

# Marks eyes experience as his election ally

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watchers, council has either maintained existing tax rates from one year to another or rolled back the rate, Marks said.

"But it has harmed the community," he said. "Now they are playing catch-up." If the city falls short of the amount of money needed to fully implement the improvement program, Marks said, "I wouldn't have a problem with further prioritizing down the road."

Nonetheless, Marks makes it clear he supports the plan and the priority list.

"I support it in total in the orderly fashion that it has been prioritized," said Marks.

Marks believes a new police building is the "prime priority" in the improvement plan.

"They (police) are operating under a tremendous disadvantage in so far as space is concerned," he said.

Marks believes a new, larger building will only improve the already "wonderful job" they have done.

"The only one for benefit from that (a new police building) is the city of Farmington Hills," Marks added.

Of second importance are projects designed to alleviate some drainage problems that have plagued the city for years, Marks said. Because of the need to buy property for retention ponds, immediacy in implementing the drainage projects is important, he added.

Marks applauds city officials' cre-

ation of a citizen committee to help plan development of the 211 acres Spicer property. That property will be used as a public park.

But Marks prefers leaving the area as a natural park. He sees it being used for cross-country skiing and tobogganing.

"The land is probably the last jewel in Oakton property that can give people the feeling of nature," he said.

The Farmington Community Library system is another thing Marks would

like to leave in its existing state.

"Right now I don't think it should be a separate entity," Marks said.

Although he feels the library is doing well under its Farmington-Farmington Hills co-sponsorship, Marks said independence could be an option for future councils.

"Right now though it's another level of government," he added.

While Marks believes the library should be given its traditional one mill for operations, he would like to see a more detailed library budget.

"I would like to see where they are spending their money," he said. "I think they have done a very fine job though. I don't think they should have been cut short of their own mill."

With 16 years of city involvement to his credit, Marks says he is confident he would be an asset to the council. Besides his tenure on the planning commission and charter commission, Marks' resume includes the chairmanship of the housing commission, director of the Future Farmington Association, which directed the drive toward cityhood, and membership on the build-

ing authority and builders board of appeals.

Marks' government experience also leads to opinions on how the council should be conducting itself.

Years ago, in keeping with the city charter, "I saw how a non-partisan council ran," Marks said. "Then there was no such thing as building coalitions or power blocks."

Claiming the council "has become polarized," Marks says controversy over, for example, the recent planning commission appointments, "all stem from coalitions or power blocks."

That's why the charter commission specifically chose to have a weak mayor or form of government. The absence of wards also points to the charter commission's desire to avoid partisan politics, Marks said.

"I think the city council has not been one of our better city councils," Marks said. "I think they have done a good job and a bad job."

The bad job refers directly to council's tendency to shy-away from raising taxes when needed, he said.

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# County race loaded with candidates

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door-to-door work and some brochures being distributed.

However, the West Bloomfield businessman has not obtained any endorsements, because "I didn't want to push anybody," Ferguson said.

Most important among his duties if he were elected county commissioner, Ferguson said, would be to maintain the level of service the county provides, especially in crime areas.

Mintz has aimed his campaign at "meeting as many people as I can" by going door-to-door and attending coffee's put on by friends.

The South Oakland Bar Association has endorsed Mintz, who is a attorney.

The priority issues, according to Mintz, are ensuring that the power shift from the county board to the county executive follows statutory guidelines, keeping taxes in check by practicing restraint in spending, and continuing to use sunset legislation on spending programs.

Moffitt's strategy has been "an intensive" direct mail and door-to-door campaign, he said.

Among the endorsements that Moffitt has gathered are U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham; state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington; Homer Case, a former Bloomfield Township supervisor; and Ellen Tompkins, past first vice-chairperson of the Republican State Committee.

Moffitt, who is the son of the incumbent, said the county commission's priorities include implementing a solid waste disposal plan, providing dependable and affordable surface transit that serves the area, and providing cost-effective crime control.

Attending community events and passing out literature and balloons has been the thrust of Potts' campaign, he said.

POTTS, AN attorney, has received support from Richard Headie, former Republican candidate for governor,

William Fitzgerald, former Democratic candidate for governor; Ronna Romney, Republican National Committee member; and state Sen. Richard Fier, R-West Bloomfield.

Potts said he supports county executive Daniel Murphy's style of government. He also said that solid waste disposal and mass transit issues should be addressed.

Rodgers has utilized almost every type of campaigning including door-to-door, mailing, handouts, telephone calls and coffee socials.

Rodgers, who is director of cultural affairs in the county executive's office, is being endorsed by Dr. Sheldon Stern, a Franklin council member, Karen Katz, also a Franklin council member, Gary Blom, an attorney, and Dr. and Mrs. Conrad Lam.

Increasing the awareness of county services for residents is one of the most important tasks for the county commission, Rodgers said. She also noted solid waste disposal and mass transit as important issues.

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by Allen DuQuet

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By Ron Rice, Ph.D.

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