

Terry Sever

Continued from Page 3

FOR EXAMPLE, Sever said, city administrators have taken a poor approach in trying to purchase the Spicer property near 10 Mile and Farmington roads with a Michigan Land Trust Fund grant.

Instead, Sever suggested involving the Farmington Public Schools and the city of Farmington in the land purchase. Sever also suggested paying \$1 million to settle the Spicer estate and then work out purchase payments on an installment plan.

While Sever, a national Joyce vice president, admits the city's tax rate is low, he also said, "assessments are high. I feel our tax base should increase according to the buying power you lose in a previous year."

"I am not so sure it is in the best interest of the city and the people to end up having a lower tax base just to pull unappropriated funds (surplus) out to lower taxes."

"I do not know of a business or household that can take money out of savings and survive," Sever said.

THE COUNCIL, in June succumbed to public pressure and defeated a proposed 10 percent tax increase. Council then used the city's surplus (reserves)

to balance the 1983-84 budget.

Sever suggested the city "is over administered" with a lot of money going to wages, benefits and pensions. "The current administration wants to see bigger government," he said.

Sever said the current council lacks leadership because it gives in to the demands of the public.

"Leadership of the people is a very important issue," Sever said. "The leadership (in the council) is timid in making a decision."

"All I feel is a display at city council. Any interest group of 200 people can sway the decision at city hall."

Sever pointed to the council's "timidity" in pursuing improvements under the six-year capital improvement plan because of pressure from residents over costs. In June, council members proposed lowering or null to begin paying for projects such as drains, storm sewers and a new police building.

"You cannot implement a capital improvement plan by balancing the budget every year," he said.

EVERY THOUGH Sever said he does not like the current capital improvement plan, he said the concept is right. He would like to see more input from the public into the plan. And he believes many of the minor projects can

be taken care of by volunteers rather than hiring contractors.

Sever also says he is "amazed that (the council feels) there is an immediate need to increase the police building three times." The police department needs adequate facilities, he said, but a building should be constructed that is equal to the current size but which can be expanded as necessary.

"We should build and pay as we need," Sever said. "But no bond issue for it."

Part of the plan for a police building include a shooting range, but Sever contends that since Farmington has one, the Hills police could share the facility.

"Our immediate needs cannot be that great. If we can use that resource," Sever said, insisting that the city should develop other needs, such as a large activities room for civic functions.

Calling the capital improvement plan "incomplete," Sever said more study is needed and each goal in the plan "should be broken down to its simplest form."

CURRENTLY, he said, the city's major needs are in sewers and drains, with the public informed about these needs.

Discussing development, Sever pointed to the need for sidewalks but referred to the city's "political ping-pong ball. A lot of developers complain about the walks starting somewhere and going no where."

CALLING HIMSELF a humanitarian, Sever said he agrees with a need for more senior citizen housing. But sometimes "we are emotionally involved in programs that cause us to overreact," he said.

The focus of help for senior citizens, he said, is to make sure those who have homes can continue living in them, particularly through low taxes.

A Farmington Hills resident for 18 years, Sever is married and has three children. He is a past president of the Michigan Jaycees, a member of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and was named citizen of the year in 1978.

Joe Alkateeb

Continued from Page 3

like offices into the second story of the fire department's headquarters on Drake.

"Not one single member considered using that in the interim. I call that a lack of foresight," Alkateeb said.

Alkateeb charged council members with "reacting instead of acting" as in the recent adoption of an ordinance banning builders and developers from "downsizing" — building smaller houses of lesser quality in unfilled subdivisions having larger, more expensive homes.

"That was the epitome of reaction," Alkateeb said. "That (the downsizing ordinance) should never have been done."

"The people in this community can work out their own problems," he said, referring to residents in subdivisions facing the downsizing problem.

"If a developer made a mistake in buying too many lots, that's too bad."

Alkateeb points to the residential review board, which will determine whether a builder has violated the downsizing ordinance, as an example of adding another layer of bureaucracy.

"With every problem, the council reacts with an ordinance," Alkateeb said.

Although purchase of the Spicer property, which he favors, is being made an issue, Alkateeb says he has explained to voters how the property will be purchased and the exact cost to taxpayers. If the property is to be purchased with tax money, Alkateeb said the issue should be placed before the voters. Taxpayers, he said, need to know how it will be developed and at what price before a final decision is made.

"The book stops with the voters," he added.

City officials currently are trying to purchase the more than 200 acres near 10 Mile and Farmington roads

with the help of a state grant.

Recalling his four years on the city council, Alkateeb said his greatest contribution was as an "economics manager."

"I HAVE an uncanny ability to manage the buck," he said. "I'm very organized and plan everything as though I'm going about solving an engineering problem."

He said he wants to serve on the council again because "most people sit on the sidelines and complain. I cannot do that. I want to get into the middle of the battlefield and speak my mind."

Alkateeb doesn't hesitate to criticize the proposed tax increase which was eventually defeated.

"They didn't need it," he said. "Small taxes equals small government. We should pay attention to the important services and eliminate the duplication of services."

Although Alkateeb said many people think the city's tax rate is low, he added: "Farmington Hills is a caricature." In addition to their annual tax bills, taxpayers, he said, have to pay for road paving, water lines and sewers by special assessment.

Alkateeb calls police an essential service. But he contends that "priorities are needed up." For example, he said, police have too many radar cars out and not enough squad cars in the neighborhoods.

"THERE is no safe home in Farmington Hills," he said. "We need more police presence in our neighborhoods. I want to feel safe in my house."

Preventing more crime, Alkateeb said, should be one of the police department's priorities.

He called the city's sidewalks a "47.8 million mess." He said he had no solution for constructing them and still giving residents a fair financial shake. But he said the city should not assess property owners for sidewalks along the mile roads. City officials, he

said, should first determine where the sidewalk priority locations are and then ask residents how they should be financed.

The city's policy now requires developers to put in sidewalks when building. Instead, Alkateeb said, developers should put the money they would have spent on sidewalks into a city escrow account. Then "that money would be used to take care of the priority sidewalks," he said.

"Nobody addressed the issue fully," he said, referring to a sidewalk plan adopted in 1978.

Alkateeb also criticized the MetroVision cable franchise. Instead of the 3 percent return on profit going into the city's coffers, Alkateeb suggested using that money to help residents who recently have been told they would have to pay a \$200-\$400 installation fee for cable TV.

"I am a little angry about this," he said. "It should have been addressed."

Although candidates in every city election campaign have promised "affordable housing for senior citizens, all we have heard is rhetoric," Alkateeb said. "I don't see any promises that have been kept."

For example, he said, when the city council told backers of the Detroit Baptist Manor senior citizen housing project they were in favor of selling them property on Drake and Freedom, some members later changed their mind.

A councilman at the time, Alkateeb said he "was the swing vote. I think the city council should go out of its way to serve people (Baptist Manor officials) that do things like that."

Alkateeb is married and has three children. He is a graduate of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (now a university) and has attended business and computer science classes at Wayne State University. He is also a member of the Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia and is director of the World Mission Board.

Melissa Levine

Continued from Page 3

said, adding that without improved facilities such as a larger police station it will be difficult to attract new businesses and new families into the area.

"It seems to me that we have to think ahead. If we get more industries to strengthen the city's tax rolls... rather than looking to residents for revenue."

For example, Levine said, putting off construction of a police building, when it has been obvious for some time that employees work in overcrowded conditions, is incorrect. Construction will be more expensive tomorrow than today.

"By procrastinating, we have put ourselves in the position of it costing us more money," she said, about the \$3.4 million proposed police facility.

While discussing the need for expanded police headquarters, Levine quickly pointed to what she considers an insufficient number of officers in the department as breaking and entering are increasing. She also questioned why neighbors are complaining about the poor response time in cases of emergency, particularly fires.

"I can see no excuse for these delays," she said, suggesting the problem may lie in the way in which emergency services are dispatched. "I don't know what the story is."

IN FAVOR of buying the Spicer property near 10 Mile and Farmington roads, Levine nonetheless calls the acreage a "nice luxury" as opposed to an essential service. But she encourages community involvement in developing the property.

"The people working for the city have some clearly thought out ideas

how the property should be used." Volunteer from all age groups could help in developing the park, she said.

Development of the park, she said, is an example of how the community should involve senior citizens. Instead of just worrying about providing housing for older residents, city officials and residents also need to continue making them feel a part of the community.

"We kind of shove them away," she said, referring to the push for housing that she prefers to be constructed and maintained by private enterprise.

Levine says she is concerned about the city's growing traffic congestion, particularly along the major thoroughfares. She would like to see more traffic studies made, particularly concerning creating a new exit off I-496 into Farmington Hills.

Levine also would like to see more contacts made with state and county officials regarding widening and improving the mile roads.

AN ADVOCATE of "open government" in which council members should "listen more and govern less," Levine suggests limiting council seats to one term.

"Then people would do what they have to and not worry about whether they are going to be re-elected. Maybe they would do what is best for the city and not what is best for themselves."

Unlike many of the election candidates, Levine says she is available during the day and "has the time to go the city (hall) and talk with people. My inexperience might be to my benefit."

A Detroit native, Levine has a degree in elementary education from Wayne State University. She is married and has two daughters.

Announcing Michigan MoneyMaster Bonus Interest

2000%

Annual Interest Rate for the First Month

PLUS Free Checking & Michigan Money™ Card

20.00% Interest Bonus

Open our new Michigan MoneyMaster Certificate with as little as \$500 for 24 months or longer and you'll earn a 20% annual interest rate for the first month and lock up our current high rates for the remaining months of deposit for as many months as you choose. Plus, you deserve even higher rates if your deposit is a large one. By consolidating maturing Certificates and other investments, your Michigan MoneyMaster Certificate rewards higher balances with even higher rates.

Additional Bonus Offers

For your added convenience interest payments can be mailed to you monthly by check or deposited directly into your FREE Michigan

Interest Checking™ account where you'll earn 5 1/4% interest on your interest. Plus you'll also receive a FREE Michigan Money™ Card which allows you to do your routine banking 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

Act Now To Earn 20% Bonus Interest

If your rate regulated certificates are about to mature or if you currently have other funds to invest, visit any office listed below to take advantage of this special offer. But you'd better hurry. This special offer expires after November 19.

Customers will be required to open a Michigan Interest Checking account (with all service charges waived for 12 months) if not presently a checking account customer, to qualify for the 20% interest bonus. Rates are computed on a simple interest basis with interest paid monthly. Substantial interest penalty required for early withdrawal.

Michigan National Bank Farmington

Grand River near Farmington Rd. 471-5550

10 Mile Rd. near Grand River 478-7720

9 Mile Rd. near Farmington Rd. 476-4332

Drake Rd. near Farmington Rd. 476-1510

Orchard Lake Rd. near Farmington Rd. 477-3330

12 Mile Rd. near Farmington Rd. 553-7720

Michigan National Bank-Farmington is an affiliate of Michigan National Corporation, providing the largest number of Automatic Teller Machines throughout Michigan and the nation. Member FDIC

A Thanking Special from YEAGER'S CHEM-DRY®

We will clean your Living Room, Dining Room, and Hallway for \$34.95

Now thru November 30, 1983.

Dries in 1 Hour • No Steam or Shampoo • Non-Toxic • Odor Free • No Soapy Residue

The Carbonated Carpet Cleaner

422-0970

Offer Voids All Other Discounts

St. Valentine HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Arts & Crafts Show

FANTASTIC BAKE SHOPPE

DRAWINGS FOR:

Hummer nativity set

COMMODORE 64 HOME/OFFICE COMPUTER

GAMES • refreshments

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30th

9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Located at Beech-Daly and Hope Street 3 blocks south of Five Mile in Radford.

SPECIAL COUPON

FREE!!...cup of coffee Please redeem at our HOLIDAY BAZAAR Snack Bar

Sunday, Oct. 30th

between 9 am & 2 pm