

Farmington Hills candidates address THE issue

Donn Wolf

The city is split "wide open," according to Farmington Hills Council candidate Donn Wolf and he blames it on the present council.

"The council is aren't getting their chance for input," he says.

Wolf, who works for Detroit Edison, first became involved in Farmington Hills politics when the city was considering the senior housing project to be constructed under HUD guidelines. The city has since dropped that project.

He also opposes the present plan to construct a housing project at Freedom and Drake roads under guidelines of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) without the vote of residents.

Wolf portrays the present council as one with "shut ears and open mouths."

"But I'll be open to the people all of the time. I would like to see a town hall meeting or a citizens' night so we can sit down and just talk with residents," says Wolf.

One of the problems, he said, is that officials have concentrated too much on what experts have to say and not enough with what residents think.

Hopefully, other council members will join me in this effort when I'm elected."

If the election trend from the primary remains the same, Wolf is assured a seat. He came in first in the primary.

Wolf also criticizes the council for not having what he terms as a "grasp" of long range plans for the city.

The city, he says, should plan what it wants to do over the next 10 years and "dissect" those goals.

"The city employees also need direction. They've



JAN DOLAN



DONN WOLF

been working under a crisis management by the council. They would be much more efficient employees if things were different," he says.

Wolf believes that the "one issue," senior citizen/low income housing, is just endemic of what's wrong with city council.

"This is greater than one issue. It will be one issue after another until the council changes its way of operation," he says.

Wolf, whose job at Edison revolves around governmental relations, says his experience will aid the city council.

"I know about state and federal legislation. I'm used to it. I have an ability to lead people," he says.

Jan Dolan

"Senior housing — we've got to have it. We've fought too long not to have it."

With that motto in mind, incumbent Farmington Hills councilwoman Jan Dolan has hit the streets in her effort to be re-elected to that city's legislative body.

Teaming up with incumbent Joanne Smith, Mrs. Dolan has waged a door-to-door campaign informing residents how they stand on the senior citizen/low income housing project proposed to be built on Freedom and Drake roads.

Since the beginning of the year, Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Smith have been under attack from some quarters of the city's population for their support of the project. It is backed by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

"We've been going out and talking to people. You can sell them in small groups," she says.

"But it's hard to get out the information."

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TERRY SEVER

Bill Lange

William Lange has vowed to vote the way the people want him to, regardless of his conscience if elected to Farmington Hills city council.

His conscience tells him the residents of Farmington Hills are opposed to the present proposal to construct a senior citizen/low income housing unit at Freedom and Drake road. Therefore he opposes it.

Lange, a lawyer with Edison, got involved in Farmington Hills politics during the battle over what type of housing for senior citizens should be built in the community. He objected to the way the decision was made.

"The question of low income housing should be put to a vote of the people," says Lange, who says he objects to federal housing projects, but would take the federal money if "strings" weren't attached.

"We should look to Livonia and the way they've done it. They've provided senior citizen housing and taken care of their own," he says.

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SHIRLEY STADLER

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Michael O'Hair

Michael O'Hair is a man in the middle — in the middle of a red hot political campaign, that is.

Although deeming himself a moderate in the Farmington Hills city council campaign, he has taken definite stands on the housing issues and his opponents on both sides of the issues.

He has come out strongly in favor of the present city proposal to build a senior citizen/low income housing project at the corner of Freedom and Drake, but criticizes incumbents for the way it has been handled.

He also takes to task those who oppose the project.

Joanne Smith and Jan Dolan, incumbents running for reelection, must be held responsible for some of the confusion over what exactly the housing

question means, according to O'Hair.

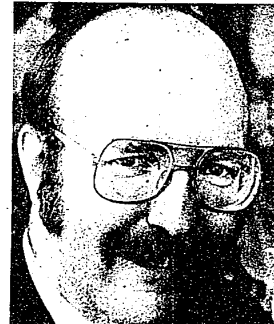
"Smith and Dolan are inseparably tied to the current council," he says, "and all of the charges of insensitive decision making, unresponsive legislative behavior and political, pyrotechnic gyrations which many feel characterize this current body."

He is no less kind when speaking of housing opponents Jack Burwell, William Lange and Donn Wolf.

"They continually use emotionalism as a weapon to win this election at the probable cost of realistic housing for our seniors and less fortunate families."

He criticizes the three for wanting to use public funds to finance a project

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MICHAEL O'HAIR

Joanne Smith

Joanne Smith, finishing out her first term on city council, has become best known for her fight to see that a senior citizen/low income housing project is constructed in Farmington Hills.

By some she is admired for her outspoken approach. By others she is disliked. At one point in her four-year term, she faced a recall attempt which failed.

But through it all, she has stood her ground.

"Local residents really couldn't afford to subsidize a senior citizen housing project when they are struggling themselves to get along," she says.

Instead, Mrs. Smith would like to see taxpayers use other means to finance the project. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) project would be financed by bonds sold by that institution.

The project would be managed by a private firm.

She has joined with incumbent Jan Dolan in going door-to-door to inform voters of their side of the housing question.

Both Dolan and Smith maintain that this isn't a public housing project and is

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JOANNE SMITH

Jack Burwell

Farmington lawyer Jack Burwell believes senior citizen/low income housing is the major issue in Tuesday's Farmington Hills city council election.

He opposes the proposed Freedom and Drake road project because, he says, Farmington Hills residents should handle it themselves.

Burwell objects to what he terms "state and federal intervention."

"In order for us to control for our residents, we can't be indebted to the state," he says.

"I will oppose the project every way

I can until a mandate comes from the people that they want it."

Location of the project also is another problem, according to Burwell.

"There are no central services in terms of groceries and physical care. It is isolated from the rest of the community."

Burwell says the present council has been too dictatorial in making decisions. Of particular concern to Burwell was what he believes was the council's reluctance to put on the ballot questions concerning residents' feelings over constructing the proposed ballot.

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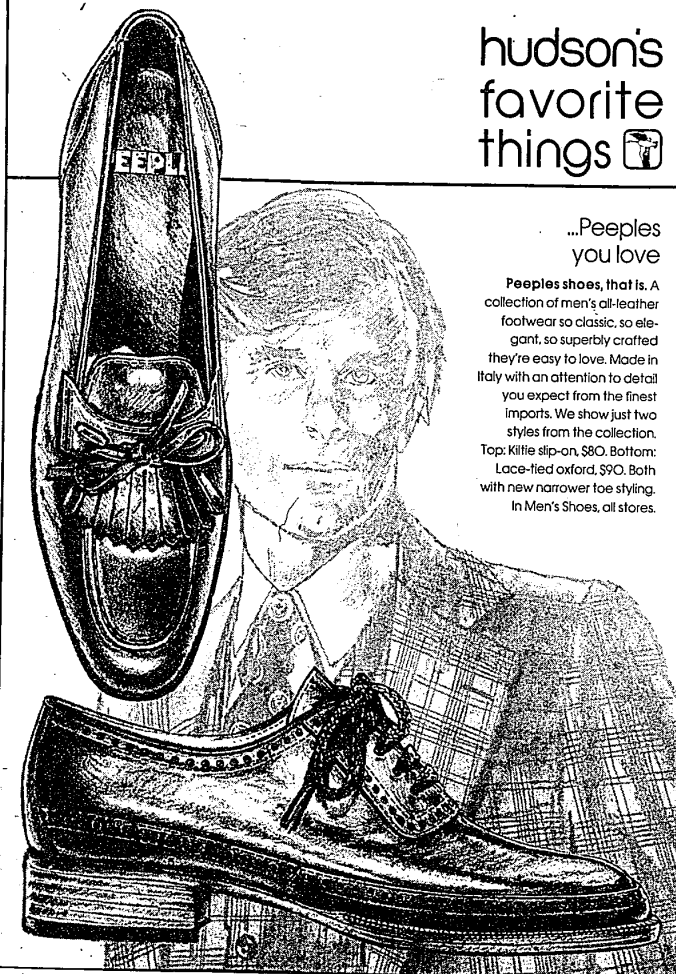


JACK BURWELL

hudson's
favorite
things

...Peeples
you love

Peeples shoes, that is. A collection of men's all-leather footwear so classic, so elegant, so superbly crafted they're easy to love. Made in Italy with an attention to detail you expect from the finest imports. We show just two styles from the collection. Top: Kittie slip-on, \$80. Bottom: Lace-tied oxford, \$90. Both with new narrower toe styling. In Men's Shoes, all stores.



Terry Sever

Terry Sever believes that Farmington Hills council candidates should be judged on their political leadership abilities.

Sever, running for the first time as a council candidate, believes himself to be that kind of leader which Farmington Hills needs.

"I have the leadership ability to be on the council. I work well with people and I have a positive attitude," he says.

"The bottom line," says Sever, "is working together."

A Farmington printer, Sever believes that one of the main concerns of the city council will be to bring the city back together.

In recent years it has been divided over the development of the senior citizen/low income housing development on Drake and Freedom roads. A previous senior housing proposal was dumped by city council after much resident protest.

Throughout the campaign, Sever has maintained that residents would accept the present senior housing plan if they had all the information.

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WILLIAM LANGE

Shirley Stadler

Shirley Stadler wants voters to know that she has more than just one issue on her mind.

Making her first run for the Farmington Hills city council, Mrs. Stadler has expressed concern that too much emphasis has been put on the senior citizen/low income housing issue.

Other issues, she says, need to be addressed in the campaign.

They include:

•Recreation: Pursuing a means of establishing routes to improve bicycling and reviewing the parks and recreation master plan.

•Emergency medical services: Investigating all types of rescue services in various communities.

•Taxes: Participating in the development of the industrial research office park zone to improve the tax base.

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