

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

## Council hopefuls bid for seniors

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Besides touting the wisdom of area senior citizens, both incumbents and challengers called for fiscal responsibility and efficient administration of city services in the second debate last week of the 1983 Farmington Hills city council election race.

Six of the seven candidates or their representatives met at the invitation of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Senior Adult Program at the Mercy Conference Center last Wednesday to explain their political ideas to area senior citizens.

Candidates who participated in the debate before approximately 30 senior citizens were incumbent Donna Wolf, Fred Hughes' representative, his wife Marie, and challengers Melissa Levine, Terry Sever, Joe Alkatech, and Joan Dudley's representative, Donna Sklar. "You cannot have it all and low taxes," said Alkatech, a former councilman who served from 1978-82. "It is a simple fact you can't have the Spicer property and a new police building and keep taxes down."

CITY OFFICIALS are attempting to purchase the Spicer property, at 10 Mile and Farmington Road with the help of a state grant. Alternatives to buying the property should the grant fall through have yet to be developed.

"What can we afford? Let's pay for the priorities and forget the frills," he said. "Small government equals small taxes."

But Levine said that while everyone would like low taxes "agreeing isn't enough. We need an alternative to keep the city from getting stagnant."

Levine, an Oakland County Circuit Court-appointed special advocate, suggested enticing new business into the Hills to strengthen the city's tax rolls. "If we can give incentives to high-technology industries, it would be an asset."

Sever, on the other hand, told senior citizens that expenses should be rolled back while city leaders should be aggressive in building "the community at low tax rates."

Wolf, who strongly opposed a proposed 16-percent local tax increase earlier this year, said "taxes have got-

ten out of hand in all areas of government."

"I saw residents who did not want and could not pay an increase in taxes," he said, asking senior citizens to support Richard Headie's Voters Choice amendment stating that taxes may not be increased without a vote of the people.

"It's a crisis period and we've got to take the power away from government," Wolf added.

ALTHOUGH HUGHES' and Dudley's representatives did not specifically call for low taxes, both suggested fiscal responsibility in running the city. "Fred (Hughes) is interested in the good, efficient administration of city services," said Marie Hughes.

Speaking for Dudley, Sklar said the former council member and charter commissioner believes in fiscal responsibility and spending tax revenue on projects that benefit "the public good." While it's easy to say "don't raise taxes," Sklar said, then tax money should be used properly.

Please turn to Page 7



Go for it!

Mercy's Mary Rosowski chases the basketball while teammate Bev White looks on during the Marlin's Catholic League girls' basketball game against Livonia Ladywood last Thursday. Mercy

whipped Ladywood, 54-48, before a sellout crowd of 1,000 at Birmingham Brother Rice. See sports section for details.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Parents' group formed to snuff out drug abuse

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

A little respect, please, for Farmington Families in Action (FFIA) and its anti-drug and alcohol abuse campaigns. That's what women like Sara Woolford are asking.

"We want people to know we're a serious group, not just a bunch of ladies getting together for coffee," said Woolford, who handles FFIA publicity.

Since last January, the group, composed mostly of parents of teenagers, has been pushing an anti-drug message in the community. They're concerned about what they see as an epidemic of substance abuse among teens.

"Our main goal is to be a parent-support group," Woolford said. "We want to do all we can to keep parents from burying their heads in the sand about substance abuse and other youth problems."

"We want to make the future a more promising situation for our young people."

Last Thursday and Friday were busy days for FFIA members as they hosted a Community Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program at Nardin Park Method-

ist Church, Harrison and Mercy high schools.

MAIN SPEAKER for the conference was Dr. Thomas Gleason, a Georgia educator and the co-founder of a national anti-drug group called Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE).

Gleason, a 47-year-old father of four, took part in a town hall meeting Thursday night at Harrison, joining such community leaders as school superintendent Lewis Schulman, Farmington Hills police chief John Nichols, Farmington director of public safety G. Robert Siefert and probate judge John O'Brien.

"The message is that we've got to do something about the epidemic of drug abuse among our young people," said Gleason, a professor of education at Georgia State University, in an interview.

Might epidemic be too strong a word? Gleason was asked.

"The best data we have comes from the moms and dads," he answered, "and they're telling us that there's an epidemic. There are kids hurting from drugs. And they're confused. They're hear-

ing from some college professors that marijuana is harmless. But they're asking themselves, 'if it's harmless, then why isn't my kid going to school much?'"

Why does it seem to be using more and more of it?"

PARENTS need to become informed

about drugs and their effects, Gleason said, and they need to get involved to prevent their children from using them.

Part of this awareness involves understanding the role certain popular

Please turn to Page 7

## Alta Loma residents get a break

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Alta Loma residents, who have shared the brunt of basement flooding in Farmington, will receive a double benefit from the long-awaited "Old Town" drain improvements.

In addition to sharing the benefit of a new drainage system, designed to alleviate basement flooding in homes west of Farmington Road, Alta Loma residents also will be getting a newly paved road.

When Farmington engineers designed the "Old Town" project, Alta Loma was only targeted for repairs, most from what construction workers would tear up when installing new sanitary sewers.

But when residents learned the re-

pairs would include replacing the southern side of the street with new curb and gutters, seven inches of asphalt and finally a one-inch cap of asphalt over the entire road, they requested a brand new road.

So after the City Council received a petition bearing the signatures of more than half the residents, they approved \$2.4 million concrete road paving project following a public hearing last week.

City officials also agreed to follow the city's tradition of paying 70 percent of the cost of new roads, leaving residents to pick up the remaining \$33,000 tab.

"You will be assessed only once and it is on a per foot charge," Farmington consulting engineer David Mariner told Alta Loma residents last week.

CITY OFFICIALS scheduled a pub-

lic hearing for 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, to review Alta Loma resident's special assessments for the new road.

In a report to council members, City Manager Robert Deadman indicated that if the new road were replaced without benefit of the drain project, residents would have had to pay approximately \$63,000.

Construction on the more than \$500,000 worth of drain improvements began along Slocum in August. Improvements are designed to separate a combined storm and sanitary sewer system, built in the 1930s, that serves close to one-fourth of the city's residents.

Flooded basements have been a recurring problem in an area west of Farmington Road to Gill and north to Alta Loma to Shilawassee. But the homes on Liberty, Alta Loma, State,

Orchard and Cass particularly are hardest hit by flooding when storms hit because they are located in low spots.

Last April, Farmington council members divided the flooding area into two districts to determine which residents will pay an assessment for the drain improvements. Homeowners in District A will receive immediate benefits from the drain improvements and pay the greatest share. District A's boundaries are Alta Loma on the south, Wilmarth on the west, Oakland on the north and Farmington Road on the east.

Homeowners in District B, which covers an area bounded by Oakland on the south, Gill on the west, Shilawassee on the north and Farmington Road on the east, receive a future benefit from the drain improvements, but pay a lesser charge.



Dunckel teacher Dave Litogot and Farmington Hills Councilmember JoAnn Soronen examine the city's birthday card with students (from left) Andrea DuBuc, Neannie Chen and Brenda Waldman.

## Big card lauds city birth

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

Students at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills have come up with an unusual way to wish their city a happy 10th birthday.

The youngsters have designed and constructed a large (3-foot-by-2-foot when opened) birthday card, which says "Happy Birthday Farmington Hills" and has a large "10" on it.

The card, bearing more than 400 signatures of Dunckel students, was presented to Farmington Hills Councilmember JoAnn Soronen at a ceremony held at the school, located on 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, last Friday afternoon.

The ceremony was part of a week-long celebration honoring the city, which was incorporated on July 1, 1873. Forged from the township of Farmington and the village of Wood Creek Farms and Quakertown, the city occupies 33 1/2 square miles in Oakland County.

Last week's celebration included open house at the Farmington Hills City Hall and fire station.

David Litogot, a sixth-grade teacher at Dunckel and a member of the Farmington Hills Historical Commission, helped the students make the card.

"The school is in Farmington Hills, and this is the big celebration for the city's 10th birthday," said Litogot, himself a Farmington Hills resident.

LITOGOT ADDED, "I just thought it would be nice if we could get the kids involved in the spirit of this celebration. We (the students) didn't make it to the open houses, so we thought we'd make this card."

"We thought this would be a good way of letting people know that this is the 10th anniversary for Farmington Hills. A lot of people don't know that. They say, 'Gosh, has it been 10 years already?'"

Dunckel's art classes, taught by Mary Shaw, handled the lettering and the coloring of the card.

"From then on, it sort of floated around the school from class to class and the kids signed their names," said Litogot, who has been teaching in the Farmington District for 15 years.

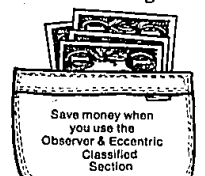
"We were still working on it up to Friday afternoon. We were picking up signatures from kids who were absent or who hadn't heard about it."

### what's inside

- Classifieds . . . . . Section C
- Community Calendar . . . . . 7B
- Inside Angles . . . . . 7A
- Obituaries . . . . . 2A
- Oral Quarrel . . . . . 8A
- Shopping Cart . . . . . 1-4B
- Sports . . . . . 1-3C
- Suburban Life . . . . . 5-7B

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