

POINTS OF VIEW

Readers call to tear down temple sign

Readers were asked to call The Farmington Observer and tell what they thought of the new green sign near the Masonic Temple at Grand River and Farmington Road. Here are some of the responses:

"I think the sign is absolutely awful. It does not fit in with the historical feeling we're trying to create in downtown Farmington. I'm happy to see this number so I can express my opinion to somebody. Thank you."

"The sign is ugly and I'm disgusted that taxpayers' money was used. To throw out \$3,200 . . ."

"I like the sign. It's very interesting, but I'm not sure it fits there. I don't know what the sign is supposed to do . . . I don't know why it's there. It might fit better in a nature center or some place like that. I don't even know that they needed this sign there. But I guess the bigger issue to me is the ugly brick they used to make that flower bed. I guess I object to that more than I do the sign. I'm wondering if these people have ever gone around to some areas like Northville or Plymouth or Washington, D.C., or anywhere where they've done some beautiful things with public areas, and not spent a ton of money. It seems like in Farmington, as much as I love this town, they just can't seem to get it right. Things just don't fit. And this brick is an example and so is this sign. There's something about this sign that just doesn't tie in. I feel for these people. I know it's hard to make these decisions, because you can't please everybody. But, on the other hand, was this stone on sale or what? It is so darn ugly. I'm not sure how you go about getting things that fit in better in our town. I wish I knew. If I knew, I'd be on the committee and I'd be trying to decide."

"I think it's degrading to downtown Farmington. I think that whole planter looks awful. Why not a nice cream and mauve sign, something like that? You used the right word — it's garish, absolutely garish. They should pay someone to take it down."

"That has got to be the ugliest thing I have ever seen. Our town is going downhill, downhill. Take it down and throw it away. How about something nice in wood that tells when we were founded. That sign looks like it belongs in some hick town in the U.P."

"It is ugly, ugly, ugly. Get rid of it."

"I think it's horrible. The corner did not need a sign in the first place. The sign they've put up does not reflect the era of the Masonic Temple. It should be an old-looking sign, maybe brick or wood. It's terrible. It's very out of place."

"To begin with, they went and put in the brick for the landscaping, and it doesn't match the brick in the Masonic Temple. That was their first mistake. Now they've got this hideous sign that doesn't match anything. Whoever is doing all this is not doing a good job. And another thing, I don't like those stupid banners hanging. It looks like we're always getting ready for a festival. Come on! Go out to Northville and look around! You guys are missing it."

"I think that (sign) belongs in Heritage Park on the north boardwalk down by the swamp. It looks out of place where it is. Thank you."

"I've been a Farmington resident since 1957, and I've been very proud of downtown Farmington. But that sign is absolutely the most unattractive, unartistic thing I've ever seen. We have lots of garden clubs in Farmington that could give advice to the Masonic Temple on putting up an appropriate sign and how to do that corner. I hope it does get improved. Thank you."

"I'm very disappointed and very sad that Farmington has to look that corner consistently. There was nothing wrong with it. If it isn't broken, don't fix it. I wish they'd find some other use for \$3,200. Thank you."

"My opinion of the sign? It reminds me of something that would be hanging up in a Kindergarten. A child could have done a

better job than what they've put at that corner. It's very, very garish and unsightly. Thanks for letting me say my opinion."

"I don't like it. I don't think it's very attractive. I think the corner was better before they put this new thing in. It was much prettier before."

"There's absolutely nothing that I like about the sign or about the planting area that they've put on that corner. It seems as though they could have done something to enhance the community and maybe provided a place for people to gather. Maybe something like a music gazebo or pavilion. Northville has one. What we have now shows poor planning and poor use of money."

"I'm not really happy with the looks of the sign. I don't think the wood around it matches anything. It should be white or brown or something. And the frog and the butterfly and grasshopper really don't mean anything as far as Farmington's concerned. Thank you. Bye."

"I think the sign is cheesy-looking and it's an afterthought since the original idea of putting a clock up there was canceled. I think more thought should have gone into really what the area needs . . . maybe some sort of a plaque. Have a good day."

"It's ridiculous. It's not the image that anyone thinks Farmington should have. I think it should be taken down immediately."

"I think it's totally out of character with the novelty and charm of our town. I am a Farmington resident, living in Old Downtown, and I think it's terrible. I think they should have done something more with the theme of the age of the town. Thank you."

"The sign would look nice in front of a nature center. It is not appropriate for the middle of downtown Farmington. It's almost as bad a choice as the fountain at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake."

"I think it's not fitting for the city. I think overall it's a negative. Thank you."

"I do not appreciate it. It gives the impression that the city of Farmington is sponsoring or is significantly associated with the Masons. Thank you."

"Hi. I think the sign is hokey and tacky. The colors are bilious, and it looks like something the kindergarten kids might do for a hall mural in their school. Bye, bye."

"Our household feels that it's the most obnoxious sign that has ever been placed in Farmington. I prefer the way the corner looked before. It's not in keeping with the Masonic Temple. I don't know who designed it. Our friends who have gone by it have said it's the most obnoxious thing they've ever seen."

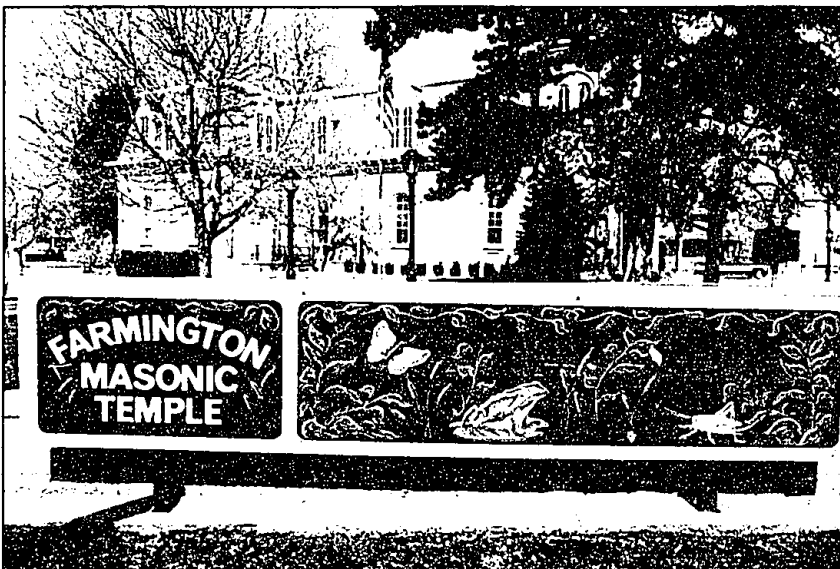
"I was very disappointed. They had a chance to put up something that would look good on the corner, and they put up an ugly structure that doesn't match the surrounding area. It's just gaudy. It should be taken out immediately and whoever is responsible for it should be run out of town."

"Hi there. I don't think it's too bad, but it doesn't fit. It doesn't blend in with the environment of the corner. It's just a little way out."

"I can't stand it. I'm so disappointed. I'm very excited about the center area and how they're renovating everything. But the sign is totally out of place and garish and inappropriate to the town. I'm really sorry about it, especially if it cost all that money. Mistakes like these happen. But it is a mistake and it should be changed."

"Hi. I'm so glad you ran this story on this sign. It has really bothered me. I hate this sign. I think it looks tacky. That kind of hokey, tacky sign should not be allowed on the main street of our city. I hope someone can do something about getting it replaced."

"I think the sign is ugly. It's out of place for that corner. That's it."



Sign sinking: Farmington residents pretty much panned the new sign near the Masonic Temple.

"I think the sign matches the plastic penguins (part of a recent display at that corner) perfectly. But I think they're both too gaudy to be used around here. Thank you."

"I think the sign is beautiful. It was one of the first things I noticed new about Farmington when I was coming home for spring break from New York. I think it's a great addition for Farmington. I like it a lot."

"Hi. My opinion of the sign is that it is terrible, a terrible concept. It is indicative of the problem of the city of Farmington with the Downtown Development Authority. There's no direction, there's no focus, there's no planning and there's no ability to look long-range at anything. Myself, I don't see how a butterfly, a frog and a grasshopper fit in with Farmington. Guess what, guys — it doesn't. Time to make some changes in this city. I mean, drive around and see all the leasing signs and out-of-business signs. The Downtown Development Authority, as failed, it's time to make a change. Thank you very much. Bye, bye."

"It is absolutely terrible. In fact, the entire reconstruction is terrible. The sign completely covers what they tried to do, which is very unappealing."

"I don't like it at all. I think it's in poor taste. I don't think it fits with the building. It's too modern. It's really not pretty."

"Looks good. Thank you."

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I first saw it. It made me want to contact the DDA. The Temple is a beautiful, stately building which is cheapened by the sign. The corner was fine even before the gardens were put in. They sure goofed this one up. How can one go about getting the sign removed or at least placed in another area?"

"My opinion is that it looks cheap. And now that I know what they paid for it, I think it is a cheap job. I don't like it. It doesn't look good. Thank you. Bye."

"They did a nice job on the brickwork, but the sign doesn't match anything or have anything to do with the Masonic Temple. Thank you and goodbye."

"Well, I think the Masonic Temple corner deserves a lot better than Camp Swampy. The sign should be dignified. What is the DDA trying to do to that corner? What's happened to the historical aspect of downtown Farmington? I think the present sign is a far cry from anything historical. It doesn't tie in with the corner. That's all. Thank you."

"I am against the sign there at

the Masonic Temple. I would much rather that there were a more elegant sign in keeping with the building and the city of Farmington. Thank you."

"I don't care for the sign. The side of something in Kennington Masonic Temple is a beautiful brick building that reminds me of and it's going to look out of something out of Williamsburg. The sign looks like it belongs out- place."

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MCF-PRENTIS
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
locally presents
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
RACE FOR THE CURE
Presented by JCPenney
5K run/Racewalk/Walk & One Mile Walk
Saturday, April 9, 1994
9:00 a.m.
Detroit Zoo
(Woodward Avenue & I-596)
ENTRY FEE
\$13 (by March 25); \$16 (by April 1); and \$20 on race day (7:30 - 8:30 a.m.). FREE entry for children 12 and under (no T-shirt). Please register early. All proceeds will be used for women's breast cancer screening, education and related services.
START TIMES
Registration: 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
5K Run/Racewalk/Walk: 9:00 a.m.
1 Mile Fun Walk: 9:10 a.m.
RACE PACKETS
Are mailed to all registered runners the week before the race; packets include race number, T-shirt coupon, course map and directions.
TIMING & RESULTS
The 5K events will be conducted by Detroit's premier running club, the Motor City Striders. Computer scoring by Burns Computer Services.
AWARDS & AGE GROUPS
In the 5K Race, awards will be presented to the overall female winner (not eligible for age group award) and the top three female runners in each five-year age group (14-and-under to 70+). Additionally, awards will be presented to the first three racewalk finishers. Males are invited to participate, but are not eligible for awards.
ENTRY FORMS
Entry forms are available at Jacobson's, Pier 1 Imports, Jerry Craig Centers, JCPenney's, all Michigan Cancer Foundation offices, and all area running stores selling New Balance shoes.
LOCAL SPONSORS
Jacobson's, COMPUTWARE, PREMIER, PMA, TAUBMAN, UNIC, etc.
Through the generous support of our sponsors, every penny of your entry fee benefits breast cancer research, early detection & education.