

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

## Patience wins over long lines during election

Although Farmington area residents waited at the polls for as long as 1 1/2 hours Tuesday, the percentage of registered voters who cast their ballots was smaller than in the 1976 presidential election.

In Farmington Hills, 28,886 persons — 70 percent of the city's 38,810 registered voters — participated in the election.

Farmington saw 6,555 persons, or 78 percent of its 8,448 registered voters, casting ballots.

In 1976, Farmington had 7,520 registered voters. Of those, 83.84 percent, or 6,312 persons, cast their ballots.

Farmington Hills experienced a higher percentage of voters participating in the election four years ago when 24,418 of its 31,565 registered voters showed up at the polls for a 76.4 percent turnout.

Nonetheless, Tuesday's election workers termed the amount of voter interest "fantastic" as the polls managed to accommodate all the voters per hour during peak voting hours.

In Farmington Hills, precinct 20 voting in Duncleff Middle School wasn't able to accommodate all of the waiting voters until after 10 p.m. The polls

closed to persons not already in line at 8 p.m.

At 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Mark Adams was the last person in line at Duncleff Middle School.

ALTHOUGH he faced an 1 1/2 hour wait, he was prepared to stay and vote in his first presidential election.

"I wish I'd gotten here earlier," Adams said as he looked ahead in the direction of the polls. "But I want to do my part to keep Mr. Reagan out of office."

"I don't want to be sorry tomorrow," The presidential race was what Adams was interested in. He said he hadn't followed the other issues.

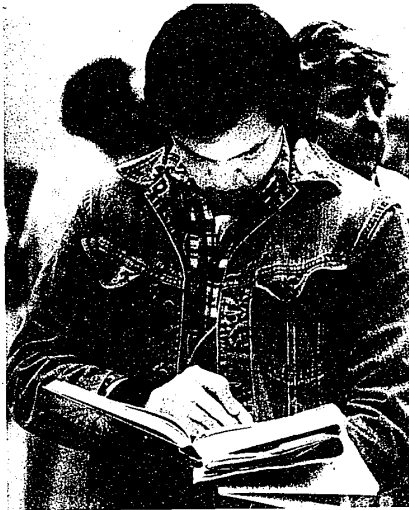
"I'm mostly motivated by the presidential election," Adams noted.

Eventually Cathy Stankell of Farmington Hills was further back in line than Adams. It was a return trip to the polls for Ms. Stankell, who had given up on the line earlier in the day.

She was armed with a list of her voting preferences before going to the polls to guard against last-minute confusion.

"I've been working on this for two weeks," she said.

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The wait

Rich Curtis, a Wayne State University student, killed time Tuesday by chatting up with homework while an unidentified woman behind him stared wearily into space. They were among voters at O.E. Duncleff Middle School in Farmington Hills who waited up to two hours to vote. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## GOP sweeps Farmington

By MARY GNIEWEK

The biggest threat to Republican dominance Tuesday occurred in the 15th District County Commission race with Democrat challenger Barbara Kukes Goldman falling short against incumbent Lillian Moffitt by just 1,238 votes.

Goldman ran a high visibility campaign since July, knocking on doors in Farmington Hills, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills and Franklin Village for which she snared 9,129 votes to Moffitt's 10,357.

In Farmington Hills, Republican Moffitt's victory margin was a slim 715 votes. Moffitt, an eight-year commission veteran, took 3,349 votes to Goldman's 2,634.

The only local Democrat to survive Tuesday's race was U.S. Rep. William M. Brodhead, who was threatened in the Farmington area by elusive Republican challenger L. Patterson.

Brodhead won by a healthy margin in his district, which includes West Detroit, Redford Township, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Southfield: 45,933 to Patterson's 24,045.

But in Farmington Hills, Patterson captured 40 percent of the vote. And in the city of Farmington, Brodhead garnered just 612 more votes than Patterson: 3,079 to 2,467.

VETERAN STATE REP. Wilbur (Sandy) Brodhead, R-Farmington, handily claimed victory over Southfield Democrat Karen Artinian, 28,910 to 12,650.

Brodhead fared well in his three-city district, beating Artinian by wide margins in both Farmington and Farmington Hills. The biggest threat occurred in Artinian's home base, Southfield. But Brodhead still edged her out there 5,920 to 5,106.

INCUMBENT 47TH DISTRICT Court Judge Margaret Schaeffer was another easy victor Tuesday. She took 19,395 votes to challenger Jack Burwell's 5,996.

Schaeffer won by a three to one margin in Farmington Hills, where Burwell is a member of the City Council. In Farmington, she captured 3,645 votes to Burwell's 921.

In the city of Farmington, voters approved a proposal that will allow the city manager to stall the annual budget process by three weeks each spring so that it's adopted at the same time as Farmington Hills' budget. Both cities share millions of dollars in state revenues. The measure was approved 4,105 to 895.

Republicans swept all county commission races in districts which include portions of the Farmington area.

In the 27th District, incumbent Commissioner John McDonald took 9,834 votes to Democrat challenger Joann Blithe Echlin's 4,255. The district includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Republican Dennis Murphy in the 24th District took 72 percent of the vote, beating William Brinker 4,097 to 1,558. The district includes parts of Farmington Hills, Novi, South Lyon and Northville.

G. William Caddell, running unopposed in the 25th District which spans portions of Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township and Commerce Township, registered 14,380 votes.

With county totals unavailable in the race for Oakland County Executive yesterday, incumbent Republican Daniel Murphy led Democrat hopeful F. Thomas Lewand by a handy margin.

Murphy took 65 percent of the vote in Farmington Hills. In Farmington, he captured 3,937 votes to Lewand's 1,666.

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## Anderson factor nullified

### Sister cities plunk for Reagan

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

Farmington and Farmington Hills Republicans were all smiles Tuesday evening as their cities fell in with the national trend and elected Ronald Reagan as 40th president of the U.S.

Hills Councilman Donn Wolf, regaled in a blue and white Reagan/Bush campaign button, said that after the national debates Reagan's Michigan support started to take off among the uncommitted and Anderson supporters.

"We were worried about the Anderson factor. That's why we brought Reagan back to Birmingham and the Bloomfield area before the election," he said.

But telephone polling just days prior to the election by Oakland County Republicans showed that more and more of the uncommitted were leaning toward Reagan.

But in the end, Anderson support

sagged and the uncommitted chose between the two major candidates, mostly going to Reagan.

In Farmington Hills, Anderson tallied only 2,475 votes among the 28,886 residents voting. In Farmington, he received 532 votes out of 6,555.

The presidential sweepstakes weren't even close in either city. Ronald Reagan tallied 17,642 votes in Farmington Hills and 4,009 in Farmington.

The Carter/Mondale ticket was far behind, tallying 8,038 in Farmington Hills and 1,793 in Farmington.

Reagan Republicans were concerned about disaffected George Bush supporters. Bush handily won both Farmington and Farmington Hills in the GOP primary.

But Bush supporters generally stuck with the GOP ticket, leaving Anderson out in the cold.

The number of persons voting a

straight Republican ticket in Farmington Hills was 9,020, or 64 percent.

Reagan received 61.9 percent of the overall Farmington Hills vote.

The number of persons voting a straight Democratic ticket was 3,757, or 30.4 percent.

Overall, Carter received 28.2 percent of the Farmington Hills tally.

Libertarian presidential candidate received only 1 percent of the Farmington Hills vote, with a 271 voter tally. In Farmington Clark received 52 votes.

## Ballot proposals hit the skids

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters were in a negative mood when it came to casting ballots for the statewide proposals in Tuesday's election.

Following the lead of state voters, they gave thumbs down to all three tax proposals, reduction of the legal drink-

ing age and a tax for construction of four regional prisons.

Tax slasher Robert Tisch lost in his second bid in two years to change Michigan's property tax law.

Although the voting in the sister cities was close for his proposal D, it still went down to defeat.

Proposal D would have rolled back state property assessments to 1979 levels and then reduced those by 50 percent.

In Farmington Hills, Tisch garnered 13,433 yes votes and 14,128 no votes. Farmington voters gave Tisch 2,679 votes, but the opposition was 3,381.

The other propositions didn't even come close to passing in the area.

Proposal A, the Smith/Bullard income tax plan, received only 19 percent, or 5,022 votes in Farmington Hills. Opposition cast 21,441, or 81 percent. It didn't do any better in Farmington, re-

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## Arsonists torch Hills home for retarded

By MARY GNIEWEK

Police suspect more than one person Monday started a fire that destroyed a Farmington Hills house slated to become a group residence for five mentally retarded adults.

Farmington Hills Police Detective James Worthington called the fire, which gutted the \$100,000 home on Glenmer, east of Farmington about a mile, "A well-thought-out arson."

Rags soaked in gasoline were strewn in order, like a fuse, through each room of the four-bedroom ranch, which was scheduled for occupancy by mid-November.

The most-extensive damage was in the rear near the back porch and family room, where the fire appeared to have started between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m.

The fire was discovered by Farmington Hills police on routine patrol. When firefighters arrived at 2:08 a.m., the house, the first on the south entrance of the West Franklin Estates subdivision, was engulfed in flames.

Acting Fire Chief Thomas Johnson estimated damage at \$90,000.

The house, vacant since May, had a new addition and was fully furnished. Five mentally retarded adults between the ages of 18 and 26 were awaiting placement, which would have occurred as soon as final inspection was complete.

"We're shocked and saddened by this event," said Thomas Miller of the Macomb Oakland Regional Center, sponsor of the home.

"WE DON'T SEE it as a reflection on the people of Farmington Hills. Obviously there is one sick person out there who will hopefully be treated."

After visiting the site Monday, Miller said there is little hope the home or site could be salvaged.

Macomb Oakland Regional Center, a division of the state Department of Mental Health, oversees 74 foster-care homes for the retarded in Michigan. This was its first venture in Farmington Hills.

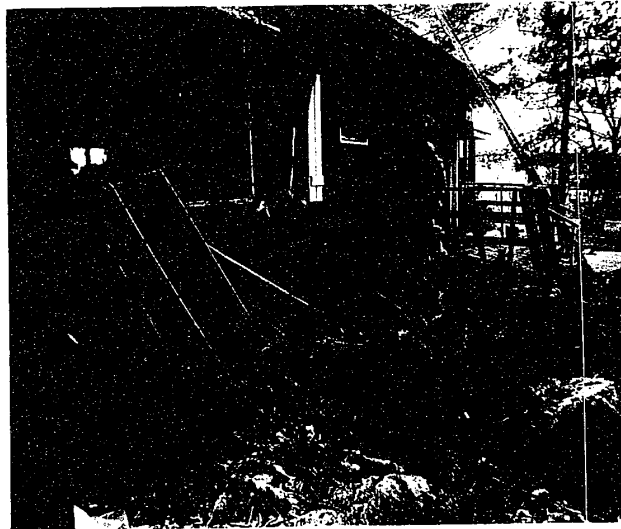
Two prospective residents were to move directly from institutions to the group home. Another had been awaiting placement for two years while living with her mother. The fourth and fifth tenants had just turned 18 and were to move from children's homes to the adult residence.

"If we can find homes, we'll place them on an individual basis," Miller said. "This will mean a substantial delay."

The three men and two women range from severe to moderately retarded. In the group home, they would have had 24-hour supervision.

"We still see Farmington Hills as a good area," Miller said. "We're not going to single it out, but we won't steer clear of it, either."

Homeowners in the subdivision voiced opposition to the plan when they learned about it last September. Their main objection was that local municipalities, like Farmington Hills, have no control over placement of group homes, which is governed by state law.



All that's left of the Farmington Hills home slated to become a group residence for mentally retarded is a charred hulk. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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