

Farmington Observer

Volume 90 Number 96

Monday, September 17, 1979

Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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Increased effort vowed for November showdown

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor
Hard work — a lot or not enough. That was the general consensus among Farmington Hills city council candidates in analyzing the primary election results from last week. In that election two incumbents, Cathy Jones and Keith Deacon, were eliminated from contention in the November election. Eight candidates remain, vying for four seats. Placing first with 2,199 votes was Donn Wolf.

"I didn't expect that large of a victory," said Wolf after the election tally was counted. "But it took a lot of hard work from friends and neighbors which did it," he said.

The political newcomer led the field with victory in 17 of the 23 city precincts — and he was elated. "My vote was spread across the city which is a good sign that I have widespread support," he said.

Although winning the primary battle, Wolf was unhappy with the low voter turnout, 12.3 percent of those registered, 4,145.

"It's disturbing that only 12 percent of the voters cast ballots," he said. "Whether I was running or not, I would want to do something about that."

Low man to make the primary cut was Terry Sever. He admitted that he could have campaigned harder and said he would do so in the general election.

Sever garnered 7.4 percent of the vote, 1,048.

"I think if you evaluate the effort put in by the candidates, it correlates with the results," he said. Some of the reason for his low standings in the polls was due to his lack of experience in campaigning, said Sever.

His main goal for the general election will be to "get out the facts" on where he stands on the issues.

"I think if anybody knows the community, it's me," said Sever.

He derided claims by some of the other candidates who said they were speaking for the general public sentiment.

Sever has vowed he will increase his campaign offense and said he intends to place first in the general election.

"I'm going to be knocking on doors. I intend to have personal contact with more than 5,000 voters."

Jan Dolan, an incumbent, placed fourth.

"I'm not unhappy at how I ran. Donn Wolf did campaign hard," she said.

"But we just didn't work hard enough," she added, referring to hers and incumbent Joanne Smith's campaign. Mrs. Smith placed fifth.

"In a primary it's hard to get people out. Some people are complacent," she said.

She also gave credit to the Citizens for a More Responsible Government (CMRG) for garnering a strong showing for William Lange and Jack Burwell who placed second and third.

Crackerbarrel analysis Page 12B

Lange and Burwell are in political sympathy with the CMRG in defeating the planned low income-senior citizen housing project to be constructed on Freedom Road.

Mrs. Dolan and Smith support the project. The CMRG presently is waging a petition drive to have rezoning of the project put on the ballot.

Mrs. Smith was more adamant about the vote results.

"It was the hate vote," she said, referring to voters garnered by the top three candidates.

She blasted a campaign leaflet distributed by William Lange which called for defeat of all the council incumbents and called for an adherence to a code of ethics by the candidates.

But Mrs. Smith, too, admitted she could have campaigned harder.

"We really didn't work hard enough in the primary. But people did respond positively to us at candidate nights," she said.

She has vowed to work eight to 12 hours a day until the general election in order to win.

"We must educate the voters on the issues," she said. She expressed displeasure that the campaign had turned into a one issue campaign and hoped other issues besides the housing issue will be addressed in the general election.

White Burwell, Lange and Wolf placed in the first three spots, she maintains they will be in "hot water" for the general election.

"They worked hard and didn't impress the people," she said, citing the low voter turnout.

Mrs. Smith admitted that her supporters were suffering from a case of

overconfidence. Many of them, she said, had assured her of victory, but many admitted to not voting after primary day.

Michael O'Hair, a virtual unknown in Farmington Hills political circles, was pleased with his seventh placing.

A moderate, he supports the present housing project, but would like to see other issues discussed in the coming campaign.

"I essentially plan to canvass the absentee voters. I also will campaign more selectively in the general election," he said.

O'Hair waged an information "blitz" the weekend before the election by distributing 4,000 pieces of literature.

Planning Commissioner Shirley Stadler, a Republican activist in the community, placed sixth.

"I'm encouraged by the precinct tallies," she said. Mrs. Stadler noted that she placed fourth among voters going to the polls excluding the absentee voters. She was suffering from a case of

Juvenile law fight continues

Family court is not an idea who's time has come. But Ed Overstreet is working on juvenile justice reform despite opposition in the state legislature. Overstreet, an administrator at Boysville in Farmington Hills, has testified in Lansing at hearings concerning reform of the juvenile system.

As the state's lawmakers return to session on Sept. 18, supporters plan to resume their fight to pass a juvenile law reform bill, even in the face of continued opposition from Michigan's probate court judges.

State Rep. Mark Clodfelter (D-Flint), whose reform proposal is still in committee, is expected to try for the fourth time to get his bill through the Legislature.

Clodfelter's bill is designed to force juvenile courts to continue monitoring the progress of troubled children and their families. It leans heavily on the legal structure surrounding the children but isn't aimed at reforming the social agencies which deal with them.

His bill replaces status offenses, which involve the juvenile courts, with a network of foster homes, counseling and centers for runaways.

IF THE SOCIAL services can't help the child and his family, the courts would become involved in the situation.

Clodfelter is pushing for a family court which would allow children and parents to divorce each other when the situation has gone beyond the hope of repair.

If a child is temporarily separated from his family, the courts become obliged to follow his or her progress to prevent the youngster from languishing in a foster home.

The court would review the family's situation on a regular basis. The parents, child, the child's lawyer and social worker would be involved in the reviews.

Under Clodfelter's proposed legislation, the court would be expected to work with the family to lay out a program to help solve their problems. If progress hasn't occurred within 18 months, the child could be put up for adoption.

Once the child is put up for adoption, the court would be required to continue reviewing the case until adoption occurred.

However, the family court proposal has received little encouragement in Lansing so far, according to Overstreet.

PROBATE COURT JUDGES, dubious of alterations in their role with the juvenile justice system, are putting together their own proposal. Their proposal would allow them to revise the juvenile code, section by section, as the need arises.

A committee of 10 judges is working on the alternative proposal. As with previous bills, the judges are concerned with the elimination of status offenses from the juvenile code, according to Overstreet. Under present law, youngsters can be taken to a state facility merely for running away from home, or for truancy. Simply being "hard to handle" is a juvenile offense in the present system. Given the history of juvenile reform in Lansing, supporters are watching to see if Clodfelter will garner the votes needed to propel his bill into law, according to Overstreet.



Mother and child are becoming a popular combination once again as birth rates continue to rise at Botsford Hospital. Here Rebecca Miner holds her newborn baby, Patrick. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)†

Birth rate is booming at Botsford

More and more bundles of joy are being born out of Botsford.

The Farmington Hills-located osteopathic hospital records more babies in its post partum ward this year than last.

And although those totals remain lower than the 1,499 births recorded in 1974, a hospital spokesman said that Botsford predicts a rise in births this year.

Last year, at this time, 948 little Farmington area residents made their debut at Botsford. This year there were 1,012 births in the hospital from January until the end of August.

Summer months are usually the busiest in the maternity ward. Last year, the birth rate rose in the summer and dropped as fall and winter approached. The all-year high of 137 births in one month was achieved at Botsford in July. August played second best in the figures game with 132 births.

This year numbers are doing last year's one better. There were 146 babies born in July at Botsford. In August, 145 births were recorded.

Colder months such as December and February aren't popular in the baby business. Last February, 103 babies were born at Botsford. This year, there was a slight increase to 117.

EVEN FEWER were born in December last year in time to wish parents a happy holiday. Last December, 111 babies were born in the hospital.

While more babies are born in the hospital this year, the new mothers are staying a shorter time within its antiseptic confines. Last year, a mother who had a normal, uncomplicated delivery stayed in the hospital for four days. This year, the stay was decreased to 3.8 days.

But while the stay was shorter, the costs were up. Last year, the four-day stay in the hospital for a normal, uncomplicated birth cost \$1,560, without the inclusion of any government aid or benefits.

This year, the basic cost for a 3.8-day stay during a normal delivery was \$1,770.

Cable TV considered in Farmington

Ballot questions pondered by Hills council

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL

31555 Eleventh Mile

7:30 p.m. Sept. 17

Public Hearings

• Cost hearing for water improvement on Nine Mile. SAD C-135

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C52-181. Zoning request 5-5-79, Section 10, Lots 1,2,3 of Parkhill Subdivision located on the west side of Orchard Lake Road between Twelve and Thirteen Mile. Request for change from RA-2 to OS-2 by Robert B. Alpern Associates.

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C52-181. Zoning request 7-4-68, section 10, lot 52 Park Hill Subdivision and two acreage parcels 23-10-277-024 and 025, located on the west side of Orchard Lake between Twelve and Thirteen Mile. Request to change from RA-2 zoning to OS-1 and RC-2 by James Jona.

• Show case hearing on the demolition of buildings, section 20.120 of the city code at the following addresses: 21411 Jefferson, 27509 Shawwassee, 21651 Roosevelt, 21146 Robinson and 20925 Oxford.

Unfinished Business

• Consideration of financing documents for Exotic Rubber & Plastics Industrial Development bonds for \$2,875,000.

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance C-4-79, subdivision of land ordinance (correction of section number— Chapter 61, Section 61.590)

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance C-42-79, article 1, chapter 70, uniform traffic code — misdemeanors.

• Consideration of enactment of ordinance C-62-79 providing for amendments to city parking regulations, sign regulations and regulations for roof top structures.

New Business

• Consideration of preliminary approval for Strathmore Subdivision located in section 7, northwest quarter, 192 lots and 23,213 acres open space. Escrow \$18,400 and completion by Dec. 1, 1981. Developer: Geoffrey Orley for Elro Corp.

• Consideration of extending sewer north of Bonaventure Roller Rink to the Hulsid Industrial Park.

• Consideration of advancing money to Oakland County Drain Commission for Ten Mile Rouge Arm.

• Consideration of authorization of city attorney to sign consent judgment, Sherry vs. City of Farmington Hills

• Consideration for placing on the November ballot the following:

A. authorization for the issuance of municipal bonds for senior citizen housing.

B. An advisory question: "Do you favor the issuance of federal ren' subsidies at City sponsored housing developments? Needy families? (Questions are to be answered yes or no)

• Consideration of placing advisory question on ballot in reference to IRG Industrial Research Office Buildings up to 60 feet in height.

City Manager's Report

• Recommends sale of obsolete 225 gallon fire squad type vehicle

• Recommends award of bid for excavation of embankment removal necessitated by the Drake Road paving project

• Recommends acceptance of settlement of mediation panel relative to Balboa vs City of Farmington Hills, (Freedom-Polson resurfacing)

• Recommends contract change or-

der relative to "clean-up" provisions to anticipate future road resurfacing. (Briar Hill Sewer SAD)

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
23600 Liberty

8 p.m., Sept. 17

Presentation

• Omnicon of Michigan requests cable TV franchise
Minutes of Other Boards

• Farmington Planning Commission minutes of Sept. 10

• Board of Zoning Appeals minutes of Sept. 5

• Farmington Historical Commission minutes of Aug. 4

• Board of Education minutes of Aug. 21
Petitions and Communications

• Letter from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc., James L. Risher, President in reference to notice of awards banquet in Lansing on Oct. 23

• Letter from SEMCOG re: City and village bloc meeting, Sept. 19

• Letter from Michigan Liquor Control Commission re: transfer of SDM License, 30790-8 Grand River

(Continued on page 4A)

inside

At Your Leisure	7A
Community Calendar	6B
Inside Angles	3A
Monday's Commentary	12B
Obituaries	3A
Sports	Section C
Suburban Life	Section B

TAKE A CLASS

Got some spare time during the day? If so, the Ten Mile Community School may have a class which interests you. To see what's going on and how to enroll if interested, turn to Page 4A.