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Editorial Quick Hits: Ours Farmington Hills shows the money

The Detroit News

Farmington Hills Public Schools deserves credit for joining Waterford, Clawson and the Oakland Intermediate Schools as Metro Detroit schools that post their check registers online for the public to scrutinize. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has issued this challenge to public schools in the state, and Farmington Hills was the only school in Oakland County to accept (the others were already transparent). Two other districts, Creek schools in Midland County and Chassell Township Schools in Houghton County, also accepted Mackinac's transparency challenge. At a time when some local school districts don't even know the size of their deficits, it is a welcome gesture to see Farmington Hills schools open their books. We hope that other area schools will face pressure from parents and community leaders to follow suit.

Let greening of Detroit commence

Arbitrators have ruled to uphold local nonprofit The Greening of Detroit's contract with the Detroit City Council to assume control of the Myers Nursery in Rouge Park. Once a city-run tree nursery, Myers shuttered in 2005. The Greening of Detroit's efforts had been stymied by protests from AFSCME Local 542, the union representing the city's forestry workers, which argued that the city jobs tied to the Myers Nursery should be resurrected along with the facility -- even though the city wouldn't be running the facility this time around. But the idea is to provide the best service for the lowest price to taxpayers, not to mandate high-priced labor for contractors. Now that arbitrators have ruled on the side of common sense, let the reforestation of Detroit commence.

Rabbi Rosenzweig will be missed

We are saddened by passing of the Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig, a Holocaust survivor best known as the founder of two Holocaust Memorial Centers in Metro Detroit. That includes the current center in Farmington Hills, which is the only freestanding Holocaust center in America. Said Rosenzweig at the dedication dinner for the first facility: "The Holocaust was a result of a societal conditioning which encouraged group hatred and embraced a considerable portion of humanity. The ultimate goal of the Holocaust Memorial Center is to fashion from the Holocaust experience the positive building of group relationships, so that the acts of the righteous few become the standard of the many." Rosenzweig's work with the Jewish community and support of Israel will be missed.

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