

Marks maps out election strategy

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The council, Marks said, needs the experience and maturity ("someone with scars") he has to offer.

"THEY NEED someone who is not afraid to come off the wall," he added.

Involved with the city since its beginnings, Marks says he feels city officials are doing the job he had in mind when he helped write the city charter.

"We're not giving up areas without a lot of thought and minimum anguish to the area," Marks said, about some of the controversial rezoning requests that have been brought before planning commissioners and council.

"I believe in keeping faith with the people who moved in the community,"

Marks continued. "We have to keep people informed in-depth about why change is taking place."

Marks has a plan for doing just that. If elected, Marks wants to talk with neighborhood organizations and civic groups, for example, about whatever happens to be residents' concerns. Farmington Hills, he said, is "a large city. But small enough not to lose our closeness and empathy."

"There is nothing sacred about being a council person," he said. "The city council is going to have to go out in the streets again. This is not a Monday night job."

Talking directly to the residents in their own territory rather than in council chambers could help sell the city's

six-year capital improvements program, for example, Marks said.

As a planning commissioner, Marks helped write the current six-year plan.

BEFORE THE August primary Marks said he would prefer a special millage to help pay for capital improvements rather than a charter amendment. Now Marks says he prefers not to get into whether he supports the amendment proposal or not.

Instead, Marks points to his experience as a charter commissioner who helped write a charter with a 10-mill limit "that the council may levy without a vote for a charter amendment."

But he is firm in his support of the city's capital improvements program. "I'm supporting the concept of the capital improvements program because that's the liability of the whole community," Marks said.

"The main thing is getting the things that are extremely important to Farmington Hills done as quickly as we can without a burden to the taxpayers."

Saying he applied the people's right to vote on this issue, "charter amendment," Marks said he urges voters to study the matter and vote "based on informed reason."

Whatever happens regarding the proposed charter amendment and improvements plan, Marks said the education of the public must be continued long after the Nov. 6 election.

"We have an intelligent electorate who sometimes gets parochial," Marks said. But one way of turning the tide of parochialism is to nurture intense participation in the community.

"People sitting in the seats of government sometimes have a tendency to take the benevolent attitude of 'I know best. Let me take care of it.' That shouldn't happen here," Marks said.

More public hearings are needed to determine which capital improvements the public considers most necessary, Marks said.

The proposed new police building is one such project that needs more public input, Marks said.

If the public feels a new police facility is "a justifiable priority," then it should be built in one complete phase, Marks said.

Area student sits on court

Lynda Knoll of Farmington Hills was named to Michigan State University's 1984 homecoming court.

Knoll was selected from among 30 applicants representing either a registered student organization, an individual college, or a living unit on campus.

The five-male, five-female court was chosen on the basis of academic record, achievements, leadership, diversity and poise.

Court members were recognized during halftime activities at the MSU-Indiana football game Oct. 13, in Spartan Stadium. The game culminated a week of homecoming activities, including a pep rally and bonfire, a circus and a fireworks display.

Knoll is a dean's list senior majoring in communication and business. She

has received an MSU Academic Excellence Award and an overseas study scholarship, and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honorary fraternity, Golden Key National Honor Society, Mortar Board national honor society, Order of Omega honorary leadership organization, the Senior Class Council, NSU Student Foundation and Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.

Knoll is a graduate of North Farmington High School and the daughter of Sue and Ron Knoll.

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