

Hills wins reprieve in police pay battle

Farmington Hills has won a last minute delay of an Oakland County Circuit Court order which would have required the city to pay its patrolmen a top salary of \$21,000.

The State Court of Appeals issued the delaying order in the last moments of a deadline imposed by Circuit Court Judge Robert Temple last week.

The Hills' day of appeals court is ex-

pected to be scheduled sometime in January, according to City Atty. Paul Bibeau. At that time, the city will present its case to a three-judge panel.

The patrolmen will be expected to present their side of the case to the appeals court panel at the same time.

Temple had ordered the city to obtain an appeals court restraining order or pay

the patrolmen by Nov. 1.

"The order came in the mail, Nov. 2," Bibeau said.

If the court does rule eventually against the Hills' interpretation of the cost of living clause in the patrolmen's contract, the city could appeal to the state supreme court.

"I think we ought to consider an appli-

cation to the supreme court, then," Bibeau said.

Meanwhile, a three-man arbitration panel is considering the patrolmen's new contract. The panel is deciding whether to incorporate the disputed sum of \$3,000 into the agreement or to accept the city's highest offer of \$18,100 a year.

Currently, the patrolmen are receiving a

top salary of \$17,000 a year.

Union representatives have expressed the fear that their members may be paying \$4,000 to the city if the courts rule in their favor and the arbitration panel decides for the city's highest offer.

In that case, the panel's decision for lower pay overrides the court's order. If the city already has paid the patrolmen

the top salary, union president Joseph Valente fears his members could find themselves repaying the difference to the city.

The dispute stems from a cost of living clause in the old contract which expired March 1973. The clause says that the cost of living increases would double every six months by having the index figure compounded at each pay adjustment period.

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Brotherton, McConnell are victors

Brodhead is big winner in 17th

Farmington and Farmington Hills residents went against the odds to elect their representatives in the 17th Congressional District.

When the final tally was in early Wednesday morning, the two cities had come out solidly for incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford, Senate hopeful Marvin E. Math and House Republican James Burdick, candidate in the 17th Congressional District.

In local races, voters helped to send back 46th District State Rep. Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington) for his second term in Lansing.

In three county commission races, the two cities stuck to their Republican guns by supporting Dennis Murphy in the 24th district, Farmington Hills City Councilman

Robert McConnell in the 25th district and incumbent John McDonald in the 27th District.

The two cities cast ballots to coincide with the settlement of state voters on the four ballot questions.

On proposition A, to ban throwaways, they cast 19,581 in favor and 9,290 against. On proposition B, to allow 18-year olds to run for the state legislature, the cities voted 5,118 in favor and 23,039 against.

On proposition C, to put a ceiling on state spending, Farmington Farmington Hills opposed the move by casting 12,077 in favor and 17,273 against.

A massive campaign had been waged by a Vermont leaders at all levels to have the measure defeated in fear that local taxes would have to be raised or services

cut if the proposal passed. Apparently the strong lobbying effort worked because the entire state electorate voted down the proposal.

Donald D. the graduated income tax, left-area voters unimpressed as they turned down the idea by casting only 5,433 in favor and 22,587 against.

Many opponents labeled the proposal as a weakly-written law which would be tantamount to a tax on the middle income brackets, of which the majority of Farmington and Farmington Hills voters stand.

In the 17th Congressional tally, Burdick received 15,153 to U.S. Rep. William Brodhead's 12,140. But the cities support did little good for Burdick since Southfield, Redford Township and Detroit voters all supported Brodhead.

Brotherton walked away with the election by receiving 24,300 votes in his district which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield. His competition, Marxist Democrat Harvey Leon Katz, received 12,996 votes throughout the district.

All three cities in the district supported Brotherton.

On the county commission level races in the 24th district Dennis Murphy received 11,026 to defeat Democratic challenger Susan Haas who received 8,908.

In the 25 district, McConnell received 9,413 to challenger John Jack's total of 5,422. McConnell's deep roots in Farmington Hills politics proved the difference as he received 2,301 from his hometown supporters. Jack received only 1,043 in the Hills tally.

Republican incumbent McDonald in the 27th District easily walked away from Democratic opponent John Campbell. McDonald received 8,088 to Campbell's 4,213.

In the presidential tally Ford received 20,668 votes to president-elect Jimmy Carter's total of 9,918 in the two city ballot.

In the senate contest Elch received 18,111 in his losing effort to senator-elect Don Regles total of 11,091.

In county results Farmington Farmington Hills voters supported Republican incumbent County Executive Daniel Murphy with 16,862 to Philip Mastin's tally of 9,863. Murphy narrowly won that race in the countywide tally.

Brooks Patterson, the overwhelming victor in the prosecutor's race received 20,503 from Farmington Farmington Hills voters. His opponent Tim Donnan received 7,309.

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters supported Hills resident Johannes Spreen in the reelection bid for county sheriff. Spreen received 15,722 votes to opponent Leo Hazen's vote of 11,736.

Countywide, Spreen took the race with 212,364 to Hazen's 151,123.



The victor smiles

U.S. Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) gives a big victory smile after learning he beat Republican challenger James Burdick in the 17th Congressional District. Sharing in his victory is Brodhead's mother, Agnes. To see other election photos turn to page 8A. (Staff photo by Harry Maithe)

McConnell bids farewell to municipal politics

By STEVE BARNABY

After a long and colorful career in Farmington Township and Hills politics, Robert McConnell has moved up the political ladder with a new role in state government.

McConnell was elected as the Oakland County Commissioner for the 25th District in this week's election, defeating his opponent, John Jack of Detroit.

Although anxious to get involved with the county scene, the 47-year-old businessman says he is reluctant to leave the local political arena.

"I'm leaving with a certain amount of regret. But I'm also leaving with a feeling of accomplishment," said McConnell, who has served tenures as Farmington Hills mayor, city councilman, charter commission chairman and township supervisor.

"WE'VE SET UP a good professional administration in the city. We've accomplished what we set out to do. I'm not worried about the future," he said.

While being involved in township and city politics, he sees the successful incorporation move, the chairmanship of the charter commission and the establishment of a professional city administration as highlights of his local political career. McConnell has been known throughout his political career as the person able to tackle a controversial issue and compromise it into reality. The long time politi-



ROBERT MCCONNELL

ciro still sees some areas of improvement needed for the city.

"I think the big question in the next four or five years will be consolidation with the City of Farmington. It's a question of how to share services and equalization of taxation."

"It's just a fact that the two communities will be best served by having unified

facilities. But the public can't have the issue pushed on them. They must see the need themselves," said McConnell.

The newly elected county commissioner also wants to see the charter changed so that the city's mayor would be elected by a vote of the electorate.

Presently, the mayor is elected by colleagues on the council.

If the mayor is elected by the people, he or she will have to put up a program of leadership, which it would stop a lot of the backbiting that goes on at the council right now," he said.

While remaining about past achievements, McConnell reminisces even more his political career in Pontiac.

"I INTEND ON getting involved in the transportation programs facing the county. I want to open up transportation opportunities for Western Oakland County, especially for senior citizens," said McConnell.

McConnell also is focusing in on the construction of 1273 which will be running through a portion of his commission district.

"I want to see a minimum of disruption to the environment," he said.

McConnell also would like to see county acquire more federal money to pay for such programs as transportation and road construction.

"Right now there is a burden on Oakland County taxpayers. I want to minimize these taxes. We're already paying too

much," he said.

Brotherton beat Democratic challenger Harvey Leon Katz, a Southfield resident in this week's election.

Of concern to Brotherton will be reforms in the parole system, health insurance, and safety inspection of schools by state authorities.

Reform of state aid to schools also is high on the 54-year-old lawmaker's list of priorities.

"My main objective will be to get the taxpayers more value for their dollars and to eliminate waste in programs that aren't producing results," said Brotherton.

Brotherton is sponsoring a bill which focuses on an emotional, local issue—required safety inspection of school equipment used by students by the Michigan Department of Labor.

Brotherton introduced the bill last year after the death of 13-year-old Robert Kourjian, an East Junior High School student in the Farmington School District.

He was electrocuted while unplugging a defective heater in a shop class. Presently, the district is being sued by the Kourjian family.

"As it stands now, only equipment used by school employees is inspected. I want the exception to cover equipment used by the students."



WILBUR BROTHERTON

"After all, safety is one of the first things we should be talking about," said Brotherton.

Besides actual inspection of equipment, Brotherton also would like to have a training program established for instructors.

"Volunteers sought by Goodfellows"

Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner and the Farmington Goodfellows are seeking volunteers to make their drive a success once more this year.

Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of Farmington and Farmington Hills residents, every child has a Christmas.

This year's drive is led by Chairman Mike Tomlin who is seeking persons to sign up for this year's drive.

"Volunteer assistance always is needed at the headquarters in December to pack Goodfellow baskets," says Tomlin. "If you can lend a helping hand, call me at 474-3440."

Young and old compare outlook in game of electoral politics

By HOWARD RUTAL

It is said that only death and taxes are inevitable, which is another way of saying that death and taxes are the only two things everyone has in common. But there is another common denominator for those who choose to exercise the right to vote.

My own reason for the election, through an unscientific survey, showed that a lot of young adults voted for the first time in Tuesday's election. Many senior citizens voted for the umpteenth time.

National elections are exciting, a holiday from the day-to-day worries, when people get their chance to worry about the day of state. A national election gets the blood stirred up, the tongue loosened, and the mind geared up to solve the biggest problem of the day.

Lila Karoub, 20, a North Farmington graduate, pulled that fateful curtain closed on the time for the first time. "I wanted to see what it was like. I felt pretty excited in there (the voting booth). I had to make lot of decisions. I brought a list. I studied everything very carefully. I got all sorts of brochures."

IT WAS ALMOST a rite of initiation in being an adult, as well as being an American, for those first time voters at DuSart Jr. High in Farmington Hills.

There seemed a sense of relief about having made it through a bedeviled ballot without having missed out on the machine or ruined the country, Lila having sex, they seemed to feel better for every day "it" for the first time.

Ann Kalmush has voted in every presidential election since '38 when she cast a winning ballot for Herbert Hoover from a voting booth in the Ann Arbor High School



Patty Gardner

in Ann Arbor. "I loved that man. He was a doll."

She's 66 now, and living in the Farmington Nursing Home. Although she voted for President Ford via absentee ballot, she didn't have any less enthusiasm for the campaign or the political process.

She has her own room in the nursing home and doesn't get a steady flow of visitors, particularly those who don't already know how she would vote, or whose minds aren't made up.

But she wore a red stick-on Ford button on the left lapel of her tan and black tailored suit.

Herbert Schotte, 80, another Farmington Nursing Home resident, has always found politics to be an elixir. "I felt quite a man I guess," when he voted for Warren Harding in 1920.

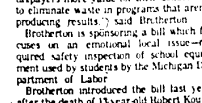
On election day he sat in his wheelchair and expounded eagerly on the virtues of Gerald Ford.



Lila Karoub

Back before the Great War he hung around his father's grocery store in Detroit and watched the admen stump the locals for votes and influence. "They were the biggest crooks."

AS A YOUNG MAN he worked the polling booths, portable wooden houses that were carried around on a truck. He never thought of stuffing the ballot box, he said.



Ann Kalmush

Not that he spends much time reminiscing about the days when the Republican presidential candidates won election after election.

He votes by absentee ballot. He wrote to the city clerk for that ballot. He wrote to U.S. Rep. William Brodhead, Senator Robert Griffin, and President Ford, begging them to do more for the nation's senior citizens.

"I want more money for the old people," he said. "What do you think?" He also wants money for loans in which applicants are designated with handicapped people in mind.

Except for one vote for FDR in the Depression, he's cast all his presidential votes for Republicans, and he's proud of it.

"I'm sorry I voted for that confused Nixon," he said. "You can kick my pants for it."

If voting in a national election is a tonic that helps keep old people young, it also helps young people grow up.

Patty Gardner, 18, could have voted in Ann Arbor, where she attends the University of Michigan. "I was involved in the Ford campaign there. But I wanted to vote in the school hallway," so she returned to DuSart Jr. High where she voted for it.

"I FEEL GOOD" when I came out (of the polling booth), like I had done my part for America."

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