

# Farmington Observer

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## School board incumbents bow out of race

By STEVE BARNABY  
Farmington editor

The June 12 school board election is wide open today as both incumbent trustees announced they are withdrawing as candidates.

Board President William Gravius and Trustee Anne Struble labeled job responsibilities as their reasons for stepping down. Both have served one four-year term. Filing deadline is April 10 for the two seats.

While many school board watchers had predicted that Gravius might not run for re-election, Struble's announcement caught observers off guard because she had taken out petitions.

Gravius, on the other hand, said he had been thinking over the re-election

bid for the last six months.

"Due to increased business commitments, I cannot run for trustee of the Farmington Board of Education and devote the necessary time and effort that this position demands and deserves," said Gravius, who is employed with the Marathon Oil Company.

"HOWEVER, I don't rule out the possibility that I would return if this situation should change," he said.

Struble, who was the board's first elected representative from the district's south end, also said she was keeping the door open for future political endeavors.

"I have to come back. How could I possibly not come back? But, I won't do that for a while. It wouldn't be fair

to the new board members," she said.

Presently, though, Struble says she is seeking to develop a career with an industrial interviewing concern.

"You can't have everything. I just don't know whether I'll be able to work on Tuesday nights or not," said Struble.

Regularly scheduled board meetings are conducted on Tuesdays.

But time, according to Gravius, is the big factor whenever considering a re-election bid. He recalls that the first

year as a board trustee, he spent a total of 76 days at meetings. This situation, he maintains, has improved over the years, but it is still a timely proposition.

Gravius, 46, says he feels good about what has been accomplished in the last four years.

Both Struble and Gravius came on to the board at a bad time, when voters had turned down a millage and Bond School had to be closed.

"We had 900 persons come to the board meeting conducted at Farm-

ington High School. It was standing room only," said Gravius.

But the district's situation has changed dramatically, says Gravius, because of a change in attitude among board members. Gravius feels residents are feeling positive about how the district is being run.

"The understanding and mutual determination of my fellow board members have been outstanding. While working directly with the superintendent and his staff this past year, I

have had the opportunity to see their determination and desire to fulfill and maintain our educational standards," he said.

Gravius admits the district still has many problems to face, but he is confident they will be handled correctly. He gives much credit to District Supt. Lew Schulman.

"Even though the adversities of declining enrollments and increasing costs of operations, we have maintained our high educational standards," he said.

## Vandals send area damage rates soaring

A rash of spring vandalism has cost Farmington area residents about \$2,000 during the last three weeks.

Farmington residents have been targets of the most consistent vandalism. During the past three weeks, vandals have used a sling shot to break about \$1,000 worth of windows in cars, homes and businesses.

Farmington Hills residents were greeted Friday morning with damage done to their car and home windows. In addition to five reports of windows shattered by pellet guns, Hills police received complaints about a punctured tire, four damaged mail boxes and a car running over a lawn Thursday evening. There are no suspects for the incidents, according to police.

Officials note that the first spring weather brings an increase in vandalism. Police in Farmington are finding this year's rash of destruction difficult to solve. Since the beginning of March, they've received more than 10 reports of shattered windows.

VICTIMS have been unable to offer a description of a vehicle or person connected with the incidents.

Detectives are hoping residents will supply the missing information by calling the department at 474-1212.

"If anyone knows anything they should call us," said Farmington Det. Thomas Daniels.

One victim is ready to offer a \$50 award for information leading to the culprit who shot a rock through his 42-by-48 inch living room window.

Ronald and Gail Haenke are tired of neighborhood vandals doing minor damage to their home on Power. During the past nine years, their mailbox has been pelted with eggs, mustard, ketchup and paint. The side of their

house has been ripped up, according to Mrs. Haenke.

Although they believe that the recent damage to their window is unrelated to past incidents, they are anxious to discover the culprit.

"When something like that happens, you feel powerless," Mrs. Haenke explained.

When Haenke discovered the broken window the morning of March 19, the couple decided that a reward would help them find the culprit. They surmise the window was broken the preceding evening when Mrs. Haenke was awakened by a noise but failed to notice the damaged glass.

DAMAGE TO the Haenke residence follows a pattern of vandalism in Farmington throughout March.

The same day the Haenke's reported their damage, two cars parked near their house sustained damage to their driver's side window.

A 1969 two-door Pontiac and a 1973 two-door Buick were targets of sling-shots, according to police.

Harold Lapham Jr., of Valley View Court, also reported damage to the three-by-four foot picture window in his living room, the same day. The glass was broken at night and no one was noticed at the scene, according to the police report.

Earlier the same week, glass was broken out of the door frame in the World Wide Center building, 34707 Grand River, owned by John Blocki, of Livonia. Since nothing was taken from the building, police surmise the vandalism was connected to other sling shot damage.

The owners of the Trend Styling hair salon reported their six-by-seven foot

(Continued on page 7A)



Jim Davis relaxes in the library during some free time. Libraries are moving away from the old staid image, becoming more diversified. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

## Celebrate National Library Week

### Bookworms flock to media centers

When Benjamin Franklin instituted one of the first lending libraries for the public in the colonies, he must have known he had a good idea.

During National Library Weeks, fans of Franklin and books can exchange notes and appreciate the progress made by the institution.

Libraries are managing to shed their dowdy image and appeal to just folks instead of the neighborhood bookworm.

Instead of stressing silence, librarians are pushing participation and relaxation.

On Sunday afternoon stroll over to the Farmington Hills branch library, Twelve Mile near Farmington Road and relax over a good classic, a best

seller or the latest magazines.

Children are learning librarians have shed their staid image. Instead of telling the little ones to hush Children's Librarian Jill Locke has introduced the cheery welcome and cooking classes to the library.

MS. LOCKE, 29, was named Young Librarian of the Year in 1977 by the Michigan Library Association for her work.

"Some of the children are trained to whisper in a library. They'll come in and whisper and we say 'hi,'" Ms. Locke reveals.

Even comic books, former arch enemy of librarians have a nook in the children's room.

Upstairs in the adult sections of the libraries, the latest best sellers, such as the "Book of Lists" can be seen nesting next to one of the classics.

Records and tapes have helped the blind and handicapped to enjoy the library. Cassettes and tapes are sent out throughout the area by Beverly Papp.

For persons who need large print books or must rely on tapes, the library can send them recordings cassette equipment.

One woman returned her Braille books with hand made bookmarks inside.

Sometimes patrons feel free to comment about their books.

"I AM 66-years-old. I don't want filth or war records. I've had too much," one woman commented.

A young man's thoughts had gone beyond spring when he requested of Papp's section, "Please no more westerns. Send me spy, detective or sex stuff."

The casual attitude of the library staff has shown in the increase of patrons. In 1971, patrons took out 25,000 books. In 1976, 400,000 volumes were checked out of the Farmington Hills and Farmington branches, according to Mrs. Papp.

"We have 80,000 books. So that means each month, about half of our books are out of the library on loan," she said.



After Wednesday afternoon's series of collisions clear Grand River for westbound traffic. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Massive auto collision claims 3 injury victims

Farmington Police are continuing their investigation of a five-car accident on Grand River Wednesday afternoon which sent three men to the hospital and tied up traffic between Lakeway and Power.

Charles Maynard, 43, of Farmington, was taken to Fuzina General Hospital with five broken ribs. Farmington Police Officer Joseph Schornack said Maynard refused to be taken to Botsford Hospital.

John Dillon, 71, of Ann Arbor was taken to Botsford with broken ribs and minor scrapes. Donald MacKenzie, 61, of Brighton, suffered minor scrapes on the knee and a cut forehead.

Maynard was injured when his 1964 Oldsmobile, headed east on Grand

River, collided broadside with a west bound 1978 Torino, driven by Dillon. The Oldsmobile then collided with a west bound 1974 Chevrolet Vega, driven by MacKenzie. The Vega was hit in the middle of the driver's side, breaking the rear axle, according to Schornack.

THE IMPACT of the collision between the Oldsmobile and Vega swung the latter into Lakeway where

it hit a 1974 Oldsmobile, driven by Ruth Dendelin, 57, of Farmington. Ms. Dendelin was uninjured and her car sustained minor front end damage.

A fifth car was damaged from the collision resulting from the collision between Maynard's car and Dillon's. Driven by Millin Mikhrogovic, of Farmington, the 1973 Ford station wagon was damaged on the front end by flying glass and other debris. Mikhrogovic was uninjured.

## Page named to board

Gordon Page, of 36751 Lansbury, Farmington, was named to a four-year appointment on the Library Board last week.

inside

Community calendar	2B
Club Circuit	3B
Classifieds	Sections C,D
Editorials	6A

CELEBRATION

Volunteers involved in the YMCA fund drive to build a new facility are feeling pretty good these days. To see why, turn to page 8A.