

Candidates focus on solid waste issue

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Democrat Steven Hill believes there's dissatisfaction with the Oakland County executive and board of commissioners on plans for solid waste disposal.

The creation a year ago of the six-community Southwest Solid Waste Consortium that includes Farmington and Farmington Hills is testimony to that dissatisfaction. "This is a point of criticism for the county executive and the board's inability to plan for unity," Hill said.

Hill, 27, and Farmington Hills Republican Dennis Wolf, 55, will square-off in the Nov. 8 general election for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners 27th District seat, which represents Farmington and much of Farmington Hills.

Wolf believes there must be a compromise between county officials, consortium members and

other off-shoot groups in the county studying solid waste.

"I want to see both of them get together somehow," Wolf said, referring to the consortium and commissioners led by chairman Roy Rewold.

Wolf told a small gathering at the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills candidates night Oct. 25 that he has met with commissioners and plans to meet with consortium members to find out just what agreement there might be between the two groups.

"I'M FINDING there is agreement. They must get together for a countywide facility," said Wolf, a Detroit Edison community and governmental affairs representative. He also is a former eight-year Farmington Hills city councilman.

Hill favors "interlocal government agreements regarding county services; pooling is a trend of the fu-

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ture." He prefers governments joining forces and sharing resources, personnel and equipment. Hill is a Democratic Caucus legislative research analyst for the Michigan House of Representatives.

"We know local units of government have problems outside of their boundaries and their resources are limited. And state government is unable to provide financial assistance," he said.

The six communities in the consortium that did not join the county's project have discussed the possibility of creating an authority under Public Act 233. Creation of an au-

thority will be considered if the updated county plan does not provide equity in costs and voting power as well as facilities considered necessary by the consortium, according to members.

WOLF BELIEVES all sides in the solid waste debate in Oakland County must join forces. "I would hope the two sides could find a compromise that would result in all communities participating in a plan," he said. "This would result in cost efficiencies that neither side can obtain separately."

Wolf also calls the disagreements over a plan and facilities project for solid waste disposal in the county more of an "organizational problem. There are some issues they can agree on. I believe the differences can be resolved. Hopefully, we're not going to get two or three different systems."

Headlee donates sculpture to embassy

Richard Headlee, chairman of Farmington Hills-based Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, will complete the corporate donation of a sizable bronze casting entitled "Signing of the Constitution" to the U.S. Embassy in London.

The original of the 2-foot high, by 3.4-foot by 3.4-foot bronze casting of six signers of the U.S. Constitution, including Alexander Hamilton, was created by American sculptor Dennis Smith for display in the home office lobby of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in

Farmington Hills. The bronze casting being contributed by Alexander Hamilton Life under the Art in Embassies Program, U.S. Department of State, for permanent display in the U.S. Embassy in London, is one of only two copies made from the original. The second is a sculpture for similar donation to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow next spring.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON Life commissioned sculptor Dennis Smith to commemorate the "Signing of the Constitution" on the 200th anniversary

of the U.S. Constitution. Dennis Smith, born in 1942, is a U.S. sculptor with major commissions throughout the United States. He and his family reside in Highland, Utah. Smith will participate in presentation of the sculpture at the U.S. Embassy in London.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

New greenery

The final touches were put on the first phase of a \$1.4 million downtown redevelopment in Farmington in October. Tree planting along Grand River, Farmington Road and the Thomas Street area began Oct. 24. Above, Glenn Spears and Rick Papp from 2001 Landscaping and Garden plant a White Ash on the north side of Grand River.

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