

4 enter county commission race

By Tim Smith
staff writer

FOUR CANDIDATES, two Democrats and two Republicans are vying for a two-year term in the 21st Oakland County Commission District for the Tuesday, Aug. 5 primary election.

The Democrat and the Republican with the higher vote tallies will face each other in the November general election.

The district includes portions of Southfield and Farmington Hills. It includes the area from Eight Mile to 10 Mile, west to the City of Farmington boundary and east to Greenfield Road, at the Oak Park boundary.

Veteran Democrat and 21st District incumbent Alexander C. Perinoff of Southfield faces party opposition from Lew Barnett of Southfield, who has opposed Perinoff before in low-key campaigns.

IN THE Republican race, first-time challengers Richard Lytwynuk of Farmington and Douglas R. Sokolowski of Southfield are vying in the primary.

Perinoff, Lytwynuk and Sokolowski were interviewed recently by the Southfield Ecocentric. Though invited, Barnett didn't attend.

The candidates were asked the following questions:

• The county has debated whether to consolidate the drain commissioner's office with public works under the county executive, or to bring public works under the drain commissioner. Which do you favor?



'No one has bothered to take the time to find out exactly a dollar figure you project to save (about consolidating departments).'

— Douglas Sokolowski
21st District candidate

• Oakland County's economic boom is putting a strain on roads beyond the financial capacity of the road commission. Would you be willing to campaign for a tax issue to fund road development?

• The county is promoting an enhanced 9-1-1 program to municipalities. What is the need for the program, what will it do and how will it be funded?

• Would you support creation of a charter commission to write a home-rule charter for Oakland County?

• Also being offered to municipalities is a solid waste plan. What kind of plan is being devised? How can it be made affordable, and how important is it for communities to commit to it?

FOLLOWING ARE the candidates' answers to those questions:

Perinoff opposes consolidating the drain commission and public works departments under County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, because the plan would be a "useless expense."

But Sokolowski said he might back the plan, if it proved to be financially sound, while Lytwynuk wanted more time to study the issue and discuss the topic with residents.

Perinoff said consolidating the departments under Murphy would result in two staffs doing the same work. Instead, he said he favors merging the DPW into Drain Commissioner George Kuhn's office.

Kuhn, not Murphy, has the authority to build drains and sanitation, according to Perinoff. Murphy does not have that authority under State Act 139.



'Under the enhanced (9-1-1) system, it would be more expensive and so forth, but it's great. It'll tie up the whole county, no matter who calls.'

— Alexander Perinoff
Oakland County Commissioner, 21st District

'IT'S KIND of a dumb thing to do to have two different divisions. The DPW under Mr. Murphy is a maintenance proposition, but you got to have a staff,' Perinoff said.

He questioned having two divisions which perform similar work. Evaluating the two departments, Perinoff said Kuhn's office has been one of the "best-run" county departments, while the DPW has done an adequate job as a maintenance outfit.

While Sokolowski wants to combine the departments, he said no study has yet been made to determine how much can be saved dollar-wise under the plan.

"No one has bothered to take the time to find out exactly a dollar figure you project to save,"

THE PERFORMANCES of Kuhn, his department and the DPW are generally held in high regard, according to Sokolowski, who said he has talked with other county commissioners about them.

Lytwynuk agreed with Sokolowski that more study on the cost effectiveness of consolidation is needed before enacting the plan.

If the plan is found to be feasible, Lytwynuk would ask the public if it favored consolidating the departments.

He added that he needed further study before making any comments on the performances of Kuhn, his office or the DPW.

ALL THREE candidates agree that roads in Southfield need to be improved, particularly with the office-building boom in the city. But each has different ideas on

how to generate money, without asking residents to support a tax issue to improve roads.

Sokolowski favors pursuing state funds to bankroll improvements, while eliminating interest-free or low-interest loans to county municipalities.

Sokolowski thinks the county is in a "good enough stance" to request state money because of its pro-economic development position. He added, however, that roads were neglected in the process.

Money should be available due to new jobs, which he said generated federal and state revenue.

BECAUSE OF weather and commuter traffic, estimated by Sokolowski at 150,000 cars a day, Southfield roads such as the Lodge and its Northwestern extension require much work, he said.

Besides state money, another source of road project revenue could come from charging interest on loans it makes.

The county has provided low-interest loans to communities for downtown district revitalization through its Commercial Assistance Program (CAP).

He added that the Tri-Party Program, which provides for the state, county and local government to share costs equally, is basically a good one. But he suggested increasing the local share of the cost to cut the drain on county revenue.

LYTWYNUK also said he opposes raising taxes for road improvements.

Instead, he said he favors a tax reallocation or a 4-percent sales

tax from the sale of new automobiles, trucks and auto parts to help finance new road construction.

Improving roads in the county is a "priority" for Lytwynuk, but he said he couldn't cite which one needs the most work.

Perinoff also acknowledged that the condition of roads is one of Oakland County's most pressing problems. He noted that more than 2,000 miles of its roads are built and maintained by the road commission with its "drop in the bucket" annual budget of \$30-40 million.

To generate additional revenue without asking for a millage, Perinoff suggested implementing a penny-per-gallon gas tax increase.

'THE ONLY ones who should be taxed are those who use the roads — the motorists," Perinoff said. "And that would generate a helluva lot of money."

Because the county commissioners' powers are restricted to policy-making, the gas tax would need state approval.

Perinoff also said he would like to see a more equitable distribution of the state-levied gas and weight tax, with more money channeled to more heavily traveled areas and less to areas like the Upper Peninsula.

ALL CANDIDATES voiced support for the county's enhanced 9-1-1 program, which would potentially save lives with automatic emergency call tracing.

The system would allow police or medical personnel to trace calls to their exact location within 3-1 program would be more expensive,

'I think everyone would like to have the (enhanced) 9-1-1, and they would like it to be effective.'

— Richard Lytwynuk
21st District candidate

Perinoff said it would be one of the most important "people services" communities could have.

Lytwynuk said he has called 9-1-1 several times for medical help, but waited sometimes as long as two hours. He termed his personal experience with the program "frustrating."

"I think everyone would like to have the (enhanced) 9-1-1, and they would like it to be effective," he added.

Perinoff said expenses for the new program would be split by the county and participating communities. He added that the current 9-1-1 is far from perfect.

NOW, POLICE or medical personnel pinpoint where or what the emergency is by questioning persons using it, Perinoff said.

"By the time police got there, the crime had already been committed," Perinoff continued.

"Under the enhanced system, it would be more expensive and so forth, but it's great. It'll tie up the whole county, no matter who calls."

The northern portion of Southfield is not hooked up with the current system.

Sokolowski also said the plan is a good one but cautioned that it probably would be more expensive. He again said state dollars should be pursued to help fund the program, partly because the county pays a large amount of state taxes.

Lytwynuk suggested that program money already existing needs to be used more effectively.

ONLY PERINOFF had a formula

Please turn to Page 4



inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary schools. The column appears monthly. During the school year, it runs as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

• JUNIOR HONORED
Trudy Papler, a junior at Farmington High School, received the Marie Curie Award for Excellence in math and science June 2 during the senior honors assembly.

This national award is given by the Society of Women Engineers. Although the Farmington Hills resident has not decided what university to attend in 1987, she has decided on a career in engineering.

• STUDENT SCHOLARS
Former Farmington school trustee Michael Shpiece presented three scholarships to outstanding social studies students at each of the district's three high schools. Each scholarship is worth \$150.

Farmington High School senior Philip Madrid was awarded the National Hispanic Scholar Award, which he will use to attend the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, majoring in electrical engineering. A martial arts brown belt, he placed third in weapons and sparring in the Ontario National Karate Championships held in Windsor.

Kenneth Klemczak of Farmington Hills was awarded the Chancellor's Partial Scholarship at U. of M.-Dearborn. The Chancellor's partial stipends total \$3,000 over four years, broken down in escalating amounts each year. Klemczak is a 1988 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice High School.

• COMING ABOARD
Four new employees have joined the Farmington Public Schools staff, as approved by the school board. Donna Duquet, hired in May, will work as program assistant at Cloverdale Center. Winifred Ervin, also hired in May, will be a special education aide at Fairview Early Education Center.

Karen Tomle was hired as a sixth grade teacher at Dunckel Middle School. Dennis Henry was hired as a

special education aide for the South Oakland Skills Center at East Middle School.

• 5 RETIRE
Five Farmington Public School employees retired effective the end of the school year last month.

They are:

• Frances Aaron, special education teacher at the Farmington Training Center.

• Eddy Ellegood, English teacher at Warner Middle School.

• Kathleen Otton, second grade teacher at Wood Creek Elementary.

• Rose Pisani, fifth grade teacher at Longacre Elementary.

• Dorothy Schwachow, mathematics teachers at Warner Middle School.

• SUMMER FAVORITES
A special booklet was published recently detailing Farmington students' favorite books from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The Farmington Reading Department listed the books based on a March student survey, in response to Michigan Reading Month, according to reading chairwoman Hope Aiken.

The pamphlet, entitled "Farmington Favorites," is designed to encourage reading during the summer months, she added.

Some of the books included are: Berenstain Bear books, the Dr. Seuss series, the Miss Nelson series, Madeleine books, Charlotte's Web, Judy Blume's series, and the J.B. Tolkien trilogy, among others.

• TEACHERS HONORED
Retiring teachers Marion Spencer and Edna Galbraith were honored by staff and friends of Flanders Elementary at a breakfast June 13 at the Holiday Inn of Farmington.

Spencer, a teacher with Farmington Public Schools since 1956, taught at Eagle, Middlebelt, William Grace and Flanders elementary schools. As part of her retirement, she also received a friendship quilt made by students and a memory book signed by hundreds of present and former Farmington teachers.

Before retiring, Galbraith taught for 45 years and was with Farmington schools since 1951. She retired as a reading specialist.

neth Klemczak, a graduate of Brother Rice High School in Birmingham, is one of 61 incoming students awarded a scholarship for study at the University of Michigan — Dearborn. Klemczak received a Chancellor's Partial Scholarship, totaling \$3,000 over four years.

A recent graduate of Southfield Christian High School, Jonathan Haskin of Farmington Hills, was awarded an academic scholarship to Hope College, Holland, Mich.

• COLLEGE BOUND
Three Farmington-area students were accepted into Siena Heights College this fall.

Farmington resident Declan O'Rourke, a graduate of Catholic Central High School in Redford, and Farmington Hills residents John Roumynah, a graduate of Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School, and Fayth Thurston, a graduate of Marian High School in Birmingham, will attend the private, Catholic college located in Adrian.

• HOMEMADE CAPS
Afternoon kindergarteners in Candice Holmes class at Kenbrook Elementary celebrated their graduation in a patriotic way.

The group of 19 wore special red, white and blue homemade graduation caps and received certificates congratulating them for a fine performance. They marched to patriotic music and used the theme due to the year celebrating the Statue of Liberty.

"It seemed a fitting theme — the children became more independent through the school year from Ms. Holmes' nurturing," one mother said.

• OVERSEAS TRAVEL
Lisa Jean of Farmington Hills was one of nine local residents traveling to London at no charge during the British Airways "Go For It, America" campaign.

The 1986 Farmington Harrison High School graduate and class president missed graduation ceremonies in order to fly overseas with friend Natalie Newton.

BEFORE FALL, GIVE YOUR CLOSET A COOL APPRAISAL.

Decide on the things you want to keep, then let us help you fill in the blanks. There is no charge for the services of FYI.

For the FYI office nearest you, call toll-free

1-800-328-1463



WARDROBE SHOPPING SERVICE

hudson's