

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-Five Cents

## Council race highlights primaries

Tuesday's primary voting for Farmington Hills residents will focus on the council race and the unfinished term Fred Hughes left when he was transferred out of state.

In contention are Robert Anzlovor, who was picked by council to replace Hughes until the election; Ben Marks, a former planning commissioner and a member of the city's charter commission; and local businessman Terry Sever.

Interviews with these candidates ap-

pear on Page 3A of today's Farmington Observer.

Also of interest to Farmington Hills voters will be the race for Oakland County Sheriff. With Hills resident Sheriff Johannes Spreen making a bid for the Oakland County executive seat, the sheriff's spot will be open for grabs.

Making the bid in the Republican column are Farmington Hills Police Chief John Nichols and William Ortmann, a former Farmington Hills council member and attorney.

If Nichols is successful in his bid, a new police chief will have to be named. And the city must find a replacement for fire chief Larry Karon, who recently resigned.

On the ballot is James Stewart, of Huntington Woods, a past president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs and Southeastern Chiefs of Police.

On the Democratic side is James Coult, an Oakland County Sheriff's department sergeant from Union Lake, and Henry Hansen, a Lieutenant in the

same department, who is from Pontiac.

In the 6th House District, Republican Rep. Sandy Brotherton will be vying for his sixth term. He is being opposed by Norville resident Alfred Smith, who is a self-employed engineer and a teacher at Henry Ford Community College.

On the Democratic side, local Democrat Vicki Barnett is running unopposed.

The biggest county commissioner's race will be in the 18th district, where

five Republicans are vying to fill a vacancy left by veteran commissioner Lillian Moffitt.

Among those running are David Moffitt, a Birmingham attorney; West Bloomfield businessman Gary Ferguson; Bloomfield Hills educator Richard Hints; David Potts, another Birmingham attorney; and Virginia Rodgers, the director of the Oakland County Cultural Affairs. She is a Franklin Village resident.

On the Democratic slate in the 15th

district is Kenneth Ferguson, who is unopposed.

In the 6th District Court race, a field of three will be pared down to a two person runoff in November. Incumbent Michael Hand has been this district's judge for 16 years. Also running are Mark Bosler, a local 31-year-old attorney and Ronald Goldstein, who has been an attorney for 25 years. Both Bosler and Goldstein are from Farmington Hills. Hand lives in Farmington.

### Terry Sever

By Joanne Mallazewski staff writer

Farmington Hills council candidate Terry Sever is opposed to a suggested charter amendment for additional millage to finance capital improvements.

"First of all a charter amendment is not necessary," said Sever, a campaign veteran in his third try for a council seat.

"I feel the council should go to the citizens for an advisory — a vote of support to indicate they are behind a capital-improvement program."

If taxpayers support the city's six-year capital improvements program, then council should use the taxing authority they already have, Sever said.

"There is no way to avoid increasing taxes. These improvements have to be done. We're a growing city," he said. "They have the authority to do what they want to."

But the catch is using the taxing authority only if the public supports the capital-improvement program, Sever added.

"I feel the council is damaging their credibility by the approach they are taking," he said, referring to the suggested charter amendment.



Terry Sever

In council's initial proposal, a charter amendment would increase the city's millage limit from 10 mills to 11.5. The additional 1.5 mills, however, would be specifically earmarked for capital improvements.

"What the council is saying is 'Let's give you the extra mill and make sure you have some guarantees.' Council wants people to give them a line of credit."

If THE capital-improvement program is the priority council says it is, Sever said, then other financing alternatives should be studied before requesting a charter amendment and additional millage.

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### Ben Marks

By Joanne Mallazewski staff writer

Former Farmington Hills planning commissioner Ben Marks prefers a special millage rather than a charter amendment to finance capital improvements.

"I would rather see a temporary special millage with a time period specified," said council candidate Marks. "I do not think it should be intertwined with a charter amendment."

While he doesn't support the council's suggested charter amendment, he favors the suggested 1.5 mills for capital improvements as long as it is "specifically earmarked and monitored by council."

As a veteran planning commissioner and one of the authors of the city's six-year capital improvements plan, Marks feels 1.5 mills levied for perhaps 10 years would take care of the listed projects.

"If it doesn't take care of it, go back to the voters," said the former charter commissioner.

Of equal importance as the special millage amount is for city officials to detail the improvements plan and explain why the projects are needed and



Ben Marks

how much they will cost, he said.

"The public will support anything that makes sense and is justified," Marks said. "Once they understand, they will support a temporary millage."

Council members should get out of their offices and meet the homeowners associations to explain the program, Marks said.

Marks' support of a special millage for capital improvements stems directly from his belief that implementation of projects in the improvement plan are long overdue.

In the past several years, "under the cloak of being strict purse string"

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### Robert Anzlovor

By Joanne Mallazewski staff writer

Farmington Hills Councilman Robert Anzlovor believes that additional tax money is needed to finance needed capital improvement projects.

But, he said, the big question is how to phrase a charter amendment for additional millage without misleading the public.

He favors a recent suggestion by Mayor Charles Williams for a separate city charter amendment. It would allow council to levy up to 1.5 mills for capital improvements without increasing the 10-mill charter limit.

Several weeks ago, council suggested a charter amendment for an additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements. They have raised the charter limit to 11.5 mills.

The purpose of an amendment, according to council, is to ensure that city officials still would have up to 10 mills for operations.

"That seemed to create some confusion," Anzlovor said, about the original charter amendment proposal.

On the recommendation of financial advisers, Anzlovor said, "we need some show on the part of the electorate that



Robert Anzlovor

they are willing to fund on a long-term basis" in order to get the best interest rates on bonds.

WHILE ANZLOVOR feels council has been trying to explain the need for the improvement plan, "I don't think we've done a good job of it."

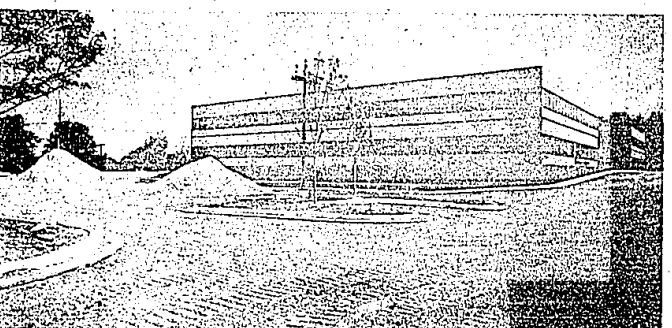
The major problem is explaining to the public that not all of its taxes go to the city, said the former planning commissioner. "We've got lumped in with taxes in general."

But Anzlovor is quick to accuse us, "we're not trying to fool anybody."

Projects listed in the city's six-year

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## How special bonds help pave golden corridors



This 35,000-square-foot office building on the southeast corner of 12 Mile and Drake Road is one of many projects in Farmington Hills that have received the bonofit of Economic Development Corporation bonds.

By Joanne Mallazewski staff writer

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series on the commercial development along Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile Road. This story tells how the Economic Development Corporation aids in bringing new industry to town.)

Since the 12 Mile corridor is the only strip left in Farmington Hills for major office development, the city's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is determined to attract only the "best" in business.

"We're trying to be selective and get the best in the business world and induce them to Farmington Hills," EDC Chairman Robert McConnell said.

To that end, the EDC has produced a brochure proclaiming the city's attributes.

"We will be sending it to selected businessmen. The top 500 Fortune list," McConnell said. "It's a profile of the community."

EDC MEMBERS are banking on the same characteristics that real estate agents, investors and office specialists see in the "gold mine" areas along Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile.

The 12 Mile corridor's proximity to a network of freeways works in the city's favor, McConnell said. The freeways lead to the airport, other suburbs, Detroit's commercial hub and the rest of the state.

"You've got the ability to jump on the freeway and go anywhere," City Clerk Floyd Cairns said.

The land along 12 Mile, on the edge of I-696, provides what every company wants: exposure, city planner Claude Coates said.

The type of housing available in Farmington Hills, particularly for executives, also attracts interest, McConnell said.

WHAT IT boils down to is that Farmington Hills has status.

"Status starts with the houses. If you've got nice homes, it gives status and culture. Farmington Hills has got-

ten to be a recognized community," Cairns said. "There's something about it. I think we named it right. It's like Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills."

Certainly, other factors such as the living environment — schools, shopping areas, neighborhoods and the physical attractiveness of the area — play a big role in attracting the "best."

But the shining star is the financial aid offered by the EDC.

"We don't offer any inducements or concessions other than the benefit in the financing," McConnell said.

The EDC issues bonds to pay for commercial or industrial projects.

DEVELOPMENT COSTS less through the EDC because interest payments from EDC bonds are exempt from state or federal taxes. Since interest is tax exempt, the rate can be lower than on conventional industrial bonds.

Projects financed include building and equipment replacement.

"The EDC acts as an agent," McConnell said.

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### oral quarrel

## Should school officials have search powers?

Acting on orders from President Ronald Reagan, the Justice Department this week asked the United States Supreme Court to give public school officials broad authority to search for drugs and weapons.

According to press accounts, the Justice Department has defended warrantless searches conducted by teachers and other school officials that may produce evidence to be used in criminal prosecutions.

A test case will be argued before the

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## Commission race has 5 hopefuls

By Dave Varga staff writer

Five candidates are competing for Republican nomination for the 15th District seat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in the Aug. 7 primary.

Those running for the GOP nod are Gary Ferguson, Richard Hints, David Moffitt, David Potts and Virginia Rodgers. The winner will face Kenneth Wittberg, who was the only Democrat to run for the commission in the general election in November.

The 15th District includes Franklin, southeast Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills and unincorporated West

Bloomfield. It is traditionally a Republican stronghold, where the winner of the GOP nomination race carries the general election.

For the past 12 years, the 15th District seat has been held by Republican Lillian Moffitt, who decided to leave May said she would not seek re-election for health reasons.

EACH OF the five candidates have extensive different backgrounds, insight and own different understandings and approaches to the issues that are facing the voters in this community, with plans

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