

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 110 NUMBER 11

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1996 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 44 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Student choices surprising

The students have spoken... in a mock election. And what a surprise! Farmington-area high-schoolers said yes to underdogs Steve Dibert and Steve Kaplan.

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If seniors at the four Farmington-area high schools are right, President Clinton can breath easy. And Steve Dibert is going to be one very surprised State House candidate. Seniors at Farmington, North Farmington, Farmington Hills Harrison and Mercy High School cast

their votes Oct. 29 on the same ballots that the rest of the voting public will use in Tuesday's election.

The voters included high school seniors, both those who are 18 and eligible to vote in Tuesday's general election, and other seniors.

Ed Davis, a government teacher at North Farmington High, said he was especially pleased with the

turnout considering half of the seniors were not taking government.

"We had 71 percent participate, almost three-quarters of the students, with only half enrolled in government," he said, "we replicated the real thing (ballots)."

Davis said students had to register and apply to vote and the voting followed a special unit that used voter guides and other materials about the election.

And yes, Davis was surprised. "Four years ago, in this building, Ross Perot won," he said.

The independent Texan received only 17 votes at North and a total of

48. Cindy Crawford and Dr. Jack Kevorkian each received write-in votes, he said.

Although President Clinton won, as the polls indicate he will Tuesday, there were some upsets. But one of the most telling statistics was the amount of students who voted. At Mercy, 47 percent of those eligible voted, 49 percent voted at Farmington, 71 percent voted from North Farmington and a lousy 97 percent voted from Harrison.

In all, 676 students voted, including 122 from Farmington, 196 from

See STUDENTS, A3

ELECTION GENERAL

POLL HOURS: Polls will open at 7 a.m., and close at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 5.

CANDIDATE LISTINGS: Below are selected races on the local ballot. Selected endorsements are indicated by ✓. Incumbents are noted by I.

ELECTION RESULTS: Please call our Election Hotline at (810) 477-8480 on Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Advise our receptionist which races you are interested in. Complete results will appear in Thursday's paper.

NATIONAL/STATE

U.S. SENATE

Six-year term; Pay \$133,600

Republican: Ronna Romney
Democrat: Carl Levin I
Libertarian: Kenneth L. Proctor
Natural Law: Joseph S. Mattingly

U.S. HOUSE

Two-year term; Pay \$133,600

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Republican: Joe Knollenberg I ✓
Democrat: Morris Famin
Libertarian: Dick Gach
Natural Law: Stuart J. Goldberg

STATE HOUSE

Two-year term; Pay \$50,029 + \$9,925 in expenses

37TH DISTRICT (Farmington, Farmington Hills)
Republican: Andrew Raczkowski
Democrat: Stephen Dibert ✓

OAKLAND COUNTY

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Four-year term; Pay \$112,792

Republican: L. Brooks Patterson I ✓
Democrat: Edward T. Hamilton

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Four-year term; Pay \$101,811

Republican: Dave Gorcyca
Democrat: Steven Kaplan ✓

SHERIFF

Four-year term; Pay \$90,045

Republican: John F. Nichols I ✓
Democrat: Matt Hogan

COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

Four-year term; Pay \$90,045

Republican: Lynn D. Allen I
Democrat: M. Kay Brady

TREASURER

Four-year term; Pay \$90,045

Republican: C. Hugh Dohany I
Democrat: William Pearson

DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Four-year term; Pay \$90,045

Republican: George Kuhn I
Democrat: Martha Blom

OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSION

Two-year term; Pay \$73,468

19TH DISTRICT (Northern Farmington Hills)
Republican: David L. Moffitt I
Democrat: No Candidate

20TH DISTRICT (Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield)
Republican: Donn L. Wolf I ✓
Democrat: Kurt Lopez

JUDICIAL

6TH CIRCUIT COURT (INCUMBENT)

Six-year term; Pay \$108,075

Non-Partisan (vote for five): Steven N. Andrews I
Barry A. Howard I
Leslie Anne Logan
Fred M. Meester I
Rudy J. Nichols I
Gene Schnelz I

6TH CIRCUIT COURT (NON-INCUMBENT)

Six-year term; Pay \$108,075

Non-Partisan (vote for one): Nancy Grant
John N. O'Brien ✓

PROBATE COURT

Six-year term; Pay \$101,463

Non-Partisan: Barry M. Grant I

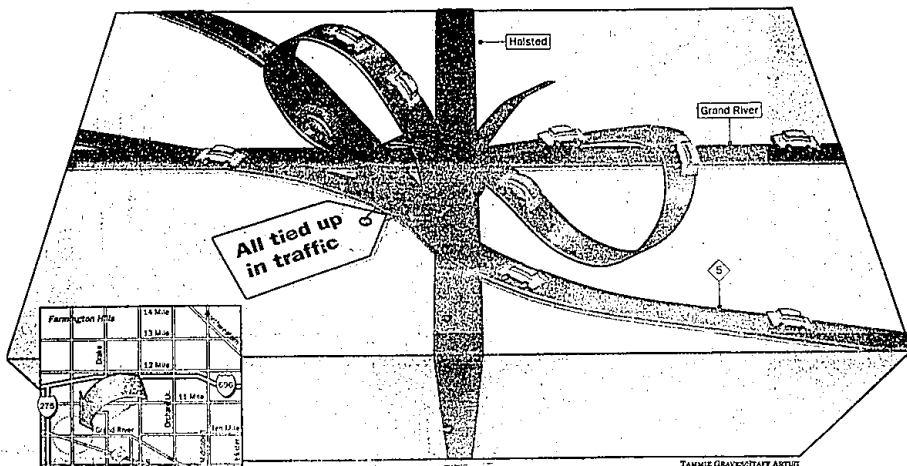
47TH DISTRICT COURT

Six-year term; Pay \$101,463

Non-Partisan: Fred Harris I

ABSENTEE VOTING:

Qualified absentee voters may still apply and vote in person until 4 p.m. today at the city or township clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be turned in before the polls close.



Road gift may unsnarl bad corner

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

It was no accident that Tom Biasell began the introductions at the M-5/Grand River Improvement Luncheon Oct. 28 at the Botsford Inn.

Biasell, who is Farmington Hills director of public services, has seen the project designed to unsnarl the interchange from the Grand River/10 Mile/Halsted intersection to M-5 from its infancy. But the infancy has proven to be a long childhood.

"It was a priority in the 1970s,"

Biasell said. "Then came a recession."

But after several economic downturns, being jumped over by other projects and the gain and loss of prospective federal funding several times over, city and state and national officials seemed more confident than in a long that the project, which has been chopped down, will actually come off.

"With the acquisition of right of way to one major business (Globe Furniture), this project should be under construction by late 1997," said Robert Welke, director of the Michigan Department of Trans-

portation.

After received \$1.3 million in demonstration money from the federal government, thanks to Congressman Joe Knollenberg and former Congressman Bob Carr.

Knollenberg, who credited his former colleague from across the aisle with helping get the money, said the project should be getting an additional \$4.2 million in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality money later this month. An additional \$1.2 million in Transportation Economic Development Funds money has been applied for, and

officials are optimistic that it will also be awarded.

That would allow the building of a right turn off on eastbound Grand River that would eliminate the left turn lane going onto the freeway that normally backs up traffic. There would be other improvements in the "Phase I" that would cost \$6.7 million out of about \$16 million for the entire project, which would include another bridge going one-way westbound.

"That's why they call it an 80

See PROJECT, A2

Hills man convicted of child molestation

BY TODD WICES
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills man was found guilty of molestating an 11-year-old boy in Oakland County Circuit Court Wednesday.

Twenty minutes of deliberation was all it took for a jury to find Gregory Allen Gilbert, 50, guilty on two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. He had pled not guilty to both charges.

Sentencing will take place Nov. 22, said Judge Rudy Nichols.

"The maximum sentence is 16

years," said prosecutor Pam Maas. "We're going to ask the judge to give him as much time as possible, because we believe that he's a dangerous sexual predator."

Gilbert's case received national attention in January when he was accused of luring young boys over the Internet.

Gilbert had been good friends with the 11-year-old's parents, a Bloomfield Hills couple. After therapy, the youth confessed to his parents that Gilbert had fondled him in September 1995.

The boy testified against Gilbert

at a preliminary exam in Farmington District Court in January.

The case sparked national concern, and was among the first to call attention to the issue of child pornography and molesters finding potential victims over the Internet.

"Because of the use of the Internet and computers (in this case), it does teach us that you have to be wary," said Maas, "especially when children are using them."

Gilbert's attorney, H. Wallace Parker, could not be reached for comment.



Gregory Allen Gilbert

A 'Musicale' afternoon

The Farmington Musicales will present "Strictly Instrumental" — a program of duo pianos, French horns and a string quintet and more — at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. The program is open to the public.

A 'pet' project

If you own a pet that could help improve the quality of life for nursing home residents? If so, the Pet-A-Pet Club wants to hear from you.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Botsford Continuing Health Center, a Farmington Hills nursing home, needs Pet-A-Pet volunteers for its Saturday program. The Pet-A-Pet group meets the second Saturday of each month — Nov. 9 this month — at 10 a.m. for about an hour.

To be part of the program, the pet must have an updated shot record and pass a temperament test.

Anyone interested in volunteering their pets should call Estelle Bleedackien (464-9005) or

Ruth Curry (563-0410).

Home buyers take note

A free seminar for home buyers, sponsored by a Realtor, bankers and home inspector, will be held 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library, 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

For reservations, call Hazel Locklear at 478-6000.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office.

INDEX			
Auto report	D1	Malls	B8-9
Classifieds	B-D	Movies	B6
Autos	D4	Obituaries	A5
Employment	C4	O&E On Line	B9
Pets	D4	Personal Scene	B7
Service Guide	D3	Police & fire	A4
Crossword	B7	Sports	C1-3
Letters	A10	Taste	B1-3