

Farmington council candidates face the issues

Michele Rhoton

Michele Rhoton, a candidate for city of Farmington council, would like to see more persons show an interest in city government.

To further that cause she is attempting to set an example by being a member of Farmington City Council.

A large part of her campaign has been based on government listening to residents.

"There isn't too much discussion involved," she says, "when council makes a decision. Nothing is generated from the community."

She has vowed to keep the afternoons before council sessions open to meet with residents who are concerned with city issues.

She admits there is a lot of apathy among Farmington residents but she believes that can be alleviated to some extent.

"I'm not involved with a fulltime job. I'm not running for council for my re-

sume. The government should be there to listen. I intend on doing that," she says.

A six year city resident, she has served as president of the Woodcroft Civic Association, is a member of Farmington Friends of the Library and is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church.

Admitting that she generally is satisfied with the way in which the city is administered, she vows to aim at keeping down spending to keep taxes down.

"If we can't keep down the taxes, we must explain to the residents why they have to be raised," she says.

Mrs. Rhoton originally surfaced on the Farmington political scene when a number of residents expressed concern over the Farmington Hills senior citizen project on Freedom and Drake which borders the city of Farmington.



MICHELE RHOTON

Although siding with opponents of the project, she sees that it has little relevance in this election.

Harlan Lorenz

Keeping Farmington's economy healthy is one of the main concerns of Farmington City Council candidate Harlan Lorenz.

A manager of purchases with Libby-Owens, Lorenz is making his first run as a Farmington City Council candidate.

"We have to keep an eye on the economy. It is easier for business to declare bankruptcy now. If we don't watch it, we are going to have empty buildings which could start a blight," he says.

The best way to combat this, he says, is by selling the city's merits and encouraging business to come to Farmington.

The Downtown Farmington Center (DFC) has gone through a major facelift in recent months with the old Federal's building being revamped to contain a number of shops. Other stores

have moved into other areas of the shopping mall.

Other malls, he says, aren't as fortunate as the DFC.

Lorenz would like to see more volunteer effort put forth by residents to help solve city problems, rather than just relying on the city to keep the city running.

"There are good programs going on in the private sector. The city shouldn't start duplicating those services."

Lorenz is leary of federal and state monies, saying the programs should be examined closely to see that regulations are appropriate for the city.

He favors the Forest City Dillon housing project now under construction in the city, but believes the housing should be primarily for Farmington senior citizens.

Lorenz holds a bachelor of science degree and has taken industrial management courses at Lawrence Institute of Technology. He was a member of the



HARLAN LORENZ

Farmington Area Jaycees, is a Good-fellow and is active with Boy Scout troop 45.

Bill Hartsock

William Hartsock, incumbent Farmington councilman, is seeking a third term on that city's legislative board.

A certified public accountant, he presently is mayor pro-tem, and is a member of the zoning board of appeals. He is a member of the master plan subcommittee, capital improvements subcommittee.

Among the programs he has listed for future consideration are:

- Encourage and participate in the restoration and redevelopment of the central business district.

- Provide recreational activities and facilities for citizens of all ages.

- Protect the historical district through "responsible" zoning.

- Gain optimum returns on tax dollars.

• Assist the Farmington Area Arts Commission in sponsoring cultural and artistic activities.

• Generate citizens' interest in civic affairs.

One of the major accomplishments he has listed in his last term is the senior citizen housing project to be constructed at the former site of Farmington Junior High School on School Street.

"We (the council) presented a unified proposal. There was no dissension among us. It was a well thought-out plan," says Hartsock about the project which will be managed by Forest City Dillon.

Hartsock believes the project is being well-received in Farmington and says he only received two phone calls in opposition to it.



WILLIAM HARTSOCK

(Continued on page 4A)

Ralph Yoder

Ralph Yoder, dean of the Farmington city council, is once again campaigning for another term on that city's legislative body.

Yoder has been on council for more than 14 years.

"I enjoy the council and hate to leave the action. I'm concerned about the welfare of my community," says Yoder.

The former Farmington mayor labels the Forest City Dillon senior citizen project as the biggest accomplishment he has seen in this city in the last 14 years.

"I'm just sorry that another one like it isn't along side of it," he says.

Solid waste disposal and sewer separation are two problems Yoder sees in Farmington's future.

Presently, solid waste is trucked to a landfill. Yoder believes that the unavailability of land will curtail that practice in the future.

"Eventually, we're going to have to go to incineration," he says.

Yoder believes that cities are going to have to band together to pay for an incineration plant.

Sewer separation is important, says Yoder, because during peak rainstorms the sewers overflow into the Rouge River.

But the city has been stymied in their attempts to separate sanitary and storm sewers because of disagreement between several government agencies on how the program should be implemented.



RALPH YODER

The city is waiting on a \$2 million federal grant to separate the sewer system.

A sales manager for Tri-County Enterprises, a trucking firm, Yoder is past president of the Aggregate Carriers of Michigan.

Among his duties while serving the city has been a three year stint as mayor, four years on the planning commission, five years on the board of appeals, nine years on the retirement board, one year on the beautification committee and two years on the Farmington Community Band board.

George Volz

George Volz would like to "get some new players to pep up the team."

With that thought in mind, he is making his first run for the city of Farmington council.

A Chrysler employee, Volz, believes that city council terms should be for two years to ensure that more persons have a chance to participate.

"We can't go along with the same old stuff. We have to keep the action rolling all of the time," says Volz.

An eight-year resident, he gained political experience by his activities in the United Auto Workers where he served as his local's treasurer.

"If I'm going to pay my union dues I'm going to be active. And if I'm going to pay taxes, I'm going

(Continued on page 4A)



GEORGE VOLZ

Ron Gavel

Reorganization of the fire and police departments is Ronald Gavel's major issue in the Farmington City Council campaign.

Gavel, a Chrysler employee, is making his first run for elective office.

"I've talked with some police officers and they feel they shouldn't be pulled off patrol to fight fires," says Gavel.

Currently Farmington has a public service department, with officers doubling as both fire and police officers.

Gavel would like to see the duties separated.

"Police should deal strictly with law enforcement," he says.

The fire department, says Gavel, should be composed mainly of volunteers with a fulltime fire chief for administration and training.

Gavel believes his inexperience provides a "clean slate" for the Farmington political scene. Being a resident is cause enough to be involved, he says.



RONALD GAVEL

(Continued on page 4A)

Warren Buckler

Warren Buckler, seeking his second term on the Farmington council, believes his experience on council will aid the city if he is re-elected.

"I've done a good job. I've gained valuable experience and I know so much more," says Buckler about his first two year council term.

The Farmington attorney would like to win a four year term in next Tuesday's election.

"I feel with what I know now, I'm able to contribute even more to council than I have already," he says.

Buckler lauds the working relationship the council members have.

"Occasionally we disagree. But we always discuss the disagreement and manage to resolve it," he says.

Buckler's council-related activities include being a delegate to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments general assembly, Farmington Beautification Committee, industrial and economic development commission and the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

Community activities includes membership in the Farmington Area Jaycees, board of directors of the American Cancer Society, Oakland County

Bar Association judicial liaison to juvenile committee lawyer referral service.

If faced with budget cuts, Buckler believes city council should seek the public's view.

Although opposing consolidation with Farmington Hills, Buckler believes the city should continue its cooperative efforts with the sister city.

Among the cooperative efforts he favors are library, recreation services, Farmington Area Advisory Commission, Farmington Youth Assistance and fighting fires.

Buckler also would like to get input from residents on the solid waste disposal plan, which he sees as a problem in the coming years.

Presently, the city uses landfills to dispose of solid waste. But room for such facilities are running out. Buckler would like a future plan given study.

Buckler is a Farmington High School graduate, has a bachelor of arts degree from Western Michigan University and received his law degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology/Chicago-Kent College of Law.



WILLIAM BUCKLER

Hills candidates on Page 3A Monday

Meet Michael Doultton at Hudson's Northland... have him autograph your Royal Doultton purchase



At select times, November 1-4, this fascinating fifth generation descendant of Royal Doultton's founder will be at Hudson's. He'll share with you his extraordinary knowledge of the artistic history of the potteries produced by this prestigious company. Tell you about the special techniques used today, many of them the same as were used 150 years ago when Doultton was founded. You'll also see live models wearing costume reproductions of three favorite Doultton figurines. And view our extensive collection of Royal Doultton figurines and accessories. Mr. Doultton will autograph your purchase upon request. The dates again: Thursday, Friday, Nov. 1 and 2, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 4, 12 noon - 4 p.m. Collectors Gallery, Northland only.

hudson's