



Stephen Economy  
council president



Janice Roineck  
new council VP

## Area drug council picks leaders

Michigan Bell Telephone Co. executive Stephen Economy is the newly elected president of the Farmington Area Advisory Council, a substance abuse education and outpatient treatment services.

He is one of 12 members on FAAC's voluntary board of directors.

Vice president and personnel committee chairwoman is Janice Roineck, a Farmington Board of Education trustee and its current representative to FAAC board.

Jack Padley, with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, is FAAC treasurer. Barbara Balmforth, executive secretary with Farmington Hills, is board secretary.

Current directors elected to the board include: John K. Hooper, a private psychotherapist and

FAAC immediate past president; Richard Hendeke, president and CEO of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America; Steven Trellink, owner T&D Enterprises; William Miller, special education services supervisor, Farmington Public Schools; and Hella Buch, chief of probation, 47th District Court.

Appointed directors are: Sgt. Charles Nebus of the Farmington Hills Police Department and Officer Daniel Potter of Farmington Department of Public Safety.

An update on current program activities was presented to board members at the March 24 meeting by administrative director Betty Arnold and client services director Shelley Renee. FAAC outpatient programs were provided to 1,056 individuals during the past year. These people

received 17,500 hours of service. Educational presentations to students in the classroom setting and to other community groups reached an additional 2566 young people and families during the year.

The Farmington Area Advisory Council offers substance abuse prevention, early intervention and outpatient treatment services to area residents based on ability to pay.

This is made possible through support from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills; the Oakland County Health Department, Substance Abuse Control, the United Foundation and contributions.

FAAC is nationally accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Call 477-6767.

## Absentee ballot mailings get council OK

By Joanne Maliszowski  
Staff writer

The Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation supports the city's automatic mailing of absentee ballot applications to voters 60 and older.

The city council recently authorized the automatic mailings after a two-year period when voters were required to request the applications.

In 1986, the city council stopped the automatic mailing of absentee ballot applications because of costs and the number of staff workers needed to process the applications.

"Technology has now brought us to this point," said city clerk Joan Reynolds. "We are now equipped and have more in the computer, so it's faster and more efficient."

The former policy requiring voters to request the applications decreased the number of people who voted in elections, particularly city elections, because they had to re-

quest the applications, Reynolds said.

The voter participation committee supports "anything that might get people out to the polls," said committee chairman David Haron. The committee was reactivated last year in response to low voter turnout at the polls.

THE COMMITTEE is developing ways to encourage voter participation, particularly in local city council and school elections. More signs is one method the committee will use to spotlight elections and precincts to encourage greater turnout, Haron said.

Committee member Al Diebel is spearheading a survey that's going out to voters sometime in the summer. "We're trying to determine why people vote and why they don't," Diebel said.

Still, Haron and Diebel aren't convinced that wholesale registration of voters is synonymous with voters

turning out at the polls.

A University of Michigan political science professor, Steven Rosenstone said preliminary research shows that modified voter registration laws would increase overall voter turnout by about 9 percent, bringing about 16 million more people to the polls across the country.

Rosenstone is conducting a national voters survey, financed by the Ford Foundation. The professor said evidence gathered in the study will be available to organizations and individuals who want to challenge registration laws.

In most states, Rosenstone said, voters have to register weeks before interest peaks on election day. Voters also have to leave work early or travel an inconvenient distance to the registration office and finally, stand in line and wait.

"CONTRAST THIS situation to Canada, where registration officials go door-to-door to make sure every

eligible voter is on the rolls. Their election-day turnout averages about 68 percent — about 15 percent higher than in the United States," Rosenstone said.

Austin, Great Britain and France have automatic registration systems, and their respective turnouts are 88 percent, 75 percent and 76 percent, Rosenstone said.

But Haron believes the registration system in Michigan is pretty good. "Here we have close to that (automatic registration) because everyone who obtains a driver's license has the opportunity to register."

"It's hate to be cynical, but adding more people to the rolls only increases the number who won't vote," Haron added.

Diebel offered similar sentiments. "I think registration is a factor. But actual participation in voting is a different thing."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

## MDOT plans hearings on noise abatements

Proposed noise abatement measures at three sites along I-696 will be discussed at an open house Thursday, April 7, hosted by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

The sessions will take place 3:30-5 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers, 31515 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

MDOT is recommending noise abatement measures in the area near Howard Road; the area near Kendallwood Apartments, the Farmington Square and Echo Valley condominiums; and the area

near Camelot Courts and Farm Meadows subdivision.

The construction would take place in spring 1990.

The department is also recommending deferring two other noise abatement measures at Tyler Road (near 11 Mile and Inster in Southfield) until 1994, when the exact location of a proposed interchange in that area is known.

Interested persons may drop in any time during open house hours. Department personnel will be available to answer questions.

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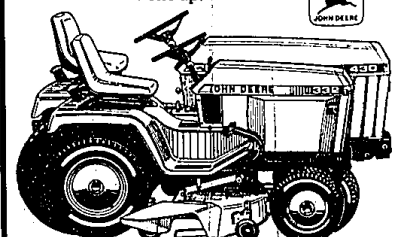
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