

editorial opinion

Look beyond housing issue to pick Hills candidates

Farmington Hills voters must look beyond the emotion-ridden issue of the day, senior citizen/low income housing, when making a decision on whom to elect to the city council next Tuesday.

While the issue is of paramount importance today, those elected to council will be required to make decisions on numerous other issues within the next four years.

Housing is just one issue. Candidates who are running solely on it are unqualified to serve the entire city's interest.

Residents will cast ballots for four seats. Three seats will be filled for four-year terms. One will be filled for two years.

Those persons most qualified to be elected are: Michael O'Hair, Jan Dolan, Joanne Smith and Shirley Stadler.

We are particularly enthused over O'Hair. While a newcomer to the political scene, he has avoided the quagmire caused by political egos who have muddled the issues beyond comprehension.

He has resisted the urge to ally himself with one faction or the other which would have been beneficial to his political future. O'Hair has the issues as they should be examined — as tools for legislating the city's future.

Such calm resolve in the midst of the hysteria which grips this city's political scene is refreshing. Dolan and Smith, running as a team, have stood firm on the housing issue at the risk of prematurely terminating their political careers.

The housing plan which they have carved out with other city council members is a sound one. It will be beneficial for the residents of today's city and for future residents.

Much of Farmington Hills' population consists of an influx from other communities. New blood keeps it healthy. Both Smith and Dolan believe in keeping open the community's doors.

They also have demonstrated that they are well-informed on a number of issues and are able to legislate for the city in its entirety.

Mrs. Stadler qualifies because of her deep involvement in politics. She has served on the Farmington Hills planning commission, the Bicentennial, historical building and site, bikepath and sidewalk committees.

She also is involved deeply with the Michigan Republican Party. Voters can be confident that she will make decisions based on the facts surrounding the issues and how they will benefit the community.

Rhoton, Hartsock, Yoder are best for Farmington

Farmington has been blessed with solid leadership for the past decade.

With few exceptions, council and administration have worked together closely to see that the best interests of residents are served.

Next Tuesday, voters will be casting ballots to fill three council seats. Two are for four-year terms. One is for a two-year term.

To continue the tradition of mature leadership, voters should return incumbents William Hartsock and Ralph Yoder.

For the third seat, residents should vote for Michelle Rhoton.

While other candidates may be just as qualified, Mrs. Rhoton offers a new facet of leadership now missing on the city council. Through the years, Farmington city council seats have been passed down to her apparents — persons who have served their time on boards or commissions or those who have been approved by the leadership clique.

Mrs. Rhoton is outside this clique. She is a person who represents residents who sometimes feel neglected by city government. Although we don't necessarily agree with all her stands, she has been a conscientious campaigner. She would be a council member who would work diligently for Farmington.

Our only reservation is the danger that she might be unduly influenced by her campaign backers. Mrs. Rhoton must be her own person, representing the interest of the entire city. We are confident that she is up to the challenge.

Yoder, who has served this city for more than 14 years, represents the best in local governmental leadership.

Although the successful negotiation of the city's senior citizen housing project was a team effort, Yoder's leadership was a definite factor in seeing it come to fruition.

He also has demonstrated calm, consistent and even-handed decision making qualities in a time when other legislators are too often influenced by the hue and cry of an emotional public.

Farmington truly is fortunate to have Ralph Yoder on its city council.

Hartsock, who has served on council since 1973, is a leader with a sound political future. Fortunately for Farmington, his leadership qualities are being shared with this city today.

Residents should welcome Hartsock's continued participation as a member of the city's chief legislative body.

Industrial ordinance is best for Farmington Hills' future

Farmington Hills voters should vote "yes" on Advisory Question 4 on Tuesday's ballot.

Skyrocketing taxes, property and otherwise, have been the object of concern for residents struggling with the rigors of inflation.

Voting "yes" on this advisory question will demonstrate to city leaders that residents are concerned with seeing that Farmington Hills' tax base is developed for a healthy future.

Known as the IRO (Industrial, Research and Office) zoning, it would carve out an area of the city to allow buildings up to 60 feet tall to be constructed.

The area is M-102 on the south, the Farmington Country Club on the north, Halsted on the east and Haggerty on the west.

The zoning would increase the tax base and take a big load off residential taxpayers in the future.

After extensive research, the city found that it loses money on each acre of residential land it taxes.

It makes money on land where such things as office buildings are built.

Unfortunately, developers have been discouraged from coming to Farmington Hills because of the stringent restrictions on height.

We believe the 60 feet height is reasonable and stays in tune with the city's atmosphere.

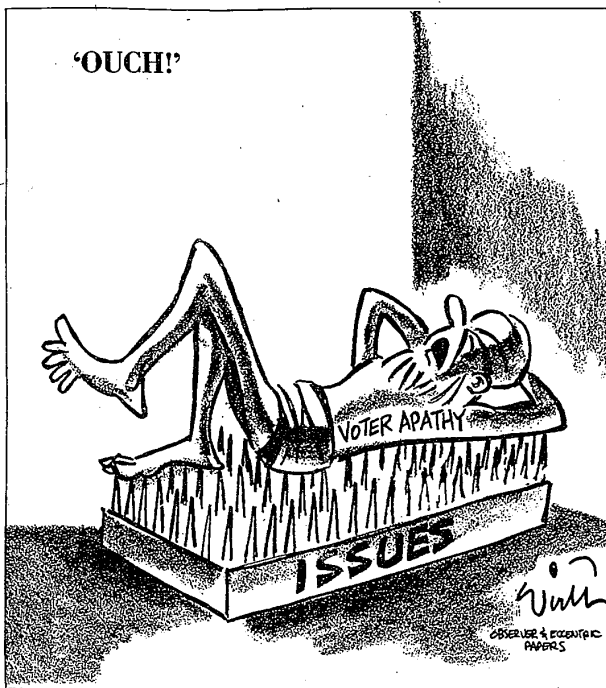
Those who fear that passage of this ordinance would lead to "another Southfield" are misguided, even if well-intentioned.

Sixty-foot-high buildings can hardly be construed as skyscrapers.

Without this zoning designation, property taxes for residents will grow at a rate which many simply won't be able to afford.

Voting "yes" on this question will ensure that Farmington Hills remains a viable community, attractive to business development and homeowners.

'OUCH!'



Majority of proposals are hot air balloons

The absurd depths to which the Farmington Hills election has sunk can be summed up in four of the ballot questions with which voters will have to deal on Tuesday.

Each is politically motivated, in the worst sense of the word. Each means nothing when it comes to making decisions for this city's future.

Whichever way the hapless voter may answer each question, he/she is walking a path strewn with political booby traps.

We suggest voters save their energy and show their scorn at the political nonsense which has gone on in this city by refusing to vote on these questions. In short, leave the ballot blank on Proposition A, Advisory Question 1, Advisory Question 2 and Advisory Question 3.

Proposition A would give the city permission to issue general obligation bonds of up to \$8 million to build a senior citizens building and housing project.

Originally a well-intentioned proposition, it was removed from the ballot earlier this year after studies found that rents for a city operated and funded project would be too much for needy senior citizens to handle.

It was put back on the ballot after the recent primary "fright" when two incumbents were defeated and housing foes led the ticket.

No city council member, or those seeking seats on council, have any intention of ever issuing these bonds.

THE MOST ABSURD question is Advisory Question 1. It asks, "Do you favor the acceptance of federal rent subsidies at city sponsored housing developments for A) needy senior citizens B) needy families?"

Now really folks, this is tantamount to asking if we should stomp on grandma's apple pie and burn the American flag.

Again, these questions were placed on the ballot as a ridiculous political ruse.

Advisory Question 2 is almost as absurd. It asks if voters would be in favor of levying three additional mills if federal rent subsidies were unavailable for city-sponsored housing developments.

About the only good this question has done is to allow candidates on one side or the other of the housing question to accuse one another of wanting to raise taxes.

Rest assured, nobody is going to fall for that one. It's a political matter of being damned if you favor it and damned if you don't.

Advisory Question 3 is a waste of the voters' concern because the RCE-1 ordinance already is on the books and has been zoned for it.

Basically, the question asks if voters approve of the RCE-1 designation which allows 60-foot-high senior citizen housing structures to be built.

Housing foes have been pining for this question, since RCE-1 passed the lips of housing commissioners. They are sure the residents will overwhelmingly vote against the designation.

It's a fait accompli. The zoning is sound. It should remain on the books. So few persons will vote on the question that determining how residents feel would be nearly impossible.

How to spend a day in bed

The New York Times had an article last week saying the height of luxury is to spend a day in bed, even if you're not sick.

They interviewed famous people who occasionally take off a day to spend in the sack.

Some had their maids bring them exotic foods, some read novels, some watched television, some drank champagne, and some drank Perrier water straight from the bottle during their day of rest.

Most admitted they felt a little guilty. Most men who do it don't admit it because it isn't macho and makes them look lazy.

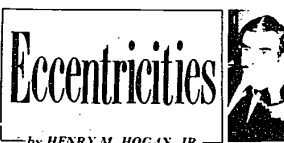
I DECIDED that if it is the "in" thing to do, I ought to try it, but I discovered that only certain types of people can successfully pull it off.

On Friday night I piled up all the old Wall Street Journals I hadn't finished, connected the Mr. Coffee to a timer, lugged the only TV in the house that works into the bedroom, looked through the bookcase to see what I hadn't read and picked two spy stories I usually save for vacation reading, and then hit the pillow with dreams of my sybaritic life on Saturday.

It was a little different from what I expected. The dog jumped on my bed at 6 a.m., our usual arising time, and indicated she wanted to go outside. Knowing the alternative, I got up and let her out.

At 6:30 son Michael left to go to an out-of-town soccer game, but not before asking his mother whether she had washed his uniform and where it was. Michael's mother shares a bed with me so it was difficult to ignore him.

I tried to close my eyes and drift back into slumber land. It didn't work.



by HENRY M. HAGAN, JR.

I WANTED to turn on the light and read, but my wife had successfully dozed off, and I didn't want to wake her. Her ability to go back to sleep quickly reinforced my long-held belief of what she does after I leave for the office each day.

Around 9 a.m., it was light enough to read. The automatic coffee maker was spewing forth steam as it struggled to make a decent pot of coffee.

At 9:15 the painter arrived to touch up some spots in our bedroom.

To make a long story short, Saturday is the day when everyone you're not expecting arrives. It's the day the dog wants attention because you're home. It's a day when all who couldn't reach you at the office during the week figure they can get you at home (and they did).

About 10 a.m. I got up, put on my clothes and headed for the office for some peace and quiet.

TO SPEND a day in bed, you must live by yourself, have no pets and disconnect the phone. You can't have your newspaper delivered in a tube at the curb.

Most people I know who qualify aren't really interested in spending a day in bed.

In Farmington

Spending limit common sense

On Tuesday's Farmington ballot is a charter question asking residents to allow the city administration to make purchases of up to \$4,000 without the approval of city council.

Residents should vote "yes" on this question.

Legislators should make policy, and administrators should run the day-to-day operations of a city.

That's the way city government should and does work, for the most part, in the city of Farmington.

Unfortunately, because of inflation, Farmington city council has found itself in the business of ad-

ministration when it comes to approving purchases of more than \$1,000.

In the good old days when a dollar was worth a dollar, a city manager could buy a lot for \$1,000. But, as we all know, that has changed.

In the present situation, the administration is finding itself running to city council to approve purchases which should be bought in the everyday operation of the city.

The unnecessary delay negatively affects the operation of the city in servicing the residents.

The charter amendment should be approved.

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