

Residents oppose drilling

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dustry representatives and two citizens, which review and advise on controversial issues. "I thought we lived in a democracy instead of a dictatorship," Rolick said.

DNR representative Segall defended the advisory board and his office. "The oil and gas advisory board does not make any decision. It's independent in making these decisions," DuPont said.

OTHER RESIDENTS spoke of their concerns about gas and oil development near their subdivisions. "We live in a residential area. This is not a rural area. We're concerned how this will be regulated in our residential area," DuPont said.

DuPont outlined residents' concerns: hydrogen sulfide gas, waste, such as benzene and arsenic, and truck traffic. "We're also concerned about fire explosion damage. Our

city will have to evaluate this and make sure we have the training and equipment to handle this," DuPont said.

The potential for declining property values and the lack of local control over gas and oil development are causes for concern, DuPont added.

Symposium speaker city manager William Costick said the city is opposed to gas and oil development in Farmington Hills.

"We are basically strongly opposed that gas and oil drilling will occur in our urban area," Costick said. The city is concerned with two issues: health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners and maintenance of the city's quality of life.

The city's zoning ordinances preclude drilling in residential areas and the National Fire Prevention Code, adopted by the city, requires

that gas and oil drills are at least 300 feet away from a house or building, Costick said.

AS A home-rule city, Costick continued, "it is our position that we do have certain jurisdictional rights to impose certain standards on oil and gas drilling."

Costick drew attention to sour wells, which result in many side products that concern residents — including hydrogen sulfide gas. Other concerns offered by Costick include odor, noise, waste handling problems, possible ground-water contamination and unsightly pump sites and cleanup.

City officials, Costick continued, will look at an ordinance protecting residents' rights with gas and oil exploration. "We have to look at a question of equity here and the investment we've made in our community."

clarification

A caption accompanying a photo of Observer publisher Philip Fower on Page 2 of the Observer's 100th anniversary edition, distributed Oct. 31 but dated Nov. 2, should have said that Arthur Power founded Farmington in 1824. Philip is a sixth-generation descendant of Arthur.

Kay Briggs, 1988 Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, is 74. Her age was listed incorrectly in a front-page story Nov. 3.

Farmington Hills recorded one murder in 1987. A wrong total was listed in a crime statistics chart appearing on Page 1 Nov. 3.

School board OKs applying for bond issue

In a continuing effort to hold an election this January, Farmington school trustees voted Nov. 1 to approve application for a \$7.3 million bond issue to build a new elementary school on the district's west side.

The district must receive state approval by Dec. 6 in order to call an election for Jan. 31. Deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan said he is optimistic the state board of education will process the application quickly and give the district a quick response.

A new elementary, if approved by voters, would be built on a district-owned parcel on 11 Mile Road just east of Halsted.

Hills man earns industry award

Raymond Rieger, president and chief executive officer of Holmes Associates, Farmington Hills, was honored with the Robert F. Brosseau Memorial Award.

Recognized by the Construction Specifications Institute at its June Trade Show and Convention in Washington, Rieger was honored for outstanding services rendered by an industry member in furthering the objectives and programs of the institute.

Cities spending for primaries

Continued from Page 1

Down the road, the state will total costs and award a paycheck to each community. "Right now, there's no set fee," Dornan said. "We're keeping track of our costs."

In the city of Farmington, the cards will be available on a table Tuesday in each of the city's six voting precincts. The city has 7,676 registered voters. Its voter registration computer software package also must be changed, clerk Jo Bushey said.

ESTABLISHED BY the Legislature earlier this year, the 1992 primary will be the first presidential primary in Michigan since 1980 and the first closed primary since 1947. Democrats quit using the primary after 1972 because their national

party rules didn't recognize open primaries.

To select their presidential delegates this year, Republicans used a multistep convention process while Democrats used a caucus system.

"The creation of a closed presidential primary breaks with Michigan's long tradition of having open primaries. We expect many voters are going to question this when they arrive at the polling place and are confronted with this new opportunity on Nov. 8," said Chris Thomas, state elections director.

The party choice can be changed any time until 30 days before the 1992 primary.

For a minor party to be eligible for the party preference process, it must attract at least 5 percent of the presidential vote Tuesday.

Farmington voters face lengthy ballot

By Casey Hans and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters will have a busy time at the polls Tuesday.

In addition to the presidential race, voters will have choices to make for the U.S. Senate and House, the state House, county offices, state and county judicial seats, the state board of education and the governing boards of the three major universities.

Voters also will cast their ballots on five proposals, four of which are statewide and one which is specifically for Oakland County.

● **U.S. SENATE**
Incumbent Democrat Donald W. Riegle Jr. will be challenged by Republican Jim Dunn and Libertarian Dick M. Jacobs.

● **U.S. HOUSE-16TH DISTRICT**
Incumbent Republican William S. Broomfield will be challenged by Democrat Gary Kobut and Libertarian Timothy J. O'Brien.

● **STATE HOUSE-69TH DISTRICT**
The seat that's opening because of

incumbent Republican Wilbur Brotherton's retirement will be filled by Farmington Hills Republican Jan C. Dolan or Elmhurst Farms Democrat John E. Dolan.

● **COUNTY COMMISSION-27TH DISTRICT**
Farmington Hills Republican Donn Wolf and Farmington Hills Democrat Steven Hill will square off for the seat that's opening because of incumbent Republican Jack McDonald's decision not to seek reelection.

● **COUNTY COMMISSION-21ST DISTRICT**
Democratic incumbent Lillian Jaffe-Oaks of Southfield will be challenged by Farmington Hills Republican Marie L. Bowers.

● **COUNTY COMMISSION-15TH DISTRICT**
Farmington Hills Republican incumbent David Moffitt will be challenged by Farmington Hills Democrat Albert Zolton.

● **OTHER COUNTY RACES**
Voters also will be asked to cast their ballots for Oakland County executive, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, clerk/register of deeds, treasurer and drain commissioner.

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Natural gas and oil industry representatives believe there's natural

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gas and oil in Farmington Hills. But they're not prepared to detail areas in the city targeted for mineral rights leasing or where drilling might take place.

"I can't tell you. Again, it's what we call a professional secret. Everyone has them," said Michael O'Connor of M.J. O'Connor & Associates, Marine City. "We are in a business to make money, to make a profit. To divulge our outline where we're going would be professional suicide."

But O'Connor and Robert Mitchell of Energy Quest Inc., Lansing, both representatives for Pangborn Exploration, Traverse City, told residents they are interested in a "win-win situation." The two spoke to about 50 residents at a symposium Nov. 1 on gas and oil exploration.

"Here where you've built your subdivisions, where you've built your city, you've built it on top of oil and gas. We don't know for sure until the drill bit finds it," O'Connor said. "You are the ones who benefit from oil and gas development."

ASSUMING THERE are 80 homes in a 40-acre drilling area, based on 800 barrels of oil, would generate \$150,000 annually to be divided among the homeowners. Natural gas production could double homeowners' revenues, said Tom Domagalski, Pangborn Exploration land manager.

O'Connor called the proposition facing homeowners "risk and reward. You look at the reward you may receive from oil and gas development in the community and it could mean \$2 to \$3 million over the life of a well."

Mitchell assured residents that those who have signed leases, or will, are given non-development leases — meaning nothing can be done on their property without permission. The leases have a pooling clause requiring an 80-acre area, he said.

If any drilling takes place, a rig will be in the area for about two weeks. Drilling will be to a depth of 3,200-4,000 feet and no pits will be allowed, Domagalski said.

Industry representatives also denied charges that they entered the city surreptitiously. "We didn't come sneaking around," O'Connor said. "We didn't make a big announcement. Here we come." We don't want our competitors to know."

O'CONNOR SAID he contacted the Farmington Hills Police Department and city clerk's office to determine whether permits were needed to seek oil and gas leases. None were required. O'Connor said he also tried to seek out homeowner associations and scheduled two public informational meetings.

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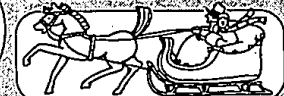
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