to play chess to enter, and will play against other students at their own grade level. Call (248) 489-3333.

**Youth Theatre Workshop**  
A Night of Pantomime, a youth theatre workshop will be held 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Costco Center in

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Farmington Hills. Call (248) 473-1857. A *Night of Performance* will be held Feb. 7.

**Winter Youth Theatre**  
Kids ages 9-15 can sign up for this eight week course beginning Tuesday, Feb. 4. Classes run 3:30-5 p.m. at the Costco Center in Farmington Hills. A performance will be held March 20. Call (248) 473-1857.

## CLASSES

**Neighbors**  
The Farmington Neighbors Club will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. Lauren Coutineau will play her guitar.

**Farmington Artists**  
The Farmington Artists Club will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Costco Center in Farmington Hills. Ken Gross from the University of Michigan-Dearborn will be the guest speaker.

**Farmington Garden**  
The Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon, Monday, Feb. 3, at the Longacre House in Farmington Hills. Scott Kunst will discuss antique gardening. Visitors welcome. Call (248) 616-3616.

**North Garden**  
North Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Aldo Vagnozzi Visitor's Center in Heritage Park. The program will be an *Afternoon at Larkspur Lane* with Laurie Zabrosky. Call (248) 553-2368.

**Musica!e**  
The Farmington Musica!e presents its Valentine program *Love... American Style* at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Hammel Music Auditorium in Livonia. The show will feature a variety of piano and vocal solos. The public is invited. Guest fee is \$3.

**Hill & Dale**  
Hill & Dale Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Vagnozzi Visitor's Center in Heritage Park. Guest speaker Lori Schneider will discuss the garden tools of Feng Shui.

**Embroiderers**  
Farmington Hills Embroiders' Guild at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Faith

Covenant Church, 14 Mile & Drake. The project will be a three stitch bookmark. Call Michelle Sayers at (248) 348-1931.

## CLASSES

**Heart Basket Making**  
Make a heart shaped basket 7-9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 10 and 11 at the Heritage Park Studio. Call (248) 473-1857.

**Ballroom Dance**  
Learn how to Fox Trot 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 5 at the Costco Center in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 413-1800.

**Jewish Education**  
The Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield is offering new enrichment courses which include: *Kraiy Moga*, The Israeli Art of Self-Defense; *Confronting Angels in the Jewish Tradition*; and *Talmud Test for Our Times*. Classes begin Feb. 11 and run through March 13. Call (248) 432-5577.

**Cville Swim Classes**  
Clareville Community Education offers the following swim classes beginning in January: *Parent/Child Swim*; *Instructional Swim (K-5)*; *Water Aerobics*; and *Water Walking*. For more information, call (248) 473-8933.

**Tae Kwon Do**  
Clareville Community Education will offer a six-week Tae Kwon Do class for beginners and intermediates on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Feb. 6. For times and location call (248) 473-8933.

**Home Building**  
Learn how to protect yourself and your money when building your new home 6-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 28-Feb. 6 at the Farmington Community School. To register call (248) 489-3333.

## SUPPORT

**Headache Support**  
Providence Northwestern Medical Center in Farmington Hills offers a Headache Foundation Support Group at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month. Call (248) 258-1973.

## BUCK

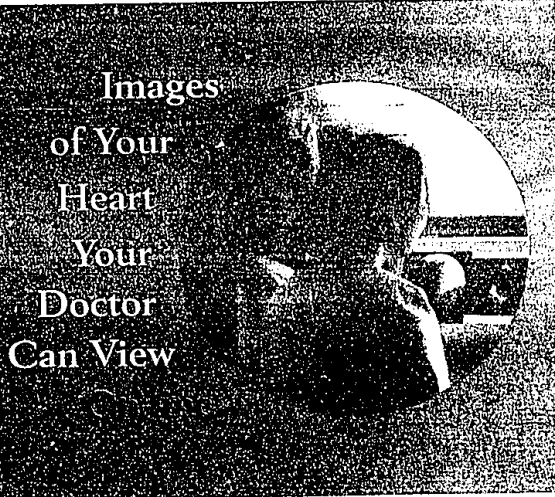
FROM PAGE C5  
Scout Troop 1820 from Lanigan Elementary School in Farmington Hills, Simmons had promised excitement. She was right. While watching the final elimination round of students

in the science auditorium, one, Sara Haller, rose to first place. I never met Sara before but I soon learned she attends St. Paul's Lutheran School in Farmington Hills.

As the schools reporter for Farmington and Farmington Hills, what could be better serving as both Question Master in an important event and having the state champion

right on my beat? It was a memorable day, for sure, and one I'm happy and proud to celebrate with a local school.

Sue Buck is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer. She covers the City of Farmington and the Farmington Public Schools district. Reach her at (248) 477-5450, via mail to 3341 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335, or by e-mail, sbuck@oe.homecomm.net.



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