

9 council candidates debate the issues

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were given an opportunity to ask questions. The written questions were reviewed and chosen by league members and read by moderator Jo Roberts, a league member.

At least one more public debate is scheduled prior to the Tuesday, Nov. 3 general election, when the three top vote-getters will receive four-year terms and the fourth-place finisher will receive a two-year term.

Three incumbents, Joe Alkateeb, 48, Joan Dudley, 44, and Terry Sever, 37, are running for re-election.

Those opposing the incumbents are veteran council watcher Aldo Vagnozzi, 61, local historian and city activist Jean Fox, 70, and political newcomers Vernon Kielpinksi, 33, Raymond Cassar, 28, Richard Lytwynluk, 49, and John Heenan, 50.

Hills traffic debated

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

One candidate suggested putting the burden of solving Farmington Hills traffic problems on developers. Another candidate suggested studying how the new commercial and office buildings affect traffic.

can't alone solve traffic problems. Avoid city council watcher Aldo Vagnozzi called for requiring developers to provide plans of how traffic that is generated from their new facilities will be handled.

"For years, we have not done that," Vagnozzi said. "Now we're trying to put the burden on developers."

as county and state roads, "there is no money," he said.

Richard Lytwynluk, a member of the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills, said the worst traffic congestion occurs during morning and evening rush hours. The mile roads need widening. And that's not only expensive, but unpopular, he said.

"WE HAVE got to study the impact of the new buildings (on traffic)," said Raymond Cassar, an attorney and Oakland Community College teacher. He added that the proposed additional interchanges off I-696 will relieve some of the congestion.

"Traffic is a countywide, statewide, citywide problem. We can't solve it ourselves," said incumbent Joe Alkateeb. "We have done our job on local roads."

Vernon Kielpinksi said, "The problem is the city should allow certain projects to complete themselves before they continue on because I can tell right now... when I-696 is completed and the corridor along Inskier is opened up, we're going to have more of a mess of traffic. I suggest we, the city, should work a plan out for that."

Alkateeb and Vagnozzi, who was forced to resign his post as a Farmington Community Library trustee, oppose the charter provision. Despite his feelings, Alkateeb said that he would not resign his seat. He added that new city council members should be sought from the field of board and commission members.

DUDLEY, who supports the charter provision, told residents that boards and commissions can become "political footballs." As far as city council members resigning to run for county and state offices, Dudley responded, "In all due respect to the questioner, I can't even answer it.

It's beyond belief."

Both Vagnozzi and Fox, another candidate forced to resign her three commission seats, took exception to Dudley's comments about "political footballs."

"Never have any of these boards or commissions been used in a political way," Fox said, adding that she personally resented the charge.

Vagnozzi agreed. "There never has been a problem in Farmington Hills being politicized."

The other candidates were less verbose. Lytwynluk, a self-employed businessman, supports the charter because voters want the provision to be followed. Private investigator Heenan opposes it but agreed that it should be followed because voters want it.

Sever, a self-employed businessman, said, "the people spoke and it was an overwhelming decision." And attorney Cassar referred to the city council's policy of limiting members to one board or commission. He maintained that the policy spreads available volunteers too thinly.

WHETHER THE city council should adopt a code of ethics brought a little controversy to the evening.

"I guess I was the one that kind of like was the irritant in the oyster. I'd like to think I'm going to end up with a pearl one day and it's going to be called a code of ethics," said attorney Dudley.

She first suggested a code of ethics in September when she raised the issue of restricting candidates from requesting campaign help from city employees.

Alkateeb, who opposes a code, charged that the question was unfair. "It implies Farmington Hills doesn't have a code of ethics. It's spelled out in the charter." Anything other than what's included in the charter is "superfluous and self-serving." Alkateeb is an electrical engineer.

Sever responded to the question in one word, "yes."

Kielpinksi supports a code because he said the value of life has been diminished. A code of ethics would provide young people with a set of values. "We need a whole new structure, not just politically."

Fox said everyone has and operates under their own personal code of ethics and is uncertain a code for the council is necessary.

Vagnozzi is willing to consider it. Perhaps codifying the council's various policies would do the job, he said. But he cautioned against the council becoming too involved in the daily operations of the city. That's what a city manager is for.

"Each and everyone of us has a code of ethics within ourselves that we follow. And our city council also has that code of ethics. In the past, I haven't seen anything council has done that merits writing up a code of ethics for the council."

Corporate park slated

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"Engineering has been under way relative to waters, roads and sewers," Bowman added.

Segal-Tumala Associates, Farmington Hills, is responsible for the conceptual site work, expected to be completed this winter. Internal roads are expected to be financed by individual owners in the corporate park, Bowman said.

"WE SHOULD expect to see construction in the spring of 1988," Bowman said.

The new corporate park will be a companion to the Farmington Hills Industrial Research and Office Park on Hills Tech Drive. The new park will also be across from the planned Copper Creek residential development and nine-hole golf course, on the north side of 12 Mile.

"The views from Country Club Corporate Park will have the advantage of the ambience of this new Copper Creek development and golf course. Add to this the convenience of excellent housing and recreation facilities to those working in the park, and you have an extremely fine complementary situation between the corporate park and the residential program," according to Bowman, whose introductory speech was read at the early October groundbreaking.

While work continues on the new corporate park, the country club is moving to its newly purchased digs at the 253-acre Godwin Glen Country Club in Lynn Township. The club also bought an adjacent 89 acres, allowing the course to be expanded from 27 to 36 holes.



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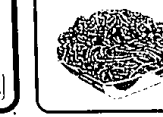
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