

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Volume 87 Number 6 Thursday, November 6, 1973 Farmington, Michigan 66 Pages Twenty Five Cents

Ortman defeated

Smith triumphs in Hills council contest

By STEVE BARNABY

The long-fought battle for a city council seat in Farmington Hills has been won by Joanne Smith, who turned out to be the high vote getter in this week's election.

Mrs. Smith received 2,355 votes, winning a four-year seat. Placing second was Jan Dolan, with 2,161 votes, third, Keith Deacon, with 1,926, and fourth Mayor Earl Oppertbauer, with 1,882 votes. Oppertbauer is the only one of

those elected who will serve a two-year term.

The big loser was Councilman William Ortman, who got 1,548 votes. Also losing was challenger Bernard Christy, who received 1,375 votes.

Mrs. Smith ran in the city's first election two years ago, failing to gain a seat by 38 votes, when she lost out to Ortman. Many observers felt she should have been named to the council last year when Margaret Schaeffer was elected as district judge. But she

didn't receive majority support from the council at that time and Jan Dolan was appointed.

"I'm really gratified about voter response," said Mrs. Smith. "It showed that the voters were trying to say something two years ago when I lost by that narrow margin."

She expressed optimism over the future of Farmington Hills, naming park development and emergency medical services as two areas of priority.

"I think we are getting ready for the potential that is Farmington Hills," she said. "What we become depends on what we do now."

Mrs. Smith believes the parks situation should be dealt with before open acreage is used up.

"The city must be willing to buy land in order to acquire the space needed for parks. If we don't make plans now, the city will develop and nothing will be done," she said.

Consolidation with the City of Farmington must also be seriously looked into, she said.

"I want there to be open discussions about this issue," she said. "There are many people in city government that are sure this (consolidation) is going to happen."

Critics opposed to consolidation are correct, she says, when they point to services that Farmington Hills hasn't developed.

"But, we have some things the City of Farmington would like to have, such as the industrial park and open land. Our problems don't stop at the border," she said.

Keith Deacon, also elected to a four-year term, expressed dismay over council colleague Earl Oppertbauer's poor showing at the polls.

"I was a little disappointed in the way Earl placed. I hoped he would have placed in the top three. Personally, I feel his poor showing was due to the bickering at the council table in the last few months," he said.

Oppertbauer was instrumental in having the two advisory referendums on roads and parks placed on the ballot. There was dissension among city council members on whether the questions should even be placed before the voters for approval.

"I hate to see polarization happen

at the council table. But, I've never had trouble working with anyone. I believe everyone who is running for council has the benefit of the community utmost on their mind," said Deacon.

Keeping an eye on finances will be Deacon's chief concern during his upcoming term. He believes the troubles in New York City are signs of things to come for other cities.

"I think that every city can look for a financial crisis. We have to be prepared for such things as revenue sharing cutbacks," said Deacon.

Deacon would like to zero in on senior citizen housing and community protection in his next term.

"I work in Detroit and see what street crime does to a community. I don't want that to happen in Farmington Hills," he said.

Oppertbauer was disappointed in his fourth place showing and expressed hope that what he labeled as dissension wouldn't affect the workings of city council.

"We've all got to work together. It's not a question of differences of opinion. We've got to make the city work."

He would like to work on the volunteer fire department, concept and human rescue service in his upcoming term.



Joanne Smith (left) gleefully celebrates as she learns she is the top vote getter for Farmington Hills City Council. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

at the council table. But, I've never had trouble working with anyone. I believe everyone who is running for council has the benefit of the community utmost on their mind," said Deacon.

Keeping an eye on finances will be Deacon's chief concern during his upcoming term. He believes the troubles in New York City are signs of things to come for other cities.

"I think that every city can look for a financial crisis. We have to be prepared for such things as revenue sharing cutbacks," said Deacon.

Deacon would like to zero in on senior citizen housing and community protection in his next term.

"I work in Detroit and see what street crime does to a community. I don't want that to happen in Farmington Hills," he said.

Oppertbauer was disappointed in his fourth place showing and expressed hope that what he labeled as dissension wouldn't affect the workings of city council.

"We've all got to work together. It's not a question of differences of opinion. We've got to make the city work."

He would like to work on the volunteer fire department, concept and human rescue service in his upcoming term.

Voters approve roads and parks

Farmington Hills voters approved speeding up road construction funding and supported the concept of development of small parks in Tuesday's election.

The road construction approval vote was 1,606 versus 1,106 opposed. Voters opting for the small park concept tallied 1,208. Those voting for a combination of small and large parks were 966, while those voting for no parks were 771. Development of only a large park was the loser, garnering 415 votes.

Although the advisory referendum isn't legally binding, city councilmen have expressed an interest in getting voter input so they may have some sort of guideline.

If the city council carries through on the road proposal, paving of main and primary roads would be accelerated through sale of city road construction bonds to be paid off or repaid with a portion of the city's future gasoline and weight tax revenue.

The main advantage, say proponents, is that inflationary costs can be battled. Every year the city waits to construct roads, it becomes 15 per

cent more expensive, according to city officials.

Other advantages cited by officials are:

- Widening traffic-congested major county and city paved roads will reduce an excessive number of traffic accidents because of restricted capacity.
- Paving gravel roads reduces operating costs to the traveling public and reduces a potential for damages caused by chuck holes and bad weather.
- Paving gravel roads results in fewer maintenance demands on the city resulting in not only major savings, but better maintenance services in other areas that require attention.

Roads being considered for paving are Orchard Lake, Middle Belt, Twelve Mile, Eight Mile, Nine Mile, Eleven Mile, Thirteen Mile, Drake and Halstead.

Although the small park concept was endorsed by a majority of those voting, the Farmington Area Recreation Commission had endorsed a combined system.

Hartsock tops ticket in city; Bennett wins as the newcomer

By STEVE BARNABY

City of Farmington voters gave their majority support to incumbent Councilman William Hartsock in Tuesday's election. Mayor Ralph Yoder placed second with newcomer Alton Bennett taking the third seat.

The unofficial vote tally showed Hartsock leading the five contenders with 1,118 votes. Yoder garnered 891 votes and Bennett tallied 796. Hartsock and Yoder will serve four year terms, with Bennett serving for two years.

Losers were Alton Holm, who tallied 518 votes and James Moore who drew 530 votes.

Hartsock, a 25-year-old accountant, said he was surprised at his first place finish.

"I WAS SURE that the mayor (Yoder) would take first place. But, I'll have to admit I'm really pleased with the results," said Hartsock, who has served one previous term on the city's legislative body.

One of the advantages of coming in first at the polls, said Hartsock, was

that he would be serving a four year term where in he could work more fully on programs.

"Now I'll be able to follow through on long-term programs. Two years is just too short a time," he said, after hearing of his victory.

Hartsock labeled renovation of the northeast quadrant of Grand River and Farmington roads, road maintenance, recreation, and crime fighting as priorities he would like to address in the next four years.

"Orchard Lake Road is crucial to our city. It is the link-up with the expressway. It is something that we should be looking at," he said.

The recreation program, he said, is just beginning. A community arts cen-

ter is another matter he would like to see dealt with.

"We're going to have to sit down and talk with the leaders in Farmington Hills to get these two situations resolved. They have seemed reluctant in the past."

Vandalism, he said, is becoming a growing concern, especially in the Eight Mile-Farmington Rd. section of the city. A recent police report indicated vandalism was up 65 per cent overall in the city.

"I'm hearing that persons in the south end of the city are thinking of starting up citizen patrols because the situation has gotten so bad," he said.



Mayor Ralph Yoder, City of Farmington, was confident that victory was his during this week's election. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

inside

- News Section A
- Editorials 12
- Columns 12
- Business Section B
- Sports Section C
- Classified Section C and D
- Farmington Suburban Life Section E
- Community calendar 2E
- Club Circuit 2E

SOLD ON FIRST CALL

After she placed a fast-acting want ad in the Observer & Eccentric, Mrs. Gursky called to report that she received many phone calls the first day that the ad appeared. And, better yet, she sold her boys bedroom outfit on the very first phone call that came in.

It's so easy to place a classified and now you can charge it to your BankAmericard or Master Charge account. Just have your card handy whenever you call.

CALL CLASSIFIED DIRECT
644-1070

Ethnicity is church topic

Racial, religious and national backgrounds in the city of Detroit will be under discussion at a meeting Thursday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. in the parish hall of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 2915 Powers, Farmington.

Speakers are Wyatt Jones and the Reverend John Powers.

Jones, a senior minister of service in St. Cecilia Parish in Detroit, will speak on ethnicity and race in Detroit. Rev. Powers, pastor of St. Cecilia Church, will discuss the "Latino Problem" in the city.

BENNETT, WARNER Junior High School principal, said he would concentrate on learning the ropes of city politics before taking any action.

"I've got to learn what's going on," he said. "I'm first going to learn about the ins and outs."

Two priorities he would like to see addressed are recreation and senior citizen concerns.

Yoder also labeled the development of the northeast quadrant of Grand River and Farmington Rds as one of his main priorities. Sewer separation and rubbish and waste disposal also are issues he believes to be important.

"We have a pretty well run city. We are going to continue to see it run that way."

Yoder admitted that he ran a low-key campaign, expressing confidence that he would win.