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Twenty-five cents

Old faces fill Hills seats; Walker wins

Alkateeb: 'feel great'



By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Political comebacks were the news of election evening as two former council members, Joe Alkateeb and Joan Dudley, regained seats on the Farmington Hills City Council Tuesday.

Dudley's last term expired in 1978, after which she moved out of state. She returned earlier this year. Alkateeb was defeated in 1981. This is his first attempt to regain his seat. "I feel great," said Alkateeb. "I didn't think about winning or losing. God answered a lot of my prayers."

Admitting she was confident of her election to the City Council, Dudley said, "I always had the confidence that the voters were reasonably perceptive and discriminating."

Placing first among the four top vote-getters who will serve on the council, Dudley drew 64.5 percent (4,106) of the city's total 6,457 votes cast. She was followed by incumbent Donn Wolf with 58.8 percent (3,802) of the votes, Alkateeb with 53.5 percent (3,460) and Hughes with 52.1 percent (3,354).

As the three top victors, Dudley, Wolf and Alkateeb will each serve a four-year term. As the lowest vote getter, Hughes again will serve a two-year term.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Campaign supporter Harold Wolkind congratulates third-place election victor Joe Alkateeb (left) after the final votes were tallied at Farmington Hills City Hall Tuesday evening. Alkateeb took 53.5 percent of the vote, securing a four-year term on the City Council.

He's last to know

By Steve Barnaby
staff writer

Like many others, Roger Walker woke up Wednesday morning wondering just who had won seats on Farmington City Council.

But unlike other curious residents, the long-time Farmington businessman had a deeper interest. He was one of those seeking a seat in the city sweepstakes.

Figuring that someone from city hall would call him if victorious, Walker went to bed thinking he had lost. He thought about what he would tell his friends the next day at his service club meeting.

But much to his delight, Walker found out the next day that he was one of three winners. In his first attempt at public office, the soon-to-be-retired real estate dealer placed third in a field of six, guaranteeing him a two-year term.

FINISHING first was the council's senior member, Ralph Yecker, who garnered 639 votes. Close behind was incumbent William Hartsock, with 624 votes. Both will serve for four years.

Walker won the third spot with 593 votes, just 98 ahead of first-time office seeker Ron Ogby. Placing last was Gerald Lynch, with 381 votes.

"I'm absolutely delighted," said Walker, who will replace one-term

council member William Mitchell, who didn't seek re-election.

"It's gratifying to think that after all these years in Farmington that people support me," he said.

Two of his goals, said Walker, will be to monitor tax increases and the development of the downtown area.



Roger Walker

Christian activity stirs rights battle

By Tom Boor
staff writer

It was freedom of speech and assembly vs. separation of church and state in a battle of ideas waged last Tuesday evening before the Farmington Board of Education and about 300 interested spectators in the North Farmington High School auditorium.

A clear winner is yet to be determined.

The issue before the board and the unusually-large crowd was Campus Life, a social group with a religious message. It has been operating in and around North Farmington High for the past couple of years.

Funded in part by Protestant church-

es, Campus Life is part of the Youth for Christ movement which emphasizes a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and promotes scripture as "the only reliable guide to life."

The group's detractors claim this activity, which they say goes on with the blessing of North Principal Clayton Graham, violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which provides

for separation of church and state.

"There is separation of church and state, you know," a parent said before Tuesday's meeting. "This sort of thing (Campus Life) has no place in a public high school."

"Kids get suckered into this, thinking it's some sort of a social group. Then comes the religious message."

BUT CAMPUS Life has its supporters, and they were out in force at the meeting.

Al Peterman, whose two sons are involved in Campus Life activities, called the group a "wholesome activity."

Before the meeting, Peterman said, "I hear the rights of free speech and free assembly are going to be challenged tonight. It makes me wonder what country I'm living in."

"I'll tell you one thing: These kids (in Campus Life) aren't involved in drugs, alcohol and sex like a lot of them are. It (Campus Life) sure beats spray painting the jobs."

Although non-student representatives of Campus Life usually stay off school property during school hours, they often can be found at after-school events such as plays, concerts and

sports events.

And posters advertising a Campus Life-sponsored "burger bash" at a nearby Lutheran church were placed in the school about three weeks ago. Last year, the group sponsored an ice cream social.

After hearing arguments for and against Campus Life for about an hour and a half, the board, sitting in regular session, referred the matter to the administration "for study and recommendation" in the words of Board President Helen Prutow.

Responding to a request that all such groups be banned from school property, Prutow replied, "The only time we sit on something is if it's an agenda item (the Campus Life issue was not). We're very strong on that."

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington's Board of Education (at bottom of above photo) listens to opinions about Campus Life's activities in and around North

Farmington High School during Tuesday's school board meeting.

Should religious groups operate near schools?

Campus Life, a social group with religious overtones, has been active in and around North Farmington High School for some time. Representatives of the group are not allowed on school property during school hours, but often they can be found talking to students at extra-curricular activities.

5,000 schools across the country, according to a source.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

Why should groups like campus life be allowed to operate, or be prevented from operating, in or near schools?

To answer this question, call 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to answer this question. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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NEWSLINE 477-5450
CLASSIFIED ADS. 591-0900
HOME DELIVERY . 591-0500

Ordinance loses its 1st test

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

In its first decision since the adoption of Farmington Hills' new "downsizing" ordinance, the residential review board agreed that plans for a new 4,500-square-foot home with an estimated value at more than \$200,000, would not adversely affect property values of nearby homes in the Hunt Club subdivision.

On Oct. 19, the three-member One Family Residential Review Board granted a variance to the Southfield-based Lan-Tiki building firm for their proposed home featuring an indoor swimming pool, large panel windows and cedar exterior.

The variance came after construc-

tion firm officials appealed the city's denial of a building permit for the home because "it did not, in the reviewing officer's opinion, meet our (downsizing) ordinance," said Thomas Blaszell, Farmington Hills Department of Public Services director.

Lan-Tiki was denied a building permit because its proposed house would have "architectural dissimilarities" with nearby homes, Blaszell said. Although the Lan-Tiki house will be larger and more expensive than nearby homes, it would be located between a ranch and colonial, both with brick exteriors.

But in later awarding Lan-Tiki a variance, the review board decided

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City warns solicitors

The city of Farmington Hills invites residents to attend their neighborhood energy open houses but must advise private companies that the city will not permit any independent contractors to fraudulently represent themselves as agents under the Farmington Hills Community Energy Management Program.

Any resident solicited by a private contractor claiming to represent the City of Farmington Hills should call the city offices at 477-4115, ext. 177, to help put a stop to any future mis-

representations. With residential thermogram interpretation meetings in full swing, the city has been informed that certain private individuals have attempted to offer their energy-related services and goods to unsuspecting residents, claiming to be representatives of the city. The city does not endorse nor intend to support any private company in its management of the energy grant received last year from the Michigan Department of Commerce, Energy Administration.