

Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

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Indicates winner

Farmington Schools

TWO SEATS OPEN FOR 4-YEAR TERM

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Helen Ditzhazy (Incumbent) | 804 |
| Bobbie Feldman | 1,513 |
| Terry Fobbs | 438 |
| Julia Glazer | 112 |
| Joel Marwil | 35 |
| Susan McKendrick | 888 |
| Charles Romus | 154 |
| Ken Stein | 127 |
| David York | 1,039 |

Walled Lake Schools

ONE SEAT OPEN FOR A 4-YEAR TERM

| | |
|--|------------|
| Cynthia Campion (Incumbent) | 473 |
| Steven Kennelly | 234 |
| Thomas McConnell (Opp. Incumbent) | 373 |

UNEXPIRED 1-YEAR TERM

| | |
|--|------------|
| Steven Kennelly | 234 |
| Thomas McConnell (Opp. Incumbent) | 373 |

IN THE PAPER

TODAY

Principally speaking: Rande Horn is the new principal at Farmington Hills Harrison High. He's a highly motivated individual, according to those who worked with him at Lansing Waverly High. /3A

Paint job: A group of painters decided to help out a wheelchair-bound resident fix up his house. /5B

COUNTY NEWS

Racing for kids: Local youngsters with heart problems get pumped up from behind-the-scenes visit to last week's Grand Prix. /5A

OCC tuition: Like college students across the state, Oakland Community College students will pay more. /11A

SPORTS

Season starts: The Northwest Suburban Swim League begins its 32nd season of outdoor competition Friday. /1B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Child model: Taylor Hosner, 6, of Birmingham is getting an early start on a career, for she already models in print and has appeared on television. /1H

Troll collector: Jennifer Elliott, 9, of Troy always gets a smile out of her trolls. /1H

INDEX

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Building Scene . . . 1F | Crossword . . . 10E |
| Business . . . 1-3C | Entertainment . . . 6-8B |
| Classifieds . . . C-G | Obituaries . . . 8A |
| Auto C,G | Opinion . . . 18-19A |
| Employment . . . G | Police, fire calls 16A |
| Real estate . . . E,F,G | Personal Scene . 11G |
| Creative Living . . . 1D | |

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Feldman, York unseat Ditzhazy



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Bobbie Feldman and David York were winners in Monday's Farmington School election as incumbent Helen Ditzhazy was unseated in her bid for a third term on the school board. Challenger Susan McKendrick made things interesting, though.

Bobble Feldman and David York are in, and Helen Ditzhazy is out on the Farmington school board.

Only five percent of the voters turned out Monday in a Farmington school election featuring nine candi-

dates. Feldman scored a decisive victory, collecting 29 percent of the vote with 1,513 ballots in her favor.

Feldman won eight precincts and absentee balloting handsily.

"This is only the second board election with eight precincts," Feldman said. "We didn't know how it

would go. . . Now we know."

York nudged out Susan McKendrick by 61 votes for the second open seat on the school board. Incumbent Ditzhazy finished fourth with 804. Trustee John Cotton didn't run.

"Don't count me out yet," said Ditzhazy, who spent the last week and a half of the campaign with a friend who was terminally ill. "There's always an election next year."

With Feldman way ahead, the York-McKendrick race provided the most suspense. At one point, McKendrick led by four votes with six precincts counted.

The outcome went down to the last precinct counted. The tally reported from Precinct 1 at Longacre Elementary gave York the deciding margin.

A cheer went up from York's supporters in Farmington Hills City Hall, where candidates congregated awaiting the results.

"I didn't have a reading on the people," said York, sipping a Diet Coke with his wife and two children nearby. "I know I spent a lot of time there (Longacre) today."

York collected 163 votes in Precinct

See ELECTION, 2A

Two generations of commencement



SHARON LEMMEL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Family learning: Janet and Sam Tjalsma of Farmington Hills were mother and son graduates at Farmington Public Schools Adult commencement ceremonies.

Adult grads feel special pride

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

After the caps and gowns, "Pomp and Circumstance," and diplomas have been handed out, it's usually time to check into Hotel Reality.

For many of the 70 graduates of Farmington Adult Education, though, the crash course on life's hardships has already been passed with flying colors. They've come back for the one thing that has held

North graduates, 3A

them back.

In the process, some regained self-esteem. Some conquered fears.

Many latched onto a dream, the kind that captures heart and spirit.

"We cry at every one of them," said Terry Klenczar, director of Adult/Community Education. "We

have people who set a goal and achieve a goal no matter what the obstacles. . . That's what makes it so special."

Graduates in this year's class ranged from 18 to 72 in age, all with a different story.

They had to step away to raise children. Or, they didn't feel like they fit into a regular classroom setting.

See GRADS, 6A

Local school official commends tenure changes

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington school official said two reforms added to the Michigan teacher tenure law will be beneficial.

The new laws streamline dismissal procedures, extend probation for beginning teachers from two years to four years, and end recall rights for laid off teachers after three years.

Susan Zurvalec, director of employee relations, favors the probation extension even though "it may seem like a long time."

As for the call back issue, Zurvalec said it's conceivable that some teach-

ers in some districts could be on a recall list for 10 or 16 years.

"They are not kept current on their teaching abilities and skills," Zurvalec said.

Bob Coleman, director of personnel, estimates that "four or five" teachers have been terminated in the past.

"I haven't seen what changes in the law there are," Coleman said.

Most recently, "within the last five years," one teacher did not return from a leave of absence. "Poor attendance and poor classroom performance can influence a district to begin

termination proceedings, Coleman said.

"People have resigned," he said. Zan Alley, Uniserv director of the Michigan Education Association, said that she hadn't read the law's changes.

"We will work within the law," Alley said. "Teachers are protected by law, so they aren't fired on a whim."

A review of more than 600 tenure cases showed that many districts spend more than \$100,000 to discharge a teacher in a process that usually lasts four years. In one case, frequently cited, the Plymouth-Can-

ton school district spent 14 years trying to discharge a teacher for incompetence.

Under the new system that takes effect Oct. 1, an administrative law judge from the Michigan Department of Education would replace a district's school board as the first body to hear evidence against a teacher.

Appeals would then be made to the state Court of Appeals. The bills also set deadlines for each stage of the process.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

Rev up raffle

Start those engines of optimism. Tickets for the annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival Fantasy Car Raffle are on sale for \$100 each. Holder of the winning ticket receives a 1993 Corvette Coupe or a \$30,000 cash prize. The drawing is July 17.

Money raised from the event helps pay for the Founders Festival, which runs July 16-17. A limited number of tickets are put on sale, which increases the odds of winning. Some people pay out \$300 for three; some split the difference for ticket at \$25 each and participate in a pool. Tickets are available at several Farmington area businesses. For information, call 474-3440.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Youth violence forum

A forum will be presented by the Citizens Against Violence in the Schools 7-9 p.m. Thursday, June 17, at the Farmington Public Library, Liberty and State streets. Don Cowan, director of building and student services, and Estralee Mihalson, coordinator of health curriculum, will attend from the Farmington Schools. The purpose of the meeting will be to share information with parents about plans they have to help curtail the increasing societal problem of youth violence. Peo-

ple are asked to attend to comment and provide ideas.

Memory lane

From the June 18, 1995, edition of The Farmington Enterprise: The new Farmington High School building on Shilwaassee Street would be ready for furniture and equipment to be brought in about four weeks, according to superintendent O.E. Dunckel. Work on the building was delayed for several weeks due to a strike of painters and carpenters.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, dropped off at the newspaper office, or faxed to 477-9722.