

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve

the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Home day care: It's a business

To the editor:
Most subdivisions have homeowners that unite and form homeowner associations to protect property rights, secure sound facts for future developments and monitor restrictions and changes occurring in their neighborhoods.

Some of these changes can have an effect on the whole city of Farmington Hills. We have such a potential change now.

The Farmington Hills City Council has asked the planning commission to propose amending the zoning ordinance to allow in-home child care in the RA-1 single-family-home zoning district.

This request of one Glenbrook Subdivision homeowner, Darlene Feldman of Minglewood Lane — who has been highly publicized in the newspapers, on TV and the Farmington Observer as a homeowner of Holly Hills subdivision — is a resident of Glenbrook subdivision.

Mrs. Feldman is determined to resist the city of Farmington Hills' present zoning ordinance restrictions for child care centers.

She was denied a zoning variance to offer an in-home child care business, which she has been operating in violation of the zoning ordinance for the past four years.

Now she has persuaded the city council to consider changing the zoning ordinance to accommodate her own requirements.

The planning commission had a study session on Jan. 22 and has plans for proposing a zoning ordinance amendment to let these child care businesses be established within the RA-1 zoning district.

This is a business, with an employee. It is profit-making.

The Glenbrook subdivision is 100 percent against any such zoning ordinance change. Holly Hills subdivision is the next sub north of the Glenbrook sub. It has a homeowners association and a lot of these residents are against any changes in the present zoning ordinance.

I would like to recommend that if you are a homeowner in the city of Farmington Hills, or if you are part of one of the subdivision associations, to petition your subdivision and put a stop to this zoning change proposal.

We already have provisions in the present zoning ordinance to take care of such encroachments.

The planning commission has called for a general assembly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the city hall, Orchard Lake and 11 Mile roads.

Petitions can be registered at the city clerk's office for presentation to the planning commission. Petitions should be registered before the general assembly meeting. Be sure you come to this meeting if you want to keep your present zoning ordinance from being changed.

Keep your property values up, don't let these businesses disrupt your neighborhood.

R.E. Hahn,
Farmington Hills

Speeders tarnish hometown charm

To the editor:

We are writing to support in its entirety Lee Peel's letter dated Jan. 15, 1987 regarding traffic in the city of Farmington.

We regularly walk, run, and bike around the city. We are constantly awed and appalled by the disregard most motorists have for the speed laws and pedestrian safety. Many of these drivers neither live nor shop in the city but are passing through at speeds well over the posted limit.

Presently, the city of Farmington still offers an alternative to suburban housing tracts and strip shopping centers. However, if steps, such as are recommended by Mr. Peel, are not taken to control those who speed through, our Farmington's smalltown essence will soon be past history.

Joan and Jim McGilley
Farmington

Don't forget—America first

To the editor:

Rebecca Haynes' article on the foreign exodus of American business ("Job Loss Least of Our Worries," Jan. 29) brings a question to mind regarding the administration's domestic policy.

If the Washington crowd would have told the people that its intent was to drive down the living standard and wages to the point where we could sell our goods overseas, do you think it would have ever come to power?

The president says that it just isn't possible to compete with the "slave wages" of the third world, but his policies of flooding the labor market, promoting the service sector, breaking unions and playing women for downward pressure on wages, is trying to do just that.

A global economy might be good for Wall Street, but for the average worker, it is a disaster. The average worker has to bear the brunt of Washington's social engineering.

If it came to a direct question of whether we should isolate ourselves with protective tariffs and maintain our standard of living or equalize our living standard with the rest of the world to sell overseas, then what would the people want?

There's no doubt, in my mind, that the people would say: "America first."

Thomas Sanceo,
Farmington Hills

Coach offers his apologies

To the editor:

A public apology to Ken Dersey — In the aftermath of a recent Harrison-Canton basketball game, which you officiated, certain comments were made by me which were unwarranted and undeserved. My comments

stemmed from four or five isolated plays in which I disagreed with the calls made.

Upon reviewing the game tape, I now realize that they were a minor part of the game in quantity and impact. Close scrutiny showed me that your intentions, integrity and the way you approached the game were entirely professional. I am convinced you gave both teams your best effort.

My comments had no place being for public consumption, and I apologize for my words of frustration.

Mike Teachman
varsity basketball coach
Harrison High School
Farmington Hills

What about gifted kids?

To the editor:

Your series of articles on the developmental kindergarten program conveys the impression that the Farmington school district is concerned about meeting the needs of a diverse group of children.

While it is wonderful that such a program exists for those who are slow to mature, what is there for those on the opposite end of the spectrum — the early bloomers and quick learners?

Aside from the one or two hours of "enrichment" offered per week, the Farmington "gifted program" exists in name only.

Compared with programs in other areas, very little is offered to the elementary and middle school age gifted child in the way of consistent, daily instruction at a faster paced level.

What a shame to push a child who is not ready. What a shame to fetter a child able to move full speed ahead.

Kristin Kaylor Richardson
Farmington Hills

Let's revamp kindergarten

To the editor:

I'd like an opportunity to amplify a remark of mine that was quoted in the Jan. 29 paper. My point was that if the kindergarten curriculum were designed to meet the needs and abilities of 5-year-olds, we would then not need developmental kindergarten programs.

Any curriculum that is unfit for over 15 percent of the class (a full 15 percent are in the Early Fives program, and many others are in another year of preschool in order to delay entry) is obviously in need of revision.

If current trends continue, can we expect last year's 51 percent increase in the number of children in early fives to result in nearly 200 kids being enrolled next year? A teacher of Early Fives in another district estimates that 20 percent of their kindergarteners are in Early Fives, and another 20 percent probably should be. These figures are staggering.

The advantages — economic, social and emotional — of having one kindergarten program that all children could attend comfortably are enormous. What is preventing us from realizing this?

There must be many reasons why we have allowed our kindergarten curriculum to go so far astray. But none that I've ever heard (and there are about a half-dozen popular ones currently in circulation) really has the child's best interests at heart.

I am encouraged that the board of education is addressing these issues. I hope that the board will ultimately decide to remove from our kindergartens the first-grade work that too many 5-year-olds are so clearly unable to handle.

Cynthia Zwilack
Farmington Hills

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