

points of view

More letters to the editor

Candidates' views useful

To the editor:
I am writing to thank you for the article you ran stating the answers to questions of the candidates for Farmington Hills City Council.
This will probably be my only exposure to the candidates and I used it to make my decision of who to vote for.
I read through each candidates answer with a pen, marking those answers that seemed well-informed and intelligent. I crossed out those answers that were ill-informed or vague.

rights have been violated, yet he allows a group that violates other's constitutional rights, as well as do great bodily harm, to walk with him in his "peace" march.
This is our city, we have a moral and ethical obligation to uphold this community. What has Mr. Success done for Farmington besides scream harassment and lack of support from the city, police, church, neighbors and friends?
We must be willing to give of ourselves to this community before we have the right to complain and spend the taxpayers' money to promote our own wants and needs.

Jana A. Clay,
Ted Clay,
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Milewski,
Farmington

Strive to uphold city

To the editor:
We would like to take this opportunity to comment on 1) the Oct. 15 peace rally for racial harmony held in the city of Farmington, 2) the city's public safety department and 3) Mr. Derwin Success.
First, we would like to commend and applaud the Farmington Department of Public Safety for its attitude and protection during, before and after the rally. These men and women serving as our civil servants were professional, courteous and helpful. Having their presence let those of us attending the rally have a sense of security while maintaining safety, while some people exercised their constitutional rights to freedom of expression.

Ben Marks: hypocritical

To the editor:
After watching Ben Marks at a candidates night on Channel 12 and reading his campaign literature, I find it quite hypocritical that he would spout his virtues as a Farmington Hills City Council candidate.

Perhaps Farmington Hills voters will remember transgressions committed by Mr. Marks while serving as mayor. As your newspaper reported, Mr. Marks took advantage of his position in the city to stall payment of a sewer hook-up fee on an office building developed by his company. In doing so, he put city employees in awkward and unfair positions.

Even more contemptuous is the slap in the face this represents to the rest of us who would never consider, or be able to get away with, something like this.

Mr. Marks speaks of his proven ability and effectiveness as a councilman. His ability and effectiveness are not in question. However, it seems his sincerity and ethics are quite questionable.

Carol MacCauley,
Farmington Hills

Over the past few months, our city has received a lot of bad publicity in reference to this march. Claims of harassment and lack of support from the city, as well as no confidence in our fine police force. Mr. Success, a Farmington resident, made these comments.

Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.
Letters should be mailed to: Editor, Farmington Observer, 35203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

Put boundaries back in spotlight

TIME WAS when school boundaries couldn't have been more important.

Just two years ago, the topic was most important for hundreds of parents here. Now, it seems to have taken a back seat to other news in our community this fall. A controversial peace march, liquor stings, city zoning issues and council races in both cities seem to have captured all the headlines.

It's time to put the boundary issue back where it belongs — at the top of everyone's agenda.
Possible attendance areas for the new Hillside Elementary School, and how any plans might affect other elementary boundaries, is the topic at hand.

A GROUP of dedicated volunteers has met weekly since mid-September, slaving over population projections, building figures, growth projections and other numbers, trying to determine what is best for our little ones who are just starting out in life. They have toured key areas of the district by bus and have read



Casey Hans

through and mulled over a multitude of numbers.

They plan to get your feedback and feelings during a public meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at Power Middle School. Then it will be several weeks of discussion and fine-tuning before they take a proposed plan to the school board Tuesday, Dec. 5.

RESIDENTS WHO participated in the 1987-88 boundary study are still smarting from the community slap in the face they received in proposing some major elementary boundary shifts. Hundreds of parents showed up to voice their displeasure with the proposal, which would have

shifted elementary students all over the district.

It wasn't all bad. Part of the proposal included building an elementary school, now under way at the Hillside site on 11 Mile, east of Halsted. The problem was that there was little public say before the plan was submitted. By that time, it had snowballed into a "secrecy" issue. They scheduled public meetings to get input — and very few people attended.

This time around, the boundary group has again sought public opinion at meetings and in writing, has opened its study sessions to anyone interested and is trying to do the best job for the community at large.

THEY ARE considering several options, including:
• Choosing students for Hillside Elementary without regard to other schools;
• Choosing students for Hillside and adjusting other affected school boundaries

• Choosing students for Hillside and adjusting other school boundaries with a "neighborhood school" viewpoint; and
• Evaluating boundaries of all elementary schools relating to music, science, art computers and other enhanced curriculum areas.

What do you think? What are your concerns? Subgroups in each of these research areas will give their thoughts at the November public meeting. They welcome yours, too.

IT'S A given that not everyone, everywhere, will be satisfied with the outcome. But good discussion will generate an outcome that will be best for most students.

Be at Power Middle School Nov. 16 to offer your viewpoint — or you will have nothing to say when the group offers its preferred option in December.

Casey Hans is a staff writer for the Farmington Observer.

Going the speed limit: It can save lives

DON'T SPEED in Pennsylvania, Mom.

Those were my daughter's parting words as last weekend I prepared to fly to Washington, D.C., to drive with my mother from there to her birthplace of Cleveland.

My daughter knew of what she spoke. She had been stopped over the Labor Day weekend on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, where the officer only gave her a warning — which obviously worked — and let her drive on.

But Pennsylvania isn't the only state where police enforce and motorists adhere to the speed limit. Driving through Maryland and Ohio, there was no one going more than 5 miles over the limit — generally considered to be within the non-tickable limits.

In both Maryland and Pennsylvania, posted speeds were 55 mph. Only in Ohio, did the limit go up to 65. And signs were posted all along. YOU, SLOW DOWN! or WE TICKET FOR EXCESSIVE SPEED.

Both by reputation and by those postings, they scare the dickens out of you. And you simply obey.

BY CONTRAST, Michigan has no such reputation for being tough on speeders, although individual communities may on the roads within their towns.

In Birmingham, Cranbrook and Lincoln roads near Seaborn High School are particularly well monitored. And, don't drive speedily on



Judith Doner Berne

Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, or be prepared for the consequences. That also goes for Hines Drive running through western Wayne County.

But tell me, when was the last time you drove within 5 miles of the speed limit on our state's highways — except in jammed traffic?

It's a paradox that Michigan, the home of America's auto industry, generally doesn't enforce its free-way speed limits. It would seem to go hand-in-hand with the crackdown on drunk driving, but it doesn't.

If you aren't going 70 on the newly-reconstructed 55 mph I-696 through Farmington Hills, forget it. And don't dare to take up space in the fast lane of 275 as you drive the stretch from Novi to Livonia or you will be honked over or passed on the right.

Police failure to enforce the speed limits has further repercussions. It signals our residents, that other traffic laws can be broken too. A yellow light, for instance, at one time meant stop because it's going to turn red.

If you aren't going 70 on the newly-reconstructed 55 mph I-696 through Farmington Hills, forget it.

Now, it seems to mean to many people — try and get through before it turns red.

WE'VE HAD three recent fatal accidents in the suburbs we cover in which five of our residents were killed:

• On Oct. 2, Eileen Brown, 17, of Rochester Hills, was killed when the car in which she was riding was hit by another on five-lane Rochester Road at Avon. Her fellow students and other residents are demanding that Rochester Road be made safer.

• On Oct. 6, Karl Hockema, 19, and Bruce Brogan, 20, both of Beverly Hills were killed crossing Telegraph and 14 Mile Road by a car driven by a 22-year-old Bloomfield Township man who has now been arraigned on a manslaughter charge. Franklin police have suggested the driver ran a red light and that excessive speed was involved.

• On Oct. 10 in Livonia, Frank DiTrapani, 66, and his wife, Helene, 59, were hit broadside and killed as

they attempted to make a left hand turn from Plymouth Road onto Jughandle Road. The oncoming car was driven by a 30-year-old Farmington man, whom police have not yet identified. Bad weather may have contributed.

WHATEVER THE causes, five people unnecessarily died.

Some accidents will happen. But failure to enforce our free-way speed limits sets a tone for careless driving. And we, as citizens, should demand stepped up enforcement from the state police, who are charged with it.

The next time you are stopped for excessive speed, don't be angry — be thankful.

We want children to say to their parents, "Don't speed in Michigan."

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

When it's a lot worse than just a scraped knee.

We all hope that nothing serious ever happens to our child, but if it does, the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan Medical Center is ready with expert help.

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M-CARE
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Of course, with the M-CARE network of hospitals in cities like Royal Oak, Dearborn and Rochester, you don't always have to go to the U of M Medical Center. But isn't it good to know it's there whenever you need it? To find out more, ask your employer. Or call M-CARE at 747-8700.

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