

# Grant loses to Sever in absentee ballots

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Challenger Jonathan Grant outpolled fourth-placed Farmington Hills City Council victor Terry Sever in the precincts Tuesday, but Grant's support wasn't enough to keep Sever from a six-vote victory in absentee ballots.

In the total vote tally at the city's 27 precincts, Grant slipped past Sever with 102 votes. But Grant's support was lost when Sever garnered 108 more votes in absentee ballots — accounting for his six-vote edge.

Sever won two precincts — 24 (Independence Green) and 4 (Power School) — with low turnouts of 3 percent.

Sever also came in last place in 13 precincts while Grant took that position in only six. Grant dominated three precincts — 28 (Hope Lutheran), 27 (Uni-

versalist Unitarian) and 9 (East School). Precincts 26 and 27 also had low turnouts. Precinct 9 had a 7-percent voter turnout.

As in the past, this year's city council vote totals were dominated by absentee ballots. Despite the low turnout — 14.93 percent — more than half of the 6,312 votes cast were absentee.

Approximately 95 percent of the absentee ballots represent voters 60 years of age and older, who automatically receive absentee ballot applications by mail, said Kathy Frey, deputy city clerk.

**THE THREE top council voters —** Jan Dolan, Jody Soronen and Ben Marks — won with more than half of their support in absentee ballots. The top three finishers won four-year terms. The next highest finisher was a

two-year term.

Of Dolan's total 4,893 votes, 2,530 were absentee. Soronen's 4,596 vote total included 2,424 absentee ballots. Of Marks' total 4,350 votes, 2,231 were absentee. Sever received 2,097 absentee votes to bring his total to 3,984. Grant's total of 3,958 votes included 1,939 absentee.

Despite the strength of absentee ballots, Dolan's precinct support was also strong — capturing 11 of the total 27 precincts. Her support was citywide, with a concentrated strength in precincts north of 10 Mile.

Even in those precincts where she did not take first place, her support remained strong, falling below second place in only seven precincts. Dolan placed last in only Precinct 4 (Power School), where she garnered 28 votes to

first-place Sever's 32 votes.

Even though Dolan took five of the seven precincts south of 10 Mile, those precincts each showed voter turnout of 8 percent or less. In pacing her home precinct — 12 (East School) — Dolan managed to capture the one area with the highest voter turnout at 13 percent.

**THE FOUR precincts with the next highest turnout of 12 percent were captured by the top three victors.** Marks dominated precincts 8 (East School), his home precinct, and 3 (Woodcreek School). Soronen took Precinct 6 (Larkshire School); Precinct 21 (Dunckel School) went to Dolan. Precincts with less than 5-percent turnout went to Grant and Sever.

Second-place finisher Soronen captured only three precincts — 6 (Larkshire School), 14 (Alameda

School) and 18 (Lutheran High). The majority of Soronen's 246-vote lead over third-place finisher Marks came by capturing these three precincts.

Her strength though came in taking second place in 15 of 27 precincts and tying for top spot with Dolan in Precinct 17 (Alameda School).

Although her home precinct went to Dolan, Soronen managed to take second place. Both Grant and Sever followed Soronen's suit and lost their home precincts. Grant's home precinct 20 (Fire Department HQ) went to Marks. Sever's precinct 25 went to Dolan.

Soronen's consistent strength over Marks and Sever was evident in that she didn't come in last place in any of the 27 precincts; she came in fourth in only four precincts.

**EVEN THOUGH** he came in behind Soronen, Marks managed to capture six precincts — 3 (Woodcreek School), 8 (East School), his home precinct, 15 (Gill School), 16 (Fairview School), 19 (Forest School) and 20 (Fire Department HQ) — on the city's northern, eastern and southern fringes. By just capturing precincts 3 and 8, Marks managed to outdistance Sever by 193 votes.

Despite his domination in six precincts, Marks also lost four precincts to each one of the other candidates. He placed last in Precinct 5 (Green School) — a Dolan stronghold. Soronen won Precinct 6 (Larkshire School), Sever, 24 (Independence Green), and Grant, 27 (Unitarist Unitarian). Precincts 24 and 27 had voter turnouts of 3 and 2 percent, respectively.

# Communities notified of psychiatric placement

Continued from Page 1

"Nobody would be placed in one of these programs who is having an acute psychiatric episode. When people are able to move out into a transitional living environment with supervision, we have virtually no problems. And we have systematic monitoring," he said.

**THE LETTER** to city officials, however, does not define what hospital officials mean by "mentally ill."

In anticipation of the public's response to the placement of psychiatric patients, state Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, said, "It's important for people to remember that mental illness is not the same as dangerous. Legally,

if someone is dangerous to themselves or to others, they cannot be placed in the community."

Patients that would be placed in residential programs are those who have emotional problems such as depression, or who suffer from a strong lack of self-confidence or who are severely withdrawn, Stabenow said.

"By the very fact that they are not in an institution means that they have been clinically diagnosed as not dangerous. And the vast majority of men-

tally ill people are not dangerous," Stabenow said.

**STAFF AT** the state mental health department and the hospital's community residential services will jointly assess the needs of patients and select candidates for placement in the residential programs, according to the hospital's notification letter.

Notification procedures — to cities and neighborhoods that are required when mental health agencies develop a group home for mentally retarded per-

sons also apply to the placement of psychiatric patients, DeLoach said.

But programs such as the independent living programs — homes in which live-in supervision is not required — would not necessarily fall under, for example, the rule for group homes that no other similar facility can be within 1,500 feet, DeLoach said.

"(Patients) are in an independent living condition. It is not a group home," he said.

planned by hospital officials are similar to group homes for mentally retarded persons. The two-person apartments are just that — apartments for two people without supervision, DeLoach said.

The 10-bed crisis home is intended for patients who are experiencing some type of temporary personal crisis, such as a family problem, DeLoach said.

These patients normally don't require psychiatric care but often end up at a psychiatric center because they have nowhere else to go, he added.

## on the agenda

Farmington Hills City Council  
31555 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills  
7:30 p.m. today

Newly elected council members Jan Dolan, Jody Soronen, Ben Marks and Terry Sever will be sworn in. A plaque will be presented to outgoing Councilman Charles Williams. The Farmington Hills City Council will consider final approval for Farmington Grove subdivision and the appointment of a new zoning inspector. Council will receive a report on Oakland County's plan to refund tax money. Also to be considered is the introduction of an amendment to city ordinance requiring adequate pump discharge into storm sewer and the diversion of sump pump discharge that is determined a public nuisance.

Downtown Farmington Development Committee  
Farmington City Hall  
23600 Liberty, Farmington  
7 p.m. Wednesday

Marketing consultant Mike Nicholas

will discuss downtown plans.  
Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees

Farmington Hills branch  
32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills  
5 p.m. Thursday

Trustees will review the revised 1984-85 budget audit. Library Director Beverly Papal will discuss Oakland County reaction to penal fee increases, as well as update trustees on the Michigan Outstate Equity Grant. She will also report on database services. Trustees are also expected to appoint a new assistant library director.

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