

LETTERS

Proud of her

The staff at Flanders Elementary are proud to work for Mary Joyce Readler. She is a principal who leads by example and we feel fortunate to have her as our educational leader. She has high expectations for herself and her staff. She values each and every member of our team and insists on examining issues from everyone's point of view. Her primary concern is the welfare of the children in our building. She empowers each of us to be the best that we can be. She believes all children can learn and knows that with school personnel and parents working together, all our goals can be achieved. She instills that belief in each of us.

Mrs. Readler has made many positive changes since her arrival at Flanders. Just a few include: the development of a comprehensive early literacy program and collaborative consultation model, a strong technology component integrated into the core curriculum, and enrichment classes for fourth

and fifth grades. She has also been instrumental in improving the physical appearance of the interior and exterior of the building. Mrs. Readler always gives credit to those involved in helping with any given project. She prefers to let others "shine." She doesn't look for personal recognition but takes pride in the accomplishments derived from a team effort.

Through her effort and example, Flanders has become an excellent place for teachers to teach and children to learn! She is a dedicated individual who is admired by those who know her. Her vast knowledge and understanding of educational issues serve as a foundation for all of us. We are proud to be part of her team. Together, under her leadership, we are committed to helping all children succeed.

Flanders Elementary School staff

Two sides

This is in response to Ms. Brewer's letter of May 11, entitled "Shocked and

appalled." It's amazing how there are two sides to the same incident.

I would like to thank "Barney Fife" of the Farmington Department of Public Safety for saving the 20-pound beagle puppy from certain death or serious injury by picking her up on Grand River Avenue.

Our police department is full of wonderful individuals who truly care about our four-foot friends. I think all the officers who pick up escaped pets and strays have animals of their own and would appreciate any help if their pets suddenly disappeared from the yard. Had the puppy been wearing identification, she would have been returned to her owner immediately.

We are fortunate that Farmington has a "puppy jail," so to speak. I know, for I am one of the jail keepers. Had this dog been lost in Farmington Hills or some other community, the outcome might not have been so bright.

Farmington is unique to have this life-saving arrangement (see the Observer Jan.

22, 1998). The Public Safety Department has a key to our hospital enabling the officers to enter the building at off hours. Here many lost cats and dogs are given shelter, warmth, and a friendly pat on the head. More times than not, we are witness to happy reunions with family members.

Our "jail" averages approximately 35 pets a year. Sometimes the owners are never found or, worse yet, don't wish to be found. In these cases (after four days) we are free to adopt the animal out to a loving home. We have been known to house an animal for weeks or months at our own expense. Only under extreme circumstances are they sent to Animal Control.

Our thanks to the Farmington Observer who so willingly allows us to place free "found" ads in the newspaper for us. This has been a valuable tool in matching pets with owners or new homes.

Thank you to our wonderful Department of Public Safety for your efforts. While none of us enjoy dealing with the red

tape, there are some very fine individuals out there who are willing to help keep our families together. And one word of advice to pet owners who might be unfortunate enough to experience this ordeal: call every veterinarian in the area — someone might find your pet and bring them in; call area police departments, Oakland County Animal Shelter, and humane societies (physically go there and look — don't depend entirely on telephone calls), place posters with pictures if possible, and call the Observer.

There are animal lovers everywhere who will do all they can to help. Do not give up hope. I know of several animals who have made it back to their original homes months after being lost. Please, please make sure your pet wears identification at all times.

In answer to Ms. Brewer's question of whether or not Farmington needs its own police department -- you betcha!

Carol Rowe
Office manager
Black Veterinary

Pets
from page A11

including the ones without a human voice."

Hills officials have to protect people and public properties. Creating a dog park would do both. Citizens should play a part and contribute, but ultimately, it is the city's responsibility to maintain an inclusive atmosphere for all residents, even those who choose to own pets.

Mayor Nancy Bates took the right approach, by suggesting further study, and the idea of a citizens' task force is another step in the right direction. Instead of making this an "us versus them" issue, everyone has maintained an air of civility.

That's always nice to see. Because of all the challenges facing this community, a dog park shouldn't become a dare I say it? — another bone of contention.

Joni Hubred is a staff writer with the Farmington Observer. She covers the city of Farmington Hills.

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