

points of view

# Clarenceville schools do measure up

The writer, Alan MacNeill, is a Farmington Hills resident.

I HAVE been watching and hearing about the controversy surrounding the Clarenceville School District for some time now. I have heard about the petition to dissolve the district, and I have heard the arguments for the dissolution. I have also spent my last six years in the district as a student, so I feel qualified to state my opinions.

The people who wish to dissolve the district have one main point. It is that the district cannot educate their children as well as a larger district. I would like to counter this point. I moved into Clarenceville just before beginning my seventh grade year.

At first, I felt that the small district would inhibit my educational

progress. Not so, I discovered that the high school's offerings more than allowed me to fill my schedule with classes that challenged my mind.

IN FACT, my senior year, generally accepted as a year in which students take classes such as banking, I have taken physics, advanced composition, world history, government and international relations, among my class selections.

There are those who believe that it is impossible to achieve in a small school like Clarenceville. I personally can refute that statement. Among my honors received are Observer-Eccentric Academic All-Star, National Merit Scholar, semifinalist in MSU's Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Competition and many other awards of academic excellence. I am not alone; many of my class-

## guest column

mates are attending prestigious colleges and universities on a scholarship of some sort.

Any disadvantage caused by the small size, such as the alleged lack of advanced coursework, is more than taken care of by the district. The district has a program where, if you have completed the work in a subject area, you can attend classes at a local community college, and the district will both give you high school credit and pay for the classes

you take.

In the last year, eight C'ville students utilized this offering in one way or another. One even acquired enough transferable credit to be classified as a second-semester freshman upon admittance to Northwestern University.

The small size has direct advantages also. If a student is into extracurricular activities, there is little competition for space, and almost no students are ever cut from a sport because of lack of skill. I myself was able to learn to play tennis on the school's team, without any outside lessons a feat unaccomplishable in a large school where you must have two years of experience to get a shot at a JV sport.

ACADEMICALLY, THE small size has incredible benefits. Top-of-

the-line classes are small, allowing for invigorating and instructional class discussions and debates. The administration is accessible. If you have a problem, you can see a counselor, or even the principal, with either no wait at all, or at most a very short wait.

In a large district, the board of education does not have the time to listen to students' concerns on issues.

In Clarenceville, students are able to go before the board with proposals, and state their opinions on important issues. When was the last time a student in Detroit went before the school board to argue against one of their proposals?

I have discovered that a small school is so great for an education that I have opted to attend a 500-student school in Illinois, over Michi-

gan State University, a decision that I never would have made six years ago.

If all of these benefits do not appeal to those who believe in dissolution of the district, there are other options. Private schools are acceptable, and if you insist on public education, then may I suggest that you move out of the district into the large school of your dreams. Don't go and screw up your district to appear yourselves.

Students want to attend Clarenceville. That fact is shown by the many students who entered the district from outside when a tuition plan was begun. Those students are remaining next year, even though the tuition is being drastically increased.

Alan MacNeill,  
Farmington Hills

## Suburbs, city indeed intertwined

WHETHER OR NOT Tom Barrow is the best candidate for mayor of Detroit is up for grabs. But he is on target in his conviction that "the suburbs and Detroit are inextricably intertwined."

But how to make the people of the suburbs realize that and care for and work for Detroit as they do for their own communities is the heart of the problem.

Barrow penetrated the suburbs Monday to both physically and verbally make his point.

In an interview over lunch at Cinopolls Restaurant in Farmington Hills, he said that the caring is there. Much of suburbia came from Detroit. "They care about that old neighborhood," Barrow insists.

And "it's not just white people, there are tremendous numbers of blacks who have left Detroit."

BARROW SAYS:

- "They may live in Birmingham, but they work at that law firm in Detroit — or they own property there."
- "Even though you live in Southfield, you've got a stake in what happens a half mile away."
- "Every single (suburban) mayor or has a stake, whether it's the water or sewer systems. They can all think they're an island, but they're not."

As a former northwest Detroit



Judith Doner Berne

and Mumfords High School graduate, I agree that the caring is there. It is reassuring that my old Sherwood Forest neighborhood is intact as far as its homes.

But Livernois and Seven Mile Road, which used to be known as the Avenue of Fashion, could hardly be called that today. And people no longer move to Sherwood Forest so their children can attend Hampton and Durfee and Mumford. Those children, now parents themselves, want Lone Pine, West Hills and Andover. And those with school-age children in Sherwood Forest send them off to private and parochial schools.

All that's upsetting.

BARROW WOULD play on that nostalgia in reaching out to bridge the gulf between Detroit and its suburbs.

He says he wants to bring back Washington Boulevard which once was flanked by two grand hotels,

with posh stores in between. He wants not just a riverfront or a Grecktown or a Fox Theatre, but a viable shopping, entertainment, business district connecting them.

But nostalgia and caring from afar is not enough. Detroit no longer reflects what suburbanites want. To change that, whites must be brought back into Detroit's political system.

Barrow understands that, although he says blacks who subscribe to this are called Uncle Toms, while whites who say it are labeled racists.

But there is no doubt that suburban Detroiters, black and white, must buy into Detroit's plight and make it their own if the city is to come back.

DETROIT MUST be made crime-free, drug-free and its schools brought up to snuff, then businesses and people will move back and there will be the press from the suburbs — not just the city — for a safe, clean, efficient public transportation system to get to this dynamic city.

Cities which are viable have diverse populations, and leadership which reflects that. And that goes for suburbs too.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor for the Oakland County Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

## Give gift of life today — blood

IT'S A BLOODY shame more people don't give when the American Red Cross calls.

Those calls by the Observer & Eccentric were called upon this week. Things had just started to slow down as I entered the "bloodmobile" set up in a conference room at our corporate offices in Livernois Monday. "All the beds have been full until now," one nurse said.

They were still not pleased about the brief relief. They would have preferred a steady flow of people — and blood.

Nurses said they were hoping for donations of 40 pints during our annual blood drive. They had to have a minimum of 30 in order to come back next year. By 1 p.m. they had 21 pints. It looked promising.

I'VE ONLY recently been able to donate blood because of a decent iron content and a few added points. I tried in college and a few times thereafter — it was no go. Finally, I tried again last year and got the green light. Iron was good, weight was OK, and they told me my donation was done in "record time."

Then the ultimate fear of any first-time donor came true — just as I began to enjoy the free juice and cookies, I fainted.

"So what?" I thought this year as I made the appointment. Maybe I'll



Casey Hans

"People have to realize that there's no other source for this medicine."

— Red Cross official

need an ice pack and more rest time than the others. Things got a little queasy, but I didn't faint and the outcome was worth it.

The Red Cross had another pint of blood for someone in need, and I was proud to give.

THE RED CROSS needs 1,000 pints of blood per day for the Detroit area. "The bottom line for any blood drive is the community," one regional representative said. "People have to realize that there's no other source for this medicine."

The Red Cross is fast entering a slow period for blood donations, which will continue throughout the summer for Oakland, Wayne, Washington and St. Clair counties.

Noreen Peterson of the Red Cross public affairs office puts the effort in perspective: A three-day supply of O-positive blood is 820 pints, of which the Red Cross currently has 253 on the shelf. A three-day supply of O-negative blood is 203 pints. "We have 35," she said.

The issue really hit home for me last year when my mother was hospitalized shortly before she died. I watched the massive amounts of blood needed to stabilize her condition, thought about the highly publicized blood shortage and knew it was time for me to do my part.

Peterson suggests to those of us who are queasy, to consider those we are helping. "Think about the patient who's going to benefit from it," she said.

She tells of a woman who had complications from a pregnancy and needed 170 pints of blood. "Thanks to 170 people, she was able to go home to her baby and her family," Peterson said.

How about you? A person can give blood every eight weeks, but no more than five times in a year.

To make an appointment to donate, call 494-2800. Companies and other groups that want to set up a drive can call 494-2780.

Casey Hans is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer.

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## Same idea. 746 more horses.

Perhaps Charlton Heston cut a more imposing figure during the chariot race in Ben-Hur.

But drivers like Danny Sullivan, Bobby Rahal and Al Unser, Jr., will make the competition just as exciting at this year's

Valvoline Detroit Grand Prix. Because a \$100,000 prize for the winner is a better incentive for a good race than a visit to the lions for the losers. And the chariots are a lot more interesting because they're powered by a few more horses.

So get your tickets now and set aside June 16-18 for the fastest action this side of the Coliseum.

Valvoline

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Valvoline

Friday is FREE PRIZ DAY. Watch the action from a grandstand seat (except A, B, or C) or walk the general admission areas.	General Admission - Access to circuit except for grandstands and other designated areas.	Motor City Club - A unique way to attend the race: A seat in Grandstand F combined with a hospitality tent featuring beer, wine and a cold buffet lunch Saturdays and Sundays. The Walk and Paddock tours included.
3-Day Pass - Grandstands A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ.		

Free Prix Day courtesy of Hudson's