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EARL OPPERTHAUSER



CATHERINE JONES



BEN TARKS



JOANN SORONEN



ROBERT AMORI



GEORGE ROBERTS

Opperthauser top vote-getter in primary

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY
In a primary election dominated by absentee voters, incumbent Earl Opperthauser, Catherine Jones, Housing Commissioner Ben Marks and Jo Ann Soronen captured the top four of eight spots for the Farmington Hills City Council fall election.

Opperthauser captured first place with 16 per cent of the total vote in a primary marked by a turnout of only nine per cent of the registered voters. Of 2898 votes cast Tuesday, 1145 were absentee ballots.

From the 25 precincts in Farmington Hills, Opperthauser garnered 1,569 votes. Out of that number, 701 votes were cast for Opperthauser through absentee ballots.

Overall votes for the city placed Catherine Jones second in the ballot.

ing with 1412 votes, 14 per cent of the total. Again, the absentee voters reflected the city's overall choice by giving Mrs. Jones 631 votes, putting her second in their list of winners.

Housing Commissioner Ben Marks placed third in the city and with the absentee voters.

HE TOOK 1294 or 13.2 per cent of the votes in the city; 622 votes were through absentee ballots.

Fourth place in the eight person election ballot went to Jo Ann Soronen, who garnered 1250 or 12.7 per cent of the overall vote. Absentee voters disagreed with the general populace and gave her fifth place with 395 votes.

Incumbent Robert Amori, who was chosen last year to fill the spot left by Oakland County Commissioner Robert

O'Connell, came in fifth in the city and fourth through absentee ballot. City-wide, Amori gathered 1101 or 11.2 per cent of the votes.

George Roberts became eligible for the election when voters put him in sixth place with 730 or 7.4 per cent of their votes.

Former Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners President J. David Alkateeb, placed seventh with 657 or 6.8 per cent of the votes.

Last among the eligibles was Robert Anzlovav who came in eighth place with 584 or 5.9 per cent of the total vote.

Melvin Pautnavich and Jack Renaud were stricken from the list of eligibles when voters sent them to the last two spots on the ballot.

PAUNAVICH, a member of the

Southfield Police Department, came in last with 376 or 3.8 per cent.

Jack Renaud garnered 4.3 per cent of the votes to settle into ninth place. He received 428 votes.

In spite of the sparse turnout at the precincts, absentee voters took advantage of the city clerk's office's new practice of sending out applications in the mail for the primary vote. Although the clerk's office sends out absentee vote applications for major elections, Tuesday marked the first time the forms were mailed in preparation for a primary to residents who are at least 60 years old.

At the precincts, voter turnout ranged from 32 votes in the 22nd precinct, which gave Ben Marks their top vote to 151 votes in the 24th precinct, where Jo Ann Soronen was the champion votegetter.



JOE ALKATEEB



ROBERT ANZLOVAV



A painted signature on the water tower at the rear of the Oakwood Cemetery, as well as a \$250 reward, may help Farmington police in their search for vandals responsible for almost \$2,000 worth of damage in the city-owned burial place.

Reward posted for vandals

By LYNN ORR

It's going to cost City of Farmington taxpayers \$1,890 to repair the extensive damage caused by vandals in Oakwood Cemetery last week. But city officials hope that a \$250 reward might help police apprehend those responsible for broken and broken grave-markers.

Farmington City Council voted earlier this week to offer the reward for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of those involved in damaging 63 monuments in the city-owned cemetery, located on Grand River near Gill Rd.

"What happened here doesn't often happen without someone knowing about it," says City Mgr. Robert Deadman. Public Safety Director Dan Byrnes agrees.

"Obviously a lot of people know about it," he says. "Things like this don't happen without people bragging about it."

The \$250 reward also may provide a deterrent to vandalsism, he hopes. "Those involved will be forewarned that if others have information about the event, they may be willing to inform the authorities," he says.

MORE THAN one person was involved in the destructive spree, police believe. An automobile was used to crash through the gates resulting in further damage.

If the vandals are apprehended, city intends to recoup some of the cost of the repair work.

"We can prosecute on criminal charges, and if they're convicted, the judge might award restitution," Deadman says. "If not, we can sue in civil court."

State law provides that a certain amount of money can be recovered from parents of juveniles found responsible for the damage.

The city has undertaken the cost of repairing monuments that were pushed over and broken. Allen Monuments and Vaults, Inc., will complete repair work by the fall, Deadman says. Price for labor and material is \$30 per monument, for a total cost of \$1,890. Monuments will be set up and sealed. Roll markers and slabs will be repaired as well as possible, and old corner lot posts will be removed if damaged.

Although the Jaycees offered to help with repairs, Deadman believes the repair job is too big for a volunteer group to tackle.

City council waived the bid process for the repair job in "the best interests of the city," Deadman says. It would be a difficult and costly job to write specifications for each monument to be repaired, he said.



Toppled monuments and broken gravemarkers strewn throughout the shady walkway in Oakwood Cemetery on Grand River—evidence of the damage caused by unknown vandals last week. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Who pays?

Is there a limit to the financial obligation of the City of Farmington to care for city-owned cemeteries? That question is expected to confront city council in the next few months because of recent vandalism in Oakland Cemetery on Grand River.

The city will spend almost \$2,000 to repair the damage done by unknown vandals.

City Mgr. Robert Deadman wants to relieve the city of that responsibility in the future.

Setting up funds to collect interest for perpetual care is one alternative being weighed, he says.

"I'd like to get it all together as a package and bring it back in the next few months," he told the council Monday night.

City Clerk Nedra Viane and Farmington resident Robert Cook have been compiling cemetery records, a tough job since the some graves date back to the early 1830's.

"We really have a lot yet to do, but we're trying to bring the records up to date—as to who's buried where and who owns the lots," says Ms. Viane.

Lost records also makes the job more difficult.

LOT OWNERS are responsible for the monuments, says Ms. Viane; but many owners are probably unaware that they're responsible for the graves.

Deadman isn't sure when the city acquired the cemetery, but one result of the records search has been the discovery that between 80-90 of the graves sites are empty and could be sold.

The city also has contemplated buying the land next to the cemetery to extend the number of available plots. Mrs. Dudley entered the meeting to ask the information to contact her. She expressed fears that the results of the survey would be manipulated by various factions to support their respective causes.

"It can be tilted. It's can be swayed. He sat out the rest of the session on the sidelines. Mrs. Dudley's appearance at the session was triggered by a report from a Farmington Hills administrative as-

stant that the results of the senior citizen survey had been released to the newspapers without the knowledge of officials.

TAKING THE release of the information as an insult to city council, Mrs. Dudley entered the meeting to ask the information to contact her. She expressed fears that the results of the survey would be manipulated by various factions to support their respective causes.

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"I don't feel that how it was obtained shows respect to the governing body," she added.

At first, Christie said he thought

15 percent need aid

Commission stands firm on senior housing push

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

After reviewing the results of the Farmington Hills senior citizen survey, city housing commission members decided to endorse an ordinance which would provide for senior citizen housing in the city.

They will bring the results of that survey to the city planning commission at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Farmington Hills City Council's chambers.

Survey results showed that about 15 per cent of the elderly in Farmington Hills need help in maintaining a home in the city, according to Administrative Assistant Michael Dornan.

Although 51.7 per cent of the 782 seniors who answered the city's survey said they were without need for immediate assistance, Housing Commissioner Tom Czabicki wanted to move to help the minority.

There will be more elderly and higher inflation in the future, according to Czabicki. If the present need for senior housing is left unfulfilled, there will be a greater demand on the city in the future to produce an answer to the problem, he said.

Most of the seniors who answered the survey are at least 60 years old and wanted to stay in the city. There are 3,701 elderly households in Farmington Hills. Of these, 2,760 received the questionnaire, according to Dornan.

MOST OF THE seniors indicated in the write-in portion of the survey that they would stay in the city if the tax rate didn't force them to leave. Dornan said.

In spite of the number of senior citizens who replied that they were in good financial shape, the commission-

ers looked at the figures with skepticism.

"On the basis of the experience of the data processors, there is some proof that its common for the elderly to indicate no needs as a matter of

(Continued on page 2A)

Dudley-Christie clash provokes resignation

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Farmington Hills Mayor Joan Dudley swooped down on the city housing commission's election night study session to ask for Commissioner Bernard Christie's resignation for publicly releasing its senior citizen survey before city councilmembers saw it.

Christie offered to comply with Mrs. Dudley's request, but the Farmington Hills City Council will have the final word on formally asking the commissioner to resign.

"You asked for my resignation and you have it as of now," Christie answered. He sat out the rest of the session on the sidelines. Mrs. Dudley's appearance at the session was triggered by a report from a Farmington Hills administrative as-

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