

CROWLEY'S

the Farmington Enterprise & Observer

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Letters To The Editor

Trustee Defends YES Position

EDITOR:
The Observer edition of Feb. 26 contains an "analysis" purporting to prove that I am motivated by a desire to say, "I told you so," with respect to the YES program.

It is unfortunate that an elected representative of the residents of Farmington Township must write a letter to the editor to make his views known. Though my audience is limited at township meetings, you enjoy circulation and license to

editorialize at will so that your readers receive managed news rather than accurate and factual reporting.

At my insistence, two representatives of each of the funding groups were selected to review the various youth services and to make recommendations concerning a pooling of effort to reduce costs.

On Feb. 12 the committee's report was received by the township board and contained two positive recommendations.

1. That YES be placed under the Youth Assistance Program and that county funds be sought; and

2. That each funding group reevaluate YES.

Contrary to your reports, these recommendations, in my judgment, do not constitute an unqualified vote of confidence. I considered it my responsibility to ask questions about the program, its goals, its accomplishments and its direction. Your characterization of my

inquiries as "attacks" is not justified.

You reported that I "questioned" the qualifications of the director. Not until Saturday, Feb. 24, did I or any other member of the township board receive a resume of the director's background or experience, though it had been requested on numerous occasions.

On that same date, your newspaper carried the information. While I asked what the qualifications were, I could not "question" them since I did not have them.

The YES budget calls for \$26,000 of which \$18,000 is allocated for salaries and fringes. I am concerned about the cost to taxpayers and the possibility of increasing commitments to this program.

Township expenses are growing each year, yet you find fault with an official who asks questions when a program is presented for funding.

I have an obligation to question every expenditure of public funds and to compel

every proponent to justify costs. I will not be intimidated by those who use "kids" to forestall legitimate inquiry, nor will I be intimidated by a newspaper which seeks to live on its pages.

I am as concerned for our young people as any of the YES proponents, and my questions are directed toward the best program we can develop for them.

The report, in a footnote, discloses that 76 full time jobs were found, but at Dec. 31 only 37 young people were still on the job. How many were on the job on Feb. 28 and what was the cost of each job placement? I intend to continue my inquiries until we have all the answers.

FREDERICK LICHTMAN
Farmington Township Trustee

EDITOR'S NOTE: The steering committee, including representatives from the City of Farmington, the school district, the chamber of commerce -- but not Farmington Township -- met Feb. 29 and gave a vote of confidence to YES Director Claire Oriani. The committee apparently felt the "questions" asked by Trustee Lichtman during a one-hour speech at the Township Board the week before constituted an attack on the program and its director.

Stain over paint

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Girls Volleyball Ends Season

Both the varsity and junior varsity girls volleyball teams at Harrison High had perfect seasons this year, capturing the Western Six championship.

And the number of returning veterans assures a winning season next year as well. Coach Jill Turley said.

Opponents met during the eight-game season were Plymouth, Waterford Mott, Ann Arbor-Huron, Church Hill, North Farmington, Stevenson, Northville and Waterford Kettering.

Although a non-league game, the contest with Ann Arbor Huron proved one of the season's toughest. Miss Turley said, but the girls rallied for a victory.

Miss Turley commended

Cathy Bergman, varsity captain, and Maureen Loughlin, junior varsity captain, for dependability and coordinating efforts.

She also complimented Val Perry and Sue Champau, who served as managers, and Lori Tomiko who attended each game as linesman.

There were three seniors on the team this year: Miss Loughlin, Norine Nista on the varsity and Bonnie Babcock on the junior varsity.

Determination, and enthusiasm were increased after watching woman players in the Olympics. Miss Turley said, and the girls became eager to try new techniques they had seen demonstrated to improve individual and team play.

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