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# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**WORK** honored Barbara Crisp of Farmington Hills was awarded a child development associate credential in honor of outstanding work with young children.

The Washington-based Council of Early Childhood Professional Recognition represents the early childhood profession through its affiliation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The credential is the only major national effort to improve child care by evaluating and recognizing the skills of care providers.

**STATE** service. Gov. James Blanchard reappointed James Malley of Farmington Hills to the Health and Safety Compliance and Appeals board for a term expiring in 1992.

Malley is business representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 58, AFL-CIO. He will continue to represent labor in the construction industry.

Reappointment is subject to state Senate approval.

### Quote of the week

"I enjoy it immensely. That is why I come back more than once."

— Yvonne Slinger, a Farmington resident for 18 years, on her reaction to the Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival, which she attended both Thursday and Friday. (See story page 3A.)

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## Home-rule charter splits candidates

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

When it comes to a home-rule charter for Oakland County, county commission candidates Jody Soronen and Donn Wolf are at opposite ends.

Before supporting a move for a county home-rule charter, Soronen wants to see some strong arguments "to fix something that isn't broken."

On the other hand, Wolf said it is time to cut the cord with the rural county image.

Both Soronen and Wolf, Farmington Hills Republicans, are seeking election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th District seat, which represents Farmington and much of Farmington Hills. They will square off in the Republican primary Aug. 2. The winner will face Democrat Steven Hill of Farmington Hills Nov. 8.

Said Soronen: "I presume that many factors will have to be consid-



Donn Wolf



Jody Soronen

ered before taking this step: the perception of the voters to any reorganization of county government, the politics of electing a charter commission, the reaction of the road commission and the drain commissioner to proposed changes in their reorganizations." Soronen is mayor of Farmington Hills and an 11-year councilwoman and Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Wolf, 53, prefers a home-rule charter that would allow the county "self determination in our policies

and unify policy making in Oakland County rather than having two or three separate autonomous policy-setting boards as established by the state." Wolf served eight years on the Farmington Hills City Council.

"We are no longer a rural, sparsely populated area, but a growing county, larger than nine states (in population) with an overall budget of \$250 million," he added.

**THE CANDIDATES** also have different perspectives on the county's growing solid waste disposal problem. Both agree that the county's solid waste plan is costly, particularly to the Farmington area.

Wolf would like to see a compromise reached between the county plan, currently being updated, and plans by a six-community consortium that includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"I would hope the two sides could find a compromise that would result in all communities participating in a



plan," said Wolf, a community and governmental affairs representative for Detroit Edison. "This would result in cost efficiencies that neither side can obtain separately."

Soronen, 53, is looking to the six-community consortium to provide a plan that will contain "some good interim or permanent alternatives."

Study and more study is what Wolf and Soronen advocate when it comes to possibilities of expanding the county's existing circuit court and jail complexes, or building brand new facilities.

"I will look to the experts to recommend the most cost-effective, efficient way to add to our court space," Wolf said, referring to the

need for additional space, particularly when new judges are added in the early 1990s.

"Whether it is a tower (built onto the existing court tower) or an addition, as we build for our immediate needs, we must look 15 to 20 years ahead and plan for future space needs as well," he added.

**SORONEN** is holding out for specific information, especially costs before making a decision whether to build a new facility or add to the existing structure. "It may be that it would be more efficient to build new and use the present space for other county functions. I don't know which will be better until I have seen all the costs," she said.

Both candidates express caution about jumping at the idea of privatizing: hiring a private contractor to build and operate future county jails. Both support cost savings that appear to accompany the privatization

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## Dornan picked for clerk position

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills city manager William Costick obviously feels that retiring city clerk Joan Reynolds made a good decision when she brought deputy clerk Kathy Dornan aboard in early 1985.

Dornan has been named to replace retiring city employee Reynolds who announced her decision Monday to retire as clerk following the Aug. 2 primary election.

"After being part of the tremendous change of the Farmington community in the township days of the late '40s to the late '60s, I would like to say that it has been a real experience and education for me from my starting position of clerk typist to my current position as city clerk," Reynolds wrote in her resignation letter, accepted by the Farmington Hills City Council Monday.

The council unanimously appointed Dornan as the new city clerk. Dornan came to the city as deputy clerk in February 1985 after an 11-year stint in Walled Lake, where she served as deputy clerk and deputy treasurer.

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PETER BALDWIN

Farmington Hills firefighters and paramedics work to extract a victim from his car Tuesday, following a head-on collision at 13 Mile and Farmington roads. Pictured on top of the car is firefighter Brad Christie, giving life support to the trapped man.

The victim, a 36-year-old man from Detroit, died that morning.

## Fatal crash in Hills is 3rd in 2 weeks

A 36-year-old Detroit man was killed Tuesday morning when his car struck a parked Oakland County Road Commission truck at the intersection of 13 Mile and Farmington Road in Farmington Hills.

The victim, LeRoy Brown, was transported to Bolzford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, where he was pronounced dead at 11:21 a.m., according to Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police. An injured Oakland County Road Commission employee was treated for minor injuries.

This is the third fatal accident in the city of Farmington Hills during the past two weeks. The first occurred at Eight Mile and Inkster intersection and the second was a pedestrian accident on Power Road.

The road commission bucket truck was in the center of the intersection, where an employee was changing a traffic signal light at about 10:16 a.m. Brown was driving eastbound on 13 Mile Road when he entered the intersection, striking the truck. The force of the impact drove the OCR truck some 20 feet from the scene, according to officials.

The OCR employee was thrown from the bucket, although he did not fall to the ground because he had been buckled in with belts. He received minor injuries and was transported to Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield where he was treated and released, according to spokesman Walter Doherty of the Oakland County Road Commission.

According to Hills deputy fire chief Peter Baldwin, personnel from two fire stations were called to the scene, where it took about 45 minutes and use of the Jaws of Life to remove the victim from his car.

## Blanchard calls speech by Jackson 'baloney'

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

**ATLANTA** — Gov. James Blanchard veered away from the sentiments of many in the Michigan Democratic delegation by referring to Jesse Jackson's stand on issues as "left-wing baloney."

Blanchard's reaction to Jackson's political stance came after the presidential candidate's remarks during his Tuesday evening address before the National Democratic Convention in Atlanta.

"He was just talking about his own constituency and their aspirations. When he was talking about all the issues, it was the same old left-wing baloney," warned Gov. George McOmery last night as good, said Michigan's chief executive.

Many suburban Detroit delegates didn't share the governor's view.

"He played his hand to the fullest, then gracefully and effectively recognized a new and more important reality — winning is the goal. He showed great skill and finesse in knowing when to bring it to a close," said Peggy Dickinson, Lathrup Village mayor and a member of the Democratic credentials committee.

**DUKAKIS** DELEGATE Ron Thayer was impressed with Jackson's ability to paint the picture of his political philosophy with words.

"It was stirring. The pitchwork quilt, he's talented at analogies," said Thayer, a West Bloomfield resident and a Blanchard executive assistant.

At one point Jackson referred to the divergent elements of the Democratic party as potatoes in a quilt which must be sewed together in order to succeed.

Westland's Ben DeHart, although a Dukakis supporter, was moved by Jackson's hour-long speech.

"I have never been a Jackson fan," said the Westland councilman, who said he was especially moved by Jackson's remarks about the forgotten people, too ill to use the hospital beds they tended as nurses aides.

Reaching into his pocket, the Dukakis delegate pulled out a newspaper clipping from 1944 with Jackson saying, "God is not finished with me yet."

Los Miller, Farmington Hills Jackson delegate and Oakland County chairman, said some may miss Jackson's point.

"He's been able to get the party to consider issues that regular Democrats had too much trouble with."

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## Charter change goes to 2nd vote

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills voters will be asked in the Aug. 2 primary election to amend the 18-year-old city charter to allow city board and commission members to maintain their appointed posts while seeking city council election.

This is the second time the Farmington Hills City Council has sought to amend the charter provision.

Voters defeated an earlier request in November 1985 by 410 yes, 2,300 votes against and 2,730 in favor. The proposal was the only one defeated out of five on the ballot in 1985.

If the proposal passes this time, "it will let any of our commission members be able to run for city

**If the proposal passes, any commission member could run for city council without resigning.**

council without resigning whatever position they hold," city clerk Joan Reynolds said. "This affects only the city council (elections)."

**PASSAGE** of the proposition would bring consistency to election qualifications in the city charter, which does not require city council members to resign their positions when seeking election to county and state office.

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