

from our readers

Thanks for recognition

To the editor:

The From Our Readers section in the Farmington Observer is the only public way I can express my appreciation to Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson, City Manager Robert Deadman, Planning Commission Chairman James Mitchell, the commission members and my children for their thoughtfulness and cooperation in the process of giving me a "community spirit" recognition prior to the regular commission meeting on April 8.

It was a wonderful occasion in every way except for the absence because of illness of my wife, Rita, who also for many years in many ways has served our community.

We both do care for our community of Farmington, and it has cared for us.

William L. Burke,
Farmington

Government not all things to all people

To the editor:

An open letter to the City Council of Farmington Hills:

One aspect of the planned expanded recreation facilities the city wishes to provide, specifically the 20 or more soccer fields for adults, and numerous baseball fields, is that of liability responsibility and the consequent lawsuits that may result.

Is the city prepared to hold all taxpayers citizens liable for ever increasing taxes to pay off the burden of maintaining hazardous sports facilities? The city has the responsibility of addressing this potential increased burden and to so advise its citizens.

Procuring expensive land, developing and maintaining it for recreation, it seems to me, to be a function best provided by private enterprise. The City is removing land from the tax base, and is in direct competition with private business. It is assuming a function which actually is each individual's expense — that of recreation.

It is not government's function to

play the role of benefactor, distributing public money to satisfy clamor by a few. Government cannot be all things to all people in all aspects of living.

Increasingly, governments have sought to become sugar daddies, taking responsibility for everyone from cradle to grave. Are we in a position to keep providing more and more recreation to fulfill each one's demands?

Public soccer fields and parks can be used by everyone from the entire metro area, but only homeowners in Farmington Hills will be accepting responsibility to maintain them.

If a survey were taken, it would undoubtedly show that a very small percentage of us desire those kind of sports facilities. Soccer fields may be the rage today but can result in being white elephants tomorrow, left to be maintained by tax dollars forever whether used or not.

Historically, the true role of government is to oversee a lawful society within its borders, providing a safe environment in which to live and enjoy life according to our own abilities to provide it.

On the horizon are yet other major projects for homeowners to fund. That of a new library and a new court house, both we presume, to be monuments to the spending habits of the city government.

Olga F. Onisko,
Farmington Hills

Trees nice; so is power

To the editor:

In reply to your editorial of April 11: Is Edison a tree lover or hater? I really don't care, but I like having electricity.

It is cold and dark without it. Food spoils. People get sick. We need it. After suffering far too many power outages, I say let Edison cut the trees that interfere with the wires. It is important to have electricity.

Let's get along with the company bringing us this important commodity. Some trees are suitable for planting near electrical wires — others are not. Let's get educated and enjoy the best of both worlds.

In Oakland County we live on land that was all forest about 170 years ago. If no one cut the trees we couldn't live here.

Trees grow. Plant some compatible with our needs.

I like gardens and trees, bushes and wild flowers. I also like electricity bringing heat, light and refrigeration.

Let Edison come and bring us the best they have to offer.

Ruth Moehman,
Farmington Hills

Our court is 'chaos,' reader says

To the editor:

The 47th District court is nothing short of chaos.

I was with my son and another witness who had been subpoenaed to appear at a criminal misdemeanor jury trial at 2 p.m. April 8. We arrived in a timely manner, signed in and were told to wait at the end of the hall for pre-trial conferences with the city attorneys. In this case, the Farmington Hills attorney.

We got in a long line with attorneys and others, waiting to see the attorney. The hallway was full of people on chairs on one side, enough to seat a small fraction of the people waiting in the hallway.

We waited and we waited. Finally, after about an hour and a half of no word, no one telling the people in the hallway anything, we heard that the city attorney was at a conference.

We were just left hanging there. Talk about lack of organization. Finally, either the city attorney or a substitute showed up and began seeing people in the lobby.

When we finally got to see him, in no particular order or semblance of order, he told us in a manner of civility, that the defendant did not show up and had no attorney.

That was all the information he offered. We had been waiting since June 17, 1990, for this case to come to trial. We took off work at our own expense and were dismissed as if there were nothing important going on here.

I pressed him for information. He said a bench warrant would be issued for the defendant, but he would not be picked up unless he was local. This particular defendant was the first of three young men to be tried in an unprovoked beating of my son.

In fact, the city attorney didn't seem to know anything about the case, even though I had called him about it a week earlier. That's what I call disorder and chaos.

How about some order in the courthouse and maybe a couple of additional judges to handle the overload. Isn't there any rule of discipline?

Kenneth Kemp,
Farmington Hills

A 'yes' vote for millage

To the editor:

I would like to encourage the residents of Farmington Hills to support the 0.5 mills parks millage renewal by voting yes at the polls on May 7.

This will cost about \$40 per average home per year, and it will provide \$10 million over eight years. Half of the money is earmarked for the purchase of land for use as ball fields, recreational facilities and family parks.

Failure of the city to purchase land for public use will likely result in the commercial development of all available undeveloped land, a prospect that is disturbing to me. The remainder of the money generated will be used to improve and maintain existing park facilities.

Finally, while there were numerous reasons for the voters to reject the library and school millages there are no obvious reasons to vote no for this millage.

Roy S. Sundick,
Farmington Hills

Leaders make girl scouting a possibility

To the editor:

All over your city, young girls are meeting once a week in a Girl Scout troop. These girls are having valuable experiences as they learn about themselves and their world. They are learning to make responsible, informed decisions and to give service to others. These girls are of many different races, religions and cultural backgrounds. Their Girl Scout experiences will have a positive impact on their future. Many girls will never forget their Girl Scout troops or their Girl Scout leaders.

Without leaders, there would be no Girl Scouting. The programs and experiences of Girl Scouting are possible only because these adult volunteers are willing to give their time and energy to girls. Girl Scout leaders are required to take specialized training before they can lead a troop, and they give many, many hours a week to provide quality programs for today's girls.

Monday, April 22 has been designated Girl Scout Leader Day. There are many leaders in your own community that deserve our appreciation. They do so much for the community year-round, and during this time of the year, we ask everyone to help us thank the Girl Scout leaders.

Please lend your support in showing appreciation for these remarkable volunteers.

The Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council, the community and the girls they lead want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to Girl Scout leaders! Because of them, all our lives are enriched.

Wendy A. Hanson,
communications coordinator
Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council

All have right to freedoms

To the editor:

I've read your article on March 28 concerning censorship etc. in high school papers. Please permit me to comment.

I was a high school journalism student at Edwin Denby High in the very early '40s and on the Denby Log staff, the school's newsletter. The editor of course was a teacher who supervised. I was always interested in writing about something or other and when I did, I usually researched the subject as well as I could.

I was editor of a VFW post newsletter for over 15 years, and received many awards including a rare one, the VFW National Award for Excellence. Today I am the patriotic instructor for the Department of Michigan VFW and I have a column in this paper, the Michigan Overseas Veteran.

I give you this background not to be boastful, but to let you know that I've had censorship applied to me as well, and this is what I've learned to accept.

As far as the students are concerned, they will have to learn that along with freedom of the press and speech that they are so concerned

with for themselves, they must also allow this right to exist on the campus for those who would like to promote military ROTC programs, and it is they who are attempting to forbid this.

I would have to say the military censorship is a form of martial law. When American lives are involved, we don't need blabbermouths in the news media spilling the beans and showing American soldiers bleeding to death, in living color, even before the folks at home have been informed that this has happened to their loved one. You have to be reasonable, this is not a Rambo movie.

If World War II had been covered by the media as it was during the Vietnam War, I wonder what the reaction would have been if the American people suddenly realized that in less than four years we were to lose nearly 400,000 men as opposed to the 55,000 lost in a spread of 10 years.

Ray Keadar,
Patriotic instructor VFW
Livonia

Proud of this recycled paper

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to applaud your newspaper being produced with 30 percent recycled paper. Someday soon I hope other newspaper companies will follow your lead.

I am proud to deliver your paper!
Benett H. Holman,
Birmingham

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

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Mitchell Makes Music

ON CUSTOMER AS CELEBRITY
My philosophy is simple: that the client must be pleased with my work. That's why I've never submitted to the "designer as celebrity" syndrome. The customers are the celebrities. Designers are just here to serve them.

ON PERSONAL STYLE
Being a client-oriented designer, I've always done what's right for the client. I've designed for many different types of clients and have always enjoyed the challenge of creating a unique design for each client.

ON CHALLENGING PROJECTS
My most challenging projects are those involving large commercial spaces. I've designed for many different types of clients and have always enjoyed the challenge of creating a unique design for each client.

ON WHAT DESIGNERS CAN DO
I don't mind people saying they don't design today. They're not only saying that, but they're also saying that they don't have the time or money to do it. I don't mind people saying that. I don't mind people saying that. I don't mind people saying that.

ON USING MICHIGAN DESIGN CENTER
The Michigan Design Center is a place where you can find everything you need for your business. It's a place where you can find everything you need for your business. It's a place where you can find everything you need for your business.

John Mitchell, ASID
Interior Designer

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