

5 council contenders speak their minds

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bounded on the north by 12 Mile, on the south by I-69, on the west by Haggerty and on the east by property owned by the U.S. Postal Service, approximately one-quarter mile east of Farmington Road.

THE FARMINGTON Board of Education opposes creation of a TIFA district. Trustees maintain TIFA will have a negative affect on school finances. Incumbent Marks disagreed with Sever and the school district's position.

"TIFA is not a threat. It is something positive for everyone in this community. I believe TIFA is probably the only vehicle on 12 Mile that improvements can take place," Marks said.

The city will lose its growing tax base without continued construction of office complexes along the thoroughfare. And construction cannot continue there unless the city makes improvements to the thoroughfare as well as to drainage in the area, Marks said.

Without TIFA, all city taxpayers — residential and commercial — will have to foot the bill for improvements on 12 Mile, said Dolan, also Farmington

mayor. Under TIFA, owners of the office along 12 Mile will pay for improvements through their tax dollars, Dolan said.

GRANT, WHO recently resigned his position as Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees vice president to run for council, agreed with Dolan. "I do see TIFA as a possible solution," he said.

Soronen called TIFA a "fair taxing method," and added "it has proven very successful in other areas." When audience questions turned to

improving the city's appearance, all five candidates supported the recent revival of the city's beautification commission.

The commission will address what beautification improvements are necessary throughout the city, said Dolan, a moving force behind the revived commission. A master plan will be developed showing all development — old and new — in the city and what must be improved. The commission also will acknowledge those residents and merchants who already have attractive areas, she said.

MARES SAID he favors efforts to amend zoning ordinances with beefed-up landscaping requirements for new development. Owners — residents and merchants — of existing development should also be encouraged to make beautification improvements.

Supporting the revived beautification commission, Grant said he believes improved appearance will help maintain residents' property values. He added that he supports plans for a beautification master plan as well as beautification programs for homeowners.

Attempts to beautify the city must go beyond ordinance requirements and city efforts, Sever said. The use of volunteers must be promoted.

Also along similar lines, all candidates said they favored continued construction of sidewalks and bikepaths, as well as maintenance of the city's restrictions against high-rise buildings.

BUT SEVER said he feels too many waivers are given to developers required to put in sidewalks. "We need to see fewer waivers all across the board," he said.

Council incumbents took exception to Sever's comments. "Since 1973, sidewalks have gone in with every commercial development," Dolan said. Only a few waivers have been granted to developers, who have been allowed to delay sidewalk construction for a specific time period. They have not been exempted from the requirement, she said.

Responding to questions about the city's need for sports facilities, candidate responses boiled down to a question of money and land.

Grant maintained that room could possibly be made available for sports facilities — soccer and baseball fields — at the Spicer property near Farmington and 10 Mile roads and at city-owned property near 13 Mile and

Farmington roads.

Property for sports facilities is not readily available, Marks said. A committee drawing up preliminary use plans for the Spicer property will discuss whether sports facilities should be available there, he noted.

SORONEN GAVE a historical perspective. Originally, parks — open spaces — were planned within each city subdivision. But the growth of the city shows there are a lot more young people than originally anticipated. Now, residents want more park and

sports facilities throughout the city, Soronen said. "It will have to be addressed in terms of available dollars," she added.

Dolan suggested closer cooperation between the schools and the city in providing residents with sports facilities. Community programs should be developed cooperatively with the schools using school sports sites.

The city also should work closely with existing sports clubs, such as Little League and the Farmington Soccer Club, Dolan said. Sever did not comment on the issue.

International ties suspected

Continued from Page 1

linked to the alleged prostitution ring, he said.

A SIMILARITY between the Farmington Hills health spas and others throughout the country is that many of the Oriental women working there are living in the spas' backrooms, Dwyer said.

After talking with other law enforcement officials, Dwyer says he has found that "these spas are popping up

all over the state of Michigan."

Sixteen Oriental women and one man were charged last week with illegal sexual activity following a police raid on five Farmington Hills health spas Oct. 7-8. The raids and related arrests were the result of a six-week police investigation stemming from residents' complaints of prostitution and other sex-related offenses at the storefront health spas.

Some, if not all, of the Oriental health spas raided Oct. 7-8 have since reopened. "I anticipated some of

them would reopen. That is why the raids were just the first step of the organization," Dwyer said.

Efforts will be made to padlock the buildings if the owners do not evict the spa operators. "We are going to raid Farmington Hills of these spas," Dwyer said.

OF THE 17 arrested, 14 are Korean citizens, one is a Japanese citizen and the remaining two are U.S. citizens. The suspects were released by late Oct. 8 after posting bond ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,320.

The U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization as well as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have been contacted. The Federal Bureau of Investigation also will be called in, Dwyer said.

U.S. citizenship is not automatically given to the foreign spouse of an American. They are given an interim status until successfully completing citizenship procedures, the chief said.

The health spas raided last week included: Sun Spa, 29403 Orchard Lake Road, Kelko Spa, 29513 Nine Mile; Kim's Spa, 30322 Nine Mile; Tokyo Oriental Health Spa, 28841 Orchard Lake; and Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38499 10 Mile.

Police also ticketed and released seven men for loitering in a place of illegal occupation, Dwyer said. Customers were from Farmington Hills and other metro communities. Some of the customers were from as far away as Grand Rapids and East Lansing. Customers were charged approximately \$50-\$60 for a variety of sex acts, Dwyer said.

on the agenda

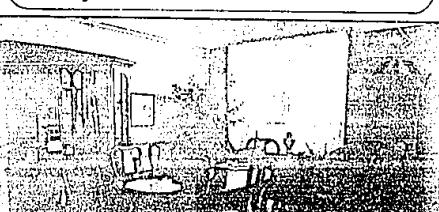
Farmington Hills City Council
31555 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14

Green North, Country Ridge and Green Hills Commons

Farmington Board of Education
32500 Shaw Road, Farmington
8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

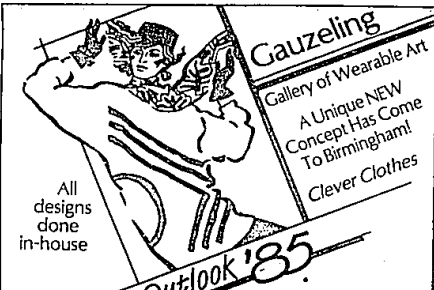
Trustees will consider a recommendation from the board's selection committee on procedures to be followed in selecting a new superintendent to replace Superintendent Lewis Schulman, who will retire Dec. 31. The committee is also expected to recommend an interim superintendent, who would serve until a new superintendent is selected. Trustees will also consider construction bids for proposed improvements to the district's bus garage.

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