

points of view

Those many noise complaints have merit

By W.C. Short
special writer

The writer of an Oct. 22 letter concerning noise at the Community Center condemned a "self-centered Johnny-come-lately" and your newspaper for "negative media publicity" attributed to the Community Center and director Pfaff.

Unfortunately the writer is another misinformed victim of the Community Center's pleas for public support in turning what used to be a highly dignified landmark in our community into a raucous, unsupervised party place and mini Pine Knob.

Please allow me to set the record straight by stating some true and easily verifiable facts:

- Among the "Johnny-come-latelys" that live in the immediate vicinity of the Community Center and complain most about the noise, are residents who have lived here 35, 34, 22, 18 and five years.

- Beginning with the summer of 1988, the Community Center held 12 amplified outdoor performances and at least an equal number of weddings with dance bands that played until midnight by Community Center permission.

- The summer of 1989, the Community Center scheduled 22 amplified outdoor performances and at least a dozen weddings with dance bands, most of which played past midnight. Some of the musical performances began practice with amplifiers as early as 4 p.m. for a performance scheduled at 7 p.m.

guest column

- On Aug. 23, 1989, director Pfaff was charged with "Disturbing The Peace" when a rock group scheduled called "Ash Can Van Gogh," a group of drums and electric guitars, were judged by police as "disturbing the peace."

- On Nov. 16, 1989, the Farmington Hills Planning Commission, after testing sound levels at the site and making an in depth study of complaints, restricted the Community

Center to no outdoor amplification.

- On April 16, 1990, the 47th District Court restricted the Community Center activities upon the recommendation of a city council ad hoc committee resolution.

- In the spring and summer of 1990, the complaining neighbors and "Johnny-come-latelys" enjoyed as reprieve from the din of amplified outdoor practices, drums and horns, as the Community Center, under Court restriction, began a sizeable indoor remodeling program.

- Hardly had the remodeling been completed when on July 24, in came the "Raging Lumberjacks," raging until near midnight. They raged so convincingly in fact, that the police issued a ticket to the Community Center for "Disorderly Per-

son, Responsibility for Same" at 11:45 p.m.

SEVERAL OTHER similar complaints are on file with the police department. How long can the Community Center neighbors endure these offensive activities obviously condoned by the Community Center.

We believe there is a place for the highly amplified music of the "Ash Can Van Goghs," the "Raging Lumberjacks," and loud wedding dance bands, but not in any residential neighborhood, especially at midnight.

As concerned neighbors, who have lived here before the Community Center was ever born, we would ask the Women of North Farmington to prevail upon the Community Center

management to consider cultural programs that will enhance the dignity of a precious gift to our community, not destroy it. Mrs. Lumea Goodenough would like that. So would Ellie Spicer.

We are shocked that your group would take a position that would deprive us of our right to the same peace and quiet in our residential neighborhood that you enjoy in yours, and which we enjoyed before the Community Center management and conservative programming changed.

W.C. Short, a 35-year resident of Farmington Hills, filed the original complaint about noise at The Farmington-Farmington Hills Community Center.

from our readers

Change is needed in 15th District

To the editor:
Perhaps I did not clearly state my point in a recent press release addressing my concern over taxpayer funded newsletters sent out by the 15th District's incumbent senator.

My point is not to cry over "spilled milk" and complain about his advantages as an incumbent. I have been successful in raising the funds needed to compete with him. Rather, the issue under discussion is one of the major points of my campaign — providing responsible representation that reflects the priorities of the "outsiders."

I am the candidate that knows the difference between a tax dollar wisely spent and a tax dollar wasted. Four publicly funded newsletters sent out before the election are taxpayer dollars wasted.

If elected, the citizens of this district can expect better from me. I will not use tax dollars to promote my incumbency. Let the citizens and the media be the judge and hold me

accountable.
As the Observer/Eccentric wisely points out, this is a campaign of many important issues including property tax reform, quality education, safer neighborhoods, and a cleaner environment.

Nonetheless, accountability in government is equally as important. The current incumbent has served for 26 years, but as is the case with many incumbents, it is time for a change.

Denise Alexander,
candidate for State Senate,
Southfield

Faxon is his choice

To the editor:
As a member of the Farmington Hills City Council, I have found that our municipality is not an island, that we must deal with public officials at all levels of government, local, county, state and national to carry out our responsibilities to the citizens of our city.

In the three years that I have been on the city council, I have found that as an elected official serving our

community, state Sen. Jack Faxon, has been most responsive to our city's needs at the state level and has frequently used his position of leadership in the State Legislature to Farmington Hills' benefit.

For example, just last week Faxon reported to the Farmington Hills City Council that he had been successful in convincing the State Highway Department to double the height of the noise barrier along the I-696 expressway, something we had been trying to do since the extra lanes were added to the road.

Faxon also won an appropriation for lighting the 13-Mile-Orchard Lake interchange thus improving the safety of that major traffic point. He has also helped obtain state grants for Heritage Park and the Warner museum as well as leading the fight against the recent state take-away of local school funds.

I have found Faxon very responsive to requests for support for legislation that will benefit our city and school district. As a resident of Farmington Hills, Faxon is easily accessible and takes part in numerous community activities.

As one of a small group of senators who serve on the Appropriations Committee, Faxon is in a position to

fight for Farmington Hills' needs in such areas as road funding, senior and cultural activities, school funding and obtaining grants for parks and recreation.

I would hope that between now and Nov. 6 you would consider the information contained in this letter and come to the same conclusion as I did that Faxon, by his service to our city of Farmington Hills, deserves to be re-elected.

Aldo Vagozzi,
Farmington Hills

Democrats are better, reader says

To the editor:
This election year, the voters of Farmington/Farmington Hills have a choice on the ballot.

The Republicans offer a litany of promises, more spending with little fiscal reality. Remember "Read my Lips!" Governor Blanchard, Sen. Carl Levin and the Democratic ticket offer area voters a proven record of balanced state budgets, a rebuilt

highway system, more prisons, educational excellence from preschool to our great colleges.

The Democratic Party is on your side. When you go to the polls election day, vote for honesty and integrity. Vote Democratic.

Michael Bresnold,
chairman,
Farmington Democratic Club

Another vote for Faxon

To the editor:
Our State Sen. Jack Faxon should be applauded for the consistently positive, upbeat tone of his campaign.

While his opponent in recent weeks has stooped to smear tactics which have characterized the 1990 elections in Michigan, Faxon has stressed his positions on the issues we care about, and his impressive achievements for the citizens of Oakland County.

Faxon has clearly elevated the debate taking place in my mailbox. Marie Steckloff,
Farmington Hills

Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.

That's why the Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy. Letters should be typewritten or printed legibly and kept to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include the address of the sender.

Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

A CLEAR CASE OF GENIUS

The clean, elegant lines of the calla lily are captured forever in a breathtaking vase by celebrated Hoya master artist Toshio Sugawara.

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