

# Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 82

Monday, August 27, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

32 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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## Wolf sticks with stand against tax

By Joanna Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills Councilman Joe Alkateeb's hopes for unanimous council support of a proposed city charter amendment to levy additional millage have been dashed.

Councilman Donna Wolf solidified his anti-tax posture last week by voting against the proposed amendment.

The final council vote was 5-1. Council members Jan Delan, Joel Soronen, Joan Dudley, Alkateeb and Mayor Charles Williams voted for the proposed amendment. Robert Anzlovar was absent.

"I was certainly hoping the charter amendment vote would be unanimous so no one would play political football with it," Alkateeb said in a telephone interview last week.

The amendment would create a new section to the charter asking for authority to levy up to an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years for capital improvements.

If approved, the city's total taxing authority would be increased from the current 10-mill charter limit to 11.5.

Following council's vote on the ballot language last week, Alkateeb questioned Wolf on his no vote.

"I voted no this evening, Joe, for the same reason I voted no last week," Wolf said, referring to an earlier vote of opposition on the charter proposal.

Wolf is opposed to the proposed char-

ter amendment because it would increase the city's total beyond the current 10 mills.

Instead, Wolf said he prefers taking 1.5 mills for capital improvements out of the authorized 10 mills. Council has the authority to do that. But Wolf said he would still prefer asking voters for the authority.

"I feel very good that it is going to a vote of the people," Wolf said, despite his opposition to the proposed charter amendment.

"I just want people to know what they are passing," Wolf said. "I just want them to know the facts... that they (council) are taking our statutory limits to 11.5 mills."

Wolf said council members may have expected him to vote in favor of the proposed amendment because they are following his philosophy of going to the voters when it comes to tax issues.

"Now, am I going to reward them?" Wolf asked.

But council must get voter approval for any change to the city charter.

Although some of the council and city administrators have referred to the charter proposal as the city's "voters choice amendment," Wolf balks at that reference.

"It's really not a vote of choice of the people," he said.

The statewide Voters Choice Amendment, also to be on the ballot in No-

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## Gold form

The personal battle for athletic excellent and the hope for a gold medal was felt in more places than in Los Angeles this year. Senior citizens from around the area gathered at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College to compete in the Senior Olympics. Among those participating were Marge Clark of Farmington Hills, left, who gives a big smile after receiving her medal in the 100 yard dash; above, from left, are the top medalists in the men's one mile run, Harold Schneider of Royal Oak, Bronze medalist, Bill Wright of Farmington Hills, Gold and Frank Durly of Southfield. Street, 23 right is Farmington Hills resident Ace Ginger who participated in volleyball competition. To read more about the competition, turn to Page 3A.



RANDY DORFF/staff photographer

## Traffic relief depends on cities' cooperation

By Joanna Maliszewski  
staff writer

Scheduled for completion sometime in 1988, I-696 running east and west through metropolitan southern Oakland County, is expected to be a motorists' blessing.

But Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials are concerned that I-696 motorists will hit a snag when they reach the existing nine-mile stretch between Telegraph Road and I-375.

The new segment is going to be three or four lanes each way, I-696 between Telegraph and I-375 is two lanes each way.

Unless improvements are made, the stretch running through Southfield, Farmington Hills and Novi will be a traffic bottleneck, according to MDOT officials.

But improvements can't be made or paid for with the help of federal money until the state, Oakland County Road Commission, and the three local com-

munities can prove there will be traffic problems.

The three communities, state and county road officials county recently formed a special committee to study the issue.

The committee's task is to review the need for widening the section of I-696 between Telegraph and I-375. The committee will also consider adding one or more interchanges along the nine-mile stretch of highway.

"You don't build any highways anymore without knowing what you're

doing," said City Manager William Costick.

The committee must document and justify the need for improvements in order to get the federal government to pay 90 percent of the total cost. The remaining 10 percent of the improvement's cost would be paid by the state and the local communities.

A couple of the aspects that will have to be considered, Costick said, are the environmental issues and how another interchange will affect local traffic.

The only interchange along the high-

way between Telegraph and I-375 is at Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

"The Orchard Lake interchange is overloaded already," Costick said, considering the future traffic congestion with the completion of I-696.

Costick said interchanges have been discussed for Inlet in Southfield and for an area near Drake Road in Farmington Hills.

But the effects of putting interchanges near these areas, particularly near residential areas, have to be stud-

ied in depth, he said.

"The adjacent local road network is currently unable to accept additional traffic due to capacity limitations," according to the committee's project proposal.

When construction contracts were awarded for I-696 in the early 1980s, the Federal Highway Administration decided they would pay for only a four-lane freeway. Because of the rural nature of the area, highway officials felt traffic in this area did not warrant more lanes.



Dr. Leo Halsted, whose family was one of the first to come to the Farmington area, recalls his years as a physician.

## Family doctor sticks to his vow to make his patients come first

By Jean Adamczak  
staff writer

Growing up in Farmington Township in the midst of the Depression, Leo Halsted never thought he would become a doctor.

In fact, he was not in the least bit interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

In August, Dr. Halsted marked his 50th year as a doctor and his 48th year of practicing family medicine in Farmington.

"I am probably one of a few remaining natives of Farmington Township," says the 75-year-old physician.

Halsted was born, appropriately enough, on Halsted Road in 1908. His family had owned a farm on the small, dirt road since moving to Michigan in 1837.

"John Quincy Adams was president then, and that was 10 years before Michigan became a state in 1837," Halsted says proudly.

"The road was named after his father and grandfather, because," he says, "they lived on it the longest."

"It was just a country road and my father insisted someone into making it a county road. We've had a hard time getting them to spell the name right as it," he adds with a chuckle.

Halsted's interest in science and people prompted him to announce, to his father's surprise, that he was applying to medical school.

"My father wasn't too thrilled about

it — he always wanted me to go into business or be a lawyer, but I just wasn't cut out to be a lawyer," Halsted says.

Beginning medical school during the 1930's would have been almost impossible for Halsted, but a loan repaid by his father enabled him to have enough money to launch his medical education.

A 1934 graduate of the University of Michigan's medical school, Halsted says he has taken care of four generations of one family.

"You think of your patients more as friends," Halsted says.

"You know their children and grandchildren and even their great-grandchildren, and you also see them grow up," he adds.

Halsted opened his first office in downtown Farmington in 1936, on the first floor of the Chew House, an old hotel made into an apartment.

Now a parking lot for the Village Mall, the Owen House headquarters Halsted's practice for "20 some years."

He worked day and night five days a week and Saturdays.

That building was eventually sold, and Halsted moved into an office near the corner of Grand River and Power Road. From there he moved to the office complex on Orchard Lake Road where he has been for the last 23 years.

"I think about retiring, but my patients won't let me. They want me to live as long as they do," he says.

— and I don't golf," he adds emphatically.

Halsted spends most of his leisure time listening to classical records and doing yardwork.

"I'm a workaholic, so my wife says I took care of a cancer patient for two years, five days a week, at the patient's house," he says.

It is this sort of dedication that keeps Halsted's patients coming back to him,

even after they have moved away from the Farmington area.

"One of my patients, a woman, came in for a year of chemotherapy, and she said she checked out of her house, moved from Farmington, and she came back."

"That's what I love about my job," says Halsted. "I know I'm dedicated to my job, but I don't know what my life is," he laughs.

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