

6 hopefuls are challenging 3 incumbents

Nine candidates will vie for four Farmington Hills City Council seats in the Tuesday, Nov. 3, election.

The top three vote-getters will serve four-year terms. The next highest finisher will serve a two-year term.

The Observer today concludes a 3-part installment featuring responses to the newspaper's candi-

date questionnaire. Previous installments ran Oct. 15 and 19.

All voters who registered by Oct. 5 may vote in the nonpartisan election. Absentee ballots are available through the city clerk's office.

Hopefuls Raymond Cassar, Jean Fox, John Heenan, Vernon Klejzlik, Richard Lytwyniuk and Aldo Vagnozzi will challenge incumbents

Joe Alkateeb, Joan Dudley and Terry Sever. Alkateeb and Dudley have each served two four-year terms nonconsecutively. Sever is completing his first two-year term.

Incumbent Donn Wolf is not seeking re-election after two four-year terms.

Winners will take their seats at the next regularly scheduled council meeting following the election and certification of results by the local board of canvassers — Janet Courcy, Marion McCoy, Patricia Blackard and George Porter. The board plans to meet the day after the election.

Council members receive \$1,800 annually for their part-time service. The mayor, elected by fellow council members, receives \$2,700.

Name: Richard Lytwyniuk.
Address: Spring Valley.
Age: 50.
Length of residency: 13 years.
Employer: president, WY Corp., Wyandotte (coin-operated carwash services).
Family: wife, Mary Ann; son, Todd, 15; daughter, Lisa Ann, 18.
Education: Henry Ford Community College graduate, associate of arts, 1956; Eastern Michigan University graduate, bachelor's of arts in mathematics and music, 1960; Eastern Michigan University, master's of arts in education administration, 1972.
Government involvement: none.
Community involvement: member, Spring Valley Civic Association, 13 years, serving as president, treasurer and road commissioner; member, Council of Homeowner Association of Farmington Hills.



Richard Lytwyniuk

meetings do you attend in any given month?
"One or two meetings a month."

7. Should the city council have a code of ethics? What specific items would you include?
"The city of Farmington Hills could have a code of ethics for its council members. A few specific topics could include nepotism, where family members are hired because of family relationships and not merit.

Another topic could include conflict of interest. A councilman is instrumental in awarding city contracts to friends or business partners. Chauffeur service could be another topic."

8. How would you rate the current city council's performance? On which issues do you believe it has faltered? Why? On which issues has it succeeded? Why?
"Overall, council has done a good job. I think Farmington Hills is a wonderful place to live. There has been living here for 13 years. There is a surplus in the budget. Very few consent judgment cases over the years. The city is safe and clean."

"Council faltered on the residential in-home child care and nursery school issue. Council awarded the 7-12 children operation on a two-year trial period. The original ordinance permitted 1-6 children in residential areas."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' concerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?
"As your councilman, I will study zoning variances so residential areas remain residential and business areas remain business as usual. We cannot permit special interest groups to place business strips in our residential areas. We must monitor our high-rise buildings and industrial complex requests so they conform to our master plan."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.
"Continue with Farmington Hills present solid waste program until we can join with other Oakland County cities with a waste disposal facility that can generate electrical power. The electrical-producing facility should be an income-producing business that reduces taxes."

The disposal must be acceptable to surrounding residents. Visual smoke, flying debris and noxious odors are not acceptable."

11. Do you agree with the city's new policy limiting board and commission members to one post? How would you generate publicity to attract more applicants?
"This seems to be a good idea. One can devote more energy to one position. To attract more applicants, the positions could be posted at the city hall and advertised in the Observer newspaper."

12. With continuing increased costs and services, should the Farmington Community Library continue to be financed by the general fund? Is the time right for an independent levy its own millage? How do you propose the planned library expansion on 12 Mile should be financed?
"For the present time, the Farmington Community Library should continue to be financed by the general fund. Back in the 70s, the Michigan District Library Act was written with Farmington Hills as a model."

"For the past month or more, there is a proposal in Lansing state Sen. (Alan) Crosey for revising the Library Funding Act. This proposal might grant an independent library authority the power to levy its own millage."

Name: Aldo Vagnozzi.
Address: Kilaritan.
Age: 61.
Length of residency: 27 years.
Employer: editorial consultant, Cy Aaron Publications Co., Detroit.
Family: wife, Lois; sons, Steven, 35, Paul, 34; daughters, Nancy Pantaleo, 32, and Barbara, 27.
Education: Southeastern High School graduate, 1942; Wayne State University, bachelor's of arts in journalism, 1948.

Government involvement: member, Farmington Board of Education, 1959-73, vice president 1972-73; member, Farmington District Library Board of Trustees, 1985-87; member, Farmington Area Commission on Aging, 1980-85, chairman, two years; member, Committee to Improve Voter Participation, 1979-87, chairman, eight years; council watcher (unofficial position), 1961-present.

Community involvement: member, Friends of the Farmington Library, 1963-85; member, Farmington PTA Council, 1955-69, president, two years; founding president, Beechview PTA; founding member, Farmington Community Center Board, member, Farmington Hills Homeowners Council, 1986-present; member, Kimberley Homeowners Association, 1960-present.

1. What proven qualities and skills would you bring to the council?
"I've spent more than 25 years as a participant in local government as a council watcher and have served on four city commissions: the Farmington Hills library board, school board, commission on aging and the committee to improve voter participation."

"I also have a background in local, county, state and national politics. We will prove beneficial when dealing with those political entities."

2. What do you consider to be the top priorities, problems, facing the city in the next four years?
"My top priorities include protecting and preserving residential neighborhoods, improving roads and doing something about traffic problems."

"I would also stress the need to continue supporting efforts of the police department against crime and the efforts of the fire department in the areas of fire prevention and emergency medical service."

"Senior citizens services and youth activities need attention as does the expansion of the library system."

3. What steps should the city take to prevent suburban decay in Farmington Hills?
"One of the steps is to use more of the community development funds for housing rehabilitation."

"We must work with homeowners in the older sections of the city and maintain strict enforcement of zoning requirements when it comes to home occupations and other non-residential uses in a residential neighborhood. I would protect residential zoning against further encroachment by commercial developers."

4. New interchanges are expected off I-696 into Farmington Hills by the 1990s. How should the city prepare for the changes? What changes do you expect?
"We should plan to expand such roads as 12 Mile to meet the need for the increased traffic that will come off the new exit ramps."

"We should work for a boulevard on 12 Mile to make it safer and keep it in harmony with the surrounding neighborhoods and plan now to meet the problems that will be created by the new interchanges, not wait until it is too late."

5. How would you rate the city's relationship with neighboring communities? Do relations need improvement? How?
"Fair to good. I would propose that each council member be assigned to develop a relationship with one neighboring community."

"Also, I would attend at least one meeting a year of each neighboring community's governing body."

6. On the average, how many city council or planning commission meetings do you attend in any given month?
"I attend about three city meetings a month, plus the monthly library board meetings."

7. Should the city council have a code of ethics? What specific items would you include?
"I would want to take a look at this area after the election. The last month of a city election campaign is not the time for the city council to be running for re-election, to be imposing a code on candidates."



Aldo Vagnozzi

relatives of members of the council boards or commissions."

8. How would you rate the current city council's performance? On which issues do you believe it has faltered? Why? On which issues has it succeeded? Why?
"Fair to good. The council has faltered by its inability to adopt an ordinance or policy and stick by its provisions. That has happened on the child-care ordinance, policy to restrict membership on boards and commissions, the policy dealing with builders who fail to finish open space on time and others."

"The council has performed well in the area of capital improvement in the last two years after doing nothing for a long time."

"The council also has handled youth rowdism well along Orchard Lake Road."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' concerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?
"I would review the master plan and recommend to the planning commission that they take a look at those areas where commercial zoning would amount to an encroachment on residential neighborhoods."

"I think we need a tougher stand against such rezoning with an eye toward a more aggressive position on behalf of the residential areas."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.
"We cannot continue to go it alone in the area of waste disposal. We should either explore becoming involved with the Oakland County consortium while working to bring down costs or join with several neighboring communities to form our own consortium."

"We must begin to educate the residents as to the scope and cost of the problem and the need to meet stricter environmental concerns. It has been my experience in government that if the people have the facts, they will make the right decision."

11. Do you agree with the city's new policy limiting board and commission members to one post? How would you generate publicity to attract more applicants?
"No. If we had enough applicants for these positions, there wouldn't be a problem. There are certain specialized boards that require special interests. The policy to restrict board membership will deprive us of the services of these people."

"We also have to treat board and commission members better. Some of them have been treated pretty shabbily, removed without cause and without notice. We must use our public relations to attract more people to potential board and commission members."

"Each council member should also suggest names to the mayor. If we do this, we won't need to restrict persons wanting to serve."

12. With continuing increased costs and services, should the Farmington Community Library continue to be financed by the general fund? Is the time right for an independent levy its own millage? How do you propose the planned library expansion on 12 Mile should be financed?
"At one time, it made sense to have the library financed by the two cities."

"With the growing demand for library services and the need to expand the facilities, the time has come for exploring the advantages and disadvantages of an independent library authority."

"I would finance the planned expansion of the 12 Mile branch with a combination of tax levy and bond issue. If the library was to receive full funding, it would be able to generate enough money to help finance the expansion."

Name: Terry Sever.
Address: Beechwood Drive.
Age: 37.
Length of residency: 22 years.
Employer: owner, TL Printing, Farmington.
Family: wife, Linda; daughters, Jennifer, 11, Melissa, 9; son, Aaron, 6.
Education: Farmington High School graduate, attended Oakland Community College, attended Wayne State University.
Government involvement: member, Farmington Hills City Council, 1985-present.
Community involvement: member, Farmington Area Jaycees, 14 years, local and state president, national vice president; former director, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce; chairman, Farmington Founders Festival, 1978-79.



Terry Sever

able to disagree, debate and decide with only a limited amount of personally conflicts. I am very proud of the council and their swift action regarding the Orchard Lake Road problem, the house party ordinance, the health spa ordinance and strengthening the substance abuse laws.

"I would like the council to improve its communication to the public on the master plan. We could conduct a series of highly publicized meetings to review the overall master plan. The planning commission does a superb job of planning but many times, they get citizen input only after a zoning request is made that affects them directly."

2. What do you consider to be the top priorities, problems, facing the city in the next four years?
"Our top priority will be holding the line on development. We must be willing to support the master plan, particularly as it pertains to residential zoning. We may need to test some of our recent court cases at the Supreme Court level. I would like us to do what we have to, even if it means changing the state law, to protect our right to determine land use, not the court."

"Next on our priority list is health and safety. With our improved non-residential tax base, we should work to eliminate flooding, improve roads, install sidewalks and invest more in police and fire departments, without having to raise taxes dramatically in the future."

3. What steps should the city take to prevent suburban decay in Farmington Hills?
"To prevent suburban decay, we can express our desire with area business through the chamber to continually maintain their place of business."

"Through local ordinances, we can maintain an eye-pleasing appearance that will instill a good community attitude. Along with this, we can continue to restrict building height, keeping a low-profile community."

4. New interchanges are expected off I-696 into Farmington Hills by the 1990s. How should the city prepare for the changes. What changes do you expect?
"The interchanges along I-696 should improve the flow of traffic through Farmington Hills. We have a major problem with traffic having to travel through our city on local roads to get to their destination."

"Once we improve Haggerty, along with the interchanges, people will be able to avoid the use of Northwestern Highway and the Orchard Lake Road interchange. A large percentage of traffic using Orchard Lake will be able to use other access, making it more convenient as well as easier to control traffic."

5. How would you rate the city's relationship with neighboring communities? Do relations need improvement? How?
"Most of the credit for improved relations with our residents should be given to the city administration. The staff has made every effort to achieve residents input. They have held numerous meetings with local groups, both homeowner associations and individuals."

"The council has strongly supported and encouraged a closer relationship on neighborhood issues, but without the talented personnel working for the city, we could not be effective."

6. On the average, how many city council or planning commission meetings do you attend in any given month?
"I attend five council or planning meetings. In addition to these, I attend on the average an additional two meetings per month for additional city business."

7. Should the city council have a code of ethics? What specific items would you include?
"I believe we should have a code of ethics. It would particularly benefit new candidates while reminding others of what is acceptable."

"I have a few ideas about what should be, but I think the best thing is to have all the candidates meet a week after the filing deadline to determine each campaign what ethics should be or possibly affirm or adopt new rules for each election."

8. How would you rate the current city council's performance? On which issues do you believe it has faltered? Why? On which issues has it succeeded? Why?
"I believe the council is working very well together. We have been

able to disagree, debate and decide with only a limited amount of personally conflicts. I am very proud of the council and their swift action regarding the Orchard Lake Road problem, the house party ordinance, the health spa ordinance and strengthening the substance abuse laws.

"I would like the council to improve its communication to the public on the master plan. We could conduct a series of highly publicized meetings to review the overall master plan. The planning commission does a superb job of planning but many times, they get citizen input only after a zoning request is made that affects them directly."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' concerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?
"As a member of the city council, I have voted against changing large residential areas to commercial use. I have tried to support lower density development where possible. This may mean more court battles because of the financial gains available to some developers."

"We may very well have no choice but to go all the way to the Supreme Court on some zoning issues. Money should not be the deciding factor in these crucial decisions."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.
"The city of Farmington Hills has enjoyed a cost-effective solid waste program for years. Because of the changes and availability of land, we have experienced major increases. We are currently pursuing many alternatives but as of yet, we have not determined the best course of action."

"The current proposal by the county seems to be very costly. In fact, some of the early estimates were way too low and new estimates are much higher. Before we make the final decision, we must have a more certain estimate of cost. It may still be beneficial for us to form our own group of neighboring cities. It will not be easy to find a low cost and environmental safe program for the future."

11. Do you agree with the city's new policy limiting board and commission members to one post? How would you generate publicity to attract more applicants?
"I agree the city should limit appointments to one board or commission. Now that we have implemented this policy, I am more confident it is the right approach. We have had more requests for appointments in the last few months than in the last couple of years."

"We should consider the idea of generating publicity through a recognition program. If more people are aware of these boards and commissions as well as their purpose, more people will volunteer."

12. With continuing increased costs and services, should the Farmington Community Library continue to be financed by the general fund? Is the time right for an independent levy its own millage? How do you propose the planned library expansion on 12 Mile should be financed?
"I see no benefit in changing the current funding of the library. I do not feel strongly one way or the other nor have I received any request by residents to consider any change in the way I don't think anything would change the services provided by the library. I will continue to support the management procedures of the library."

"I will eventually vote for expansion plans but for now, I will leave the future plans to the library board as part of their function. It would be wrong for me to pretend to know more than the library board and suggest future direction."