



# Farmington Observer

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## City elections will be Tuesday

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

With another local election day drawing near, the last few weeks have been a time of lawn signs, door-to-door stumping, candidates forums and political flyers.

The generally low-key campaigning in both Farmington and Farmington Hills will climax Tuesday when voters go to the polls from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. to elect several city council members. Farmington Hills voters also will vote

### election '85

on five charter amendment proposals. Clerks in both cities predict typical council election turnouts — about 25 percent in Farmington and about 18 percent in Farmington Hills. Farmington Hills has 42,192 registered voters, Farmington 7,897.

By Saturday morning, 125 absentee

ballots had been returned in Farmington, City Clerk Josephine Bushey said. Although hoping for a 25-percent turnout, Bushey said, "I don't know whether we'll get that. Absentee votes have picked up this week, though. We could get quite a few these last few days."

IN 1983 — when three council seats were filled and a retirement ordinance amendment was passed — the turnout in Farmington was 18 percent. There were 99 absentee ballots.

"That's why I'm cautious in predicting," Bushey said. "I don't know what people are feeling — whether they're satisfied with what they have or whether they're apathetic. It's hard to gauge."

Farmington Hills City Clerk Joan Reynolds had received more than 1,900 completed absentee ballots by Saturday morning. "I think we'll have a little over 3,000 filled by the time the polls close," Reynolds said.

Reynolds isn't confident about going above the 18-percent turnout in 1983,

when voters filled four council posts and defeated a 1.5-mill increase to upgrade advanced life support services. That year, 2,238 voters voted absentee.

With four seats up for grabs and five charter amendments on the ballot this year, Reynolds said, "You'd think the election would generate interest. The people of the city, however, do not seem to take that great an interest in city elections — for what reason I don't know."

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## Farmington Focus

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

AFTER 20 years, the Michigan Foundation for the Arts has changed its name to the Arts Foundation of Michigan.

To eliminate confusion between the Michigan Foundation for the Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts (MCA), says Farmington Hills resident Barrie Werba, the newly named Arts Foundation of Michigan's executive director. The Arts Foundation is funded by corporations, foundations and individuals. The MCA is both federally and state funded, with no private contributions, Werba said.

The Foundation's support is directed to individual arts and students rather than institutions, she added.

AMONG those named to the dean's list at the University of Michigan-Dearborn was Julie Johnson of Farmington Hills. This senior is majoring in elementary education.

KUDOS to Kevin Caroy of Farmington Hills. The 1984 North Farmington High School graduate ran the New York City Marathon in 3:38:10. He is a senior prelaw student at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

THEY'RE degree winners. Mary Malosh received a bachelor's degree in community nutrition this summer at Madonna College, Livonia. Daniel Lacy earned an associate degree in social science. Both are from Farmington Hills.

WINNERS of bachelor of science degrees from Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, include seven Farmington-area residents.

They are Abdelhameed Almomani, mechanical engineering; Shayni Aldmrut, mechanical engineering; Thomas Jorwink, architecture; Agnes Michael, business administration; Phillip Mochlman, mechanical engineering; Scott Higney, electrical engineering; and Ross Starenski, mechanical engineering.

SAFETY'S on her mind. The National Safety Council elected Lavera Conklin of Farmington Hills to the board of directors. She will represent the Women's Division.

The non-governmental, not-for-profit public service organization is devoted to preventing accidents and occupational illnesses.

SENIOR Kathy Klein of Farmington was cast as Maud and Liz in the play "Good 9" at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. She's a theater major.

FOOTNOTES: The old Philbrick tavern, on the northeast corner of 11 Mile and Power Road, dates back to 1827.

In the 1830s and 1840s, Nathan Philbrick operated the tavern. At the time, it was considered the site of south Oakland County's first hostels. And it was widely known for high-quality entertainment, according to the Farmington Hills Historical Commission marker placed outside the now-private residence in 1984.

It also served as a meeting place for Farmington Township's early government.

In the 1830s, according to a strong and persistent local legend, the place possibly served as a station on the underground railroad, helping escaped slaves get into Canada, according to the historical marker.

## Hills adopts walk upkeep regulations

By Joanne Mallazowski  
staff writer

No longer will pedestrians have to trudge and slip through mounds of snow and ice on Farmington Hills sidewalks.

Beginning Nov. 19, Farmington Hills property owners or occupants will be required to remove snow and ice on sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of a snowfall.

Farmington Hills City Council adopted the city's first snow and ice removal ordinance last week in a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Failure to comply will result in a maximum \$500 fine. Each day, the property owner or occupant is in violation of the ordinance is considered an additional violation and fine. City officials may also have sidewalks cleared at a property owner's or occupant's expense.

The decision to adopt an ordinance came as a result of complaints and inquiries about snow and ice-covered sidewalks. Some property owners have also complained about others who have not been cleaning sidewalks.

DESPITE COMPLAINTS, city ordinance has never required snow and ice removal on sidewalks. "There has been no obligation for anyone to clean the sidewalks," Public Service Director Thomas Hissell said.

Mandatory snow removal comes at an appropriate time as more pedestrians are using sidewalks. "We are beginning to see more complete use of sidewalks now that a network is building up," Hissell said.

*'We are beginning to see more complete use of sidewalks now that a network is building up.'*

— Thomas Hissell, director, Hills public service

City officials' initial intent was to require snow and ice removal on only certain designated sidewalks that are frequently used along major roads. The plan was to include more areas under the ordinance as additional sidewalks in the city are completed.

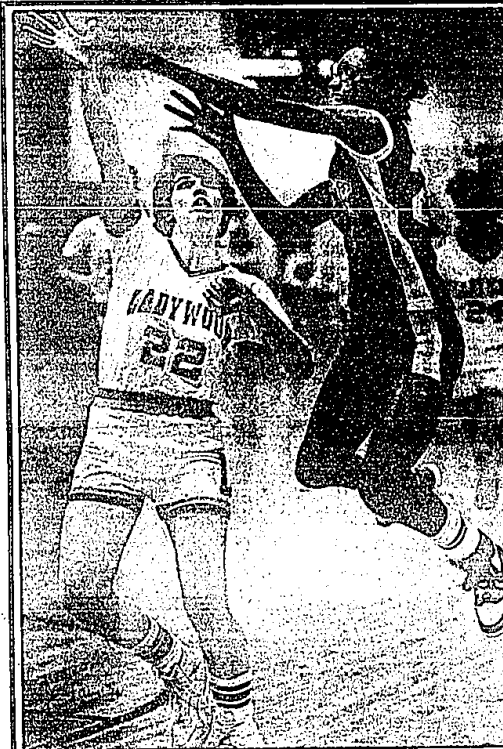
But council trounced that plan by a 6-1 vote in favor of including all sidewalks — along major, minor and subdivision roads — under the new ordinance.

"My concern is that we do have start and stop sidewalks all over the city," Councilwoman Joan Dudley said, adding that only certain portions of walkways would be cleaned.

Including all sidewalks under the ordinance would encourage more pedestrians to use them because they would be clear to walk on, Dudley said.

CITY STAFF considered including all sidewalks. But many of the sidewalks have little pedestrian traffic. The plan was to begin enforcement along sidewalks with heavy pedestrian traffic, Hissell said.

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

### Cagey work!

The Farmington Hills Mercy High School Marlinas fall at the hands of their archrival, the Livonia Ladywood Blazers, during a Catholic League Central Division game Thursday night at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham. In photo at left, Terri Ford (right) of Mercy leaps past Mary Joy Konczal of Ladywood. The Blazers topped the Marlinas 39-33 before a standing-room-only crowd. This is Ladywood's second consecutive win in post-season play. For the story, please turn to Page 1B.

## Downtown spotlight

### Steering committee is considering a DDA

For related stories, see Page 2A.

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

A Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is being strongly considered for Farmington's central business district, it was learned last week.

The 13-member steering committee of the city-appointed Downtown Farmington Development Committee (DFDC) will draft and review a proposed DDA ordinance before making a recommendation to the city council late in November.

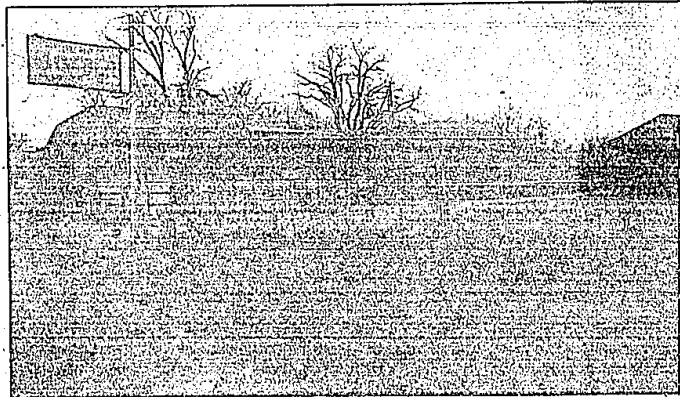
The DFDC steering committee met Wednesday night to discuss in-depth DDA's potential effect for downtown Farmington.

The committee's intent is to keep the downtown area healthy, while maintaining a people-oriented, small-town atmosphere.

Marketing consultant Nick Nicholas and architect/urban planner Christopher Wacey have been retained to develop a plan for the city's central business district.

ROBERT SCHULTZ, administrative

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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Village Commons — a 53,200-square-foot office and retail center — is planned for the old Farmington Lumber Co. site on Grand River.

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