

# Increased voter participation sought

By Joanne Mallisowski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills resident David Haron has a message for his fellow residents: "Get out and vote Nov. 3." The Southfield attorney is the new chairman of the reactivated Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation.

"It's a basic American right," said Haron, whose complaints last year prompted the city council's adoption of a political sign ordinance. Mayor Ben Marks reactivated the seven-member committee in the hope that the Farmington Hills City Council election Tuesday, Nov. 3 will generate voter interest and increase turnout at the polls.

The mayor added to the existing four members by appointing three new members, including Haron, Robert Dorigo Jones and Patricia McDonough. Other members are Al Zolton, Brenda Kandt, Lawrence Irey and Al Diebel.

No doubt there's little the committee can get started on with less than two weeks until the election. But

Haron has thought of some immediate efforts that can be taken to increase voter awareness.

Haron would like the city to erect some general "get out and vote" signs and some signs in neighborhoods and on major roads directing voters to the precincts.

"WE NEED to try to identify the voting precincts," Haron said. "My experience is that you can't find them. The schools (most of the precincts) should be better marked."

Other ideas he's uncertain can be executed in time include sending mailings home with school children and providing voters with sample ballots so they are familiar with them by the time they reach the polls.

This is the first city council election in which candidates are able to erect political signs. Haron is certain that will be the biggest help in prompting a larger voter turnout this year.

Though many are opposed to political signs, particularly their appearance, Haron said at least they give a

clue that there's an election. "I don't think it's so bad for three weeks. I think we can pay the price for what some would say is garish. I think it's going to remind people there's an election."

The amendment to the city code allowing political sign placement is somewhat general, offering no restrictions on size or when the signs can be placed or taken down.

The amendment defines political signs as "announcing or advertising the candidacy of persons running for public office or issues to be voted upon at any federal, state, municipal or school election."

IN ADDITION to prohibiting placement of political signs in public rights of way, the amendment exempts political signs from the city's general sign prohibition.

To further convince residents to vote, Haron tells the story of how Mayor Marks, in his election attempt three years ago, beat out councilman Terry Sever by one vote.

"There's no better indication than that that your vote counts," he said.

"There is a reason to get out there and vote. People should think their vote is important."

After the Nov. 3 election, Haron and committee members will analyze the results to determine what, if any, pattern can be found in voting.

With that information, committee members can look and plan for the future, especially for the next city council election in two years, Haron said.

"Obviously, the city should give us money to work with. This is the most basic right (voting)," he said.

## Election nears

### City candidates debate quality of life

**Mayor William Hartsock and councilmen Richard Tupper and Ralph Yoder are the three candidates for three Farmington City Council seats.**

As the Tuesday, Nov. 3, general election approaches, residents in both Farmington and Farmington Hills are preparing to head for the polls to fill seats on their respective city councils.

In Farmington Hills, the race is on. Nine are vying for four seats with three incumbents running. The top three finishers will earn four-year terms, the next highest finisher a two-year term.

The race is not as hot in Farmington, where three incumbents are running for an equal number of seats. There is slight competition, however, as the two top vote-getters in the council race will receive four-year terms; the one receiving the least amount of votes will be re-elected for just two years.

Mayor William Hartsock and councilmen Richard Tupper and Ralph Yoder are the three candidates.

As part of the Observer election coverage, candidates were asked to respond to questionnaires involving city issues. While most of the Farmington responses were run in an earlier issue, candidates also responded to questions involving traffic congestion and quality of life in the city of Farmington. Their answers appear below:

**What can the city do to alleviate growing traffic congestion on Grand River?**

**Hartsock:** "We have looked at it and we have tried different things. Because of the physical space limitations, there's just very little we can do. The most obvious answer is you have parking or don't have parking on Grand River. I don't think there's any one single thing we can do to alleviate that problem."

**Yoder:** "Traffic congestion on Grand River could be alleviated by the elimination of parking on Grand River. However, strong arguments could be made for or against such a measure. The installation of a signal at Grove Street in the near future should provide for better pedestrian

mobility. Traffic congestion on Shilawassee is also a problem and is currently under study."

**Tupper:** "The traffic congestion will remain in downtown Farmington under major improvements are made on Orchard Lake Road, and an additional north-south artery is constructed west of Farmington."

**How do you perceive the current and future quality of life in the city?**

**Hartsock:** "I think it's great now and it's going to be better in the future. Certainly improving roads is a major plus. We've done some sanitary and sewer separation. Just the general atmosphere in our community, plus the positive growth in Farmington Hills, should enhance the quality of life within the Farmington community. I think things are great and getting better."

**Yoder:** "There is a certain stability in the quality of life of our citizens, and it will remain so if the community works to achieve it."

**Tupper:** "The city council is one of the major influences on the quality of life in Farmington. In order to maintain our 'higher-than-average quality of life,' the council must be the leader by demonstrating consistency, promoting interest and establishing goals through careful planning."

## BE A MODEL ...OR LOOK LIKE ONE

Patricia Stevens school can bring fun and excitement into your life through Modeling and Image Awareness Classes. You can become a glamorous model or be the "Person You've always wanted to be!"

**LITTLE MISS ages 6-11**  
• Etiquette/Manners  
• Poise  
• Grooming  
and more

**TEENS 12-17**  
• Makeup  
• Hair  
• Runway-TV-Photo  
and more

**SOPHISTICATE 18 OVER**  
• Wardrobe  
• Nutrition - Aerobics  
• Contemporary Woman  
and more

*Patricia Stevens*

30633 Schoolcraft in Livonia **CALL 422-4400**

## TOP FLOOR. LEES Stainmaster Carpets.



**BOTTOM LINE. 20% to 40% off.**

Lees Stainmaster carpets. Truly top-of-the-line. At bottom-line sale prices. Certified and warranted by DuPont, they offer stain resistance never before available. And during this sale, you can choose from a wide variety of Lees Stainmaster colors and styles. All at 20% to 40% off. Lees Stainmaster carpets. Nothing can top them. Except our rock-bottom sale prices. Sale ends October 31st.

DU PONT CERTIFIED  
**STAINMASTER**  
CARPET



**AR Kramer Flooring**  
FINE FLOOR COVERINGS SINCE 1925

Open Mon., Wed., Thurs, Fri 9-9; Tues. and Sat. 9-6. 15986 Middlebelt (between 5 and 6 Mile Rds.) Livonia 522-5300

**REMODELING SALE TO GET READY FOR OUR NEW THOMASVILLE GALLERY!**

**1/3 to 1/2 OFF!**

**SATURDAY 9:30 to 5:30**

**9 HOUR SALE**

**ALL WALL ACCESSORIES 1/2 OFF!**

**DON'T MISS THIS SALE!**

90 DAYS NO INTEREST ON ANY ITEM W/APPROVED CREDIT.

SAVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE ON BRANDS LIKE DIXIE, HITCHCOCK, VANGUARD, LA-Z-BOY, THOMASVILLE. JUST TO NAME A FEW.

\*Off mfg. est. retail price. All items subject to prior sale. Previous purchases do not apply.

**Claytons**  
OF BLOOMFIELD

OPEN 9:30-5:30  
MON. & FRI. 'TIL 9 P.M.

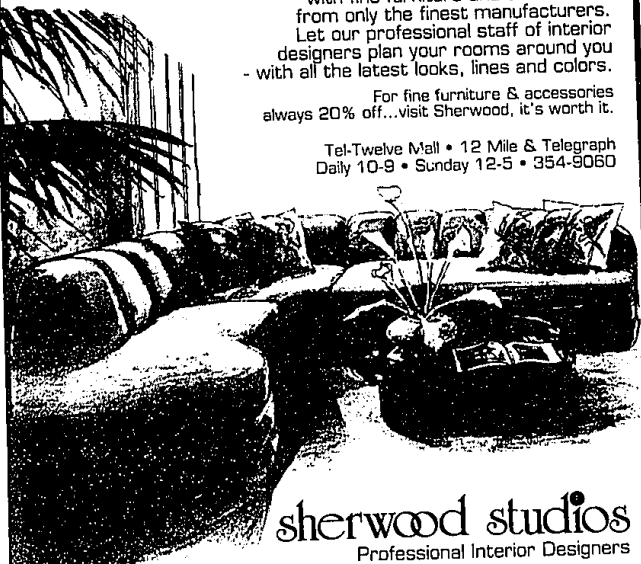
**333-7052**  
2133 Orchard Lk. Rd.  
Near Middlebelt

## Sherwood can make the difference...

with fine furniture and accessories from only the finest manufacturers. Let our professional staff of interior designers plan your rooms around you - with all the latest looks, lines and colors.

For fine furniture & accessories always 20% off...visit Sherwood, it's worth it.

Tel-Twelve Mall • 12 Mile & Telegraph  
Daily 10-9 • Sunday 12-5 • 354-9060



**sherwood studios**  
Professional Interior Designers