

# 7 seek 3 Farmington council seats

## Candidate forums scheduled

**T**HIS YEAR, three Farmington incumbents vie to retain their city council seats against four challengers from a variety of backgrounds.

The top two finishers in the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election will serve four-year terms; the third-place finisher will serve a two-year term. In today's Observer, readers can find candidate views on the issues. Some are edited for space.

Incumbents include: Arnold Campbell, 38, first-term councilman and analyst with Ford Motor Co.; Shirley Richardson, 52, a 29-year resident and beautification proponent, former planning commissioner and the first woman to sit on the council; Richard Tupper, 56, current mayor who has served on the council non-consecutively for 16 years and who has lived in the city for 53 years. Tupper is proud of his activities with the Goodfellow.

Challengers are: Joanne Fellenberg, age not given, a homemaker who volunteers her time at Oak Hill Care Center; John Kenney, 43, a wastewater treatment operator; JoAnne McShane, 43, an investment consultant and vice chair of the Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals; and Robert Walker, 37, an engineer supervisor with Ford Motor and past board member of the city's historical commission.

Residents not registered to vote have until Oct. 10 to do so in order to vote in the Nov. 7 election. Absentee ballot applications are available until Nov. 4 at the city clerk's office, 23609 Liberty, in downtown Farmington, or by calling 474-5500.

### SOME UPCOMING election events include:

• The Old Village Association, a homeowner group representing residents of Farmington's historic district,

has scheduled a candidates night forum to outline the positions of the seven candidates. The forum is planned for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Masonic Temple at the northwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

• The League of Women Voters of the Farmington/West Bloomfield Area has scheduled a candidates night for the evening of Thursday, Oct. 12. The time has yet to be confirmed. The session will be taped for future cablecast.

• On Oct. 11, candidates will speak to senior citizens at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills from 12:45 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., and take questions on issues.

• The Farmington Area Democratic Club is considering a candidates night, but has not yet selected a date, said Aldo Vagnozzi, club spokesman. If held, it likely will be in late October.

required to live in the city? (At present, they must live within a six-mile radius of the city).

No. 10. Should the city continue to be part of the six-city Southwest Oakland County consortium that's pursuing a separate solid waste disposal plan or should it join the county-administered plan?

Yes, we should stay with the consortium.

11. Would you favor annual joint meetings between this community's three top taxing jurisdictions: Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington school board?

It could be beneficial. We will never know until we try it.

12. What general directive should the council give to the new traffic safety advisory committee?

The city council has given the traffic and safety board the following directive: "All inquiries, or matters pertaining to the planning, construction, promoting or recommending of these activities or devices which would decrease the number and/or severity of traffic accidents in the community shall be considered."

13. What are the top two challenges for the city as 1990 approaches?

The top two challenges are solid waste and CSO (combined sewer overflows).

14. What prompted your candidacy?

Several projects are not yet finished. I have been a part of the downtown redevelopment for four years and would like to see it completed.

radius of the city). No municipal employee should be required to live in the city of Farmington. I believe it violates their freedom of choice and reduces morale.

10. Should the city continue to be part of the six-city Southwest Oakland County consortium that's pursuing a separate solid waste disposal plan or should it join the county-administered plan?

The city should continue to investigate the Southwest Oakland County and the Oakland County solid waste disposal plans and choose the plan that most benefits the citizens of Farmington.

11. Would you favor annual joint meetings among this community's three top taxing jurisdictions: Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington school board?

I would favor an annual joint meeting between the Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington school board. I believe that such a meeting would be useful to all those concerned.

12. What general directive should the council give to the new traffic safety advisory committee?

The new traffic safety advisory committee should immediately survey Farmington residents to obtain their concerns. One of my concerns is the Grand River/Farmington Road intersection. It's impossible to make a left turn from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. without turning on a yellow light. This congestion causes traffic to cut through residential areas at a high rate of speed.

13. What are the top two challenges for the city as 1990 approaches?

The top two challenges to the city of Farmington are to maintain or improve city services without increasing taxes and to improve the traffic flow and the parking situation.

14. What prompted your candidacy?

I am running for the city council because I feel that the city and the administration is unresponsive to individual's complaints. There is an attitude that people's complaints are not a big deal to those making them. Little things really bother people and they are usually easy to fix. I think it is time for a change in attitude, no business as usual. City government should serve its citizens.

1. A biracial Farmington family has endured racial slurs for two years. What can the city do to heighten public awareness in an effort to help bring about ethnic harmony?

If a law is broken, it should be handled by the legal department. Keep City Hall out of it, and there should be no demonstrations.

2. Should city council meetings be cablecast to help bring municipal government closer to the taxpayers? What else can the city do to inspire more interest and involvement among residents?

No. Things are fine the way they are, but we need a more comprehensive coverage by your newspaper.

3. The Downtown Development Authority has completed the first two phases of a five-phase, \$1.4 million streetscape improvement program. Has the \$780,000 spent so far been development district tax money well spent?

Yes, but try to limit the funds. I'd like to see the business property owners do more on their own.

4. Do you support curbside recycling of recyclable solid waste? How should it be paid for?

The issue needs more study. Could the city of Detroit pick up our waste for recycling at their incinerator?

5. How well do you feel city officials are balancing neighborhood needs against downtown redevelopment?

Needs review.

6. Is the 23-officer public safety department adequately staffed to

1. A biracial Farmington family has endured racial slurs for two years. What can the city do to heighten public awareness in an effort to help bring about ethnic harmony?

I believe all races can live in harmony, but it is a goal not easily achieved. Prejudice and intolerance of other ethnic and minority groups have existed for centuries and will only be eliminated through educational programs beginning at the preschool level, and through cooperation of city government and the courts in strict enforcement of laws governing the civil and human rights of others.

2. Should city council meetings be cablecast to help bring municipal government closer to the taxpayers? What else can the city do to inspire more interest and involvement among residents?

No, because of the costs involved. The city has done all it needs to do to promote civic awareness: an annual calendar, complete with meetings and event dates, is mailed to all city residents annually. I think we could update the calendar to include information such as, "What items does a resident need a zoning permit for?" or other items suggested by the community.

3. The Downtown Development Authority has completed the first two phases of a five-phase, \$1.4 million streetscape improvement program. Has the \$780,000 spent so far been development district tax money well spent?

Downtown Farmington is a vital and attractive center. The DDA has been responsible for maintaining and nurturing the downtown and keeping it viable for residents and businesses alike. By continuing the DDA's program, we are encouraging and attracting the growth so important to our city.

4. Do you support curbside recycling of recyclable solid waste? How should it be paid for?

Yes, I am definitely in favor of implementing curbside recycling, which is easier than delivering refuse to a recycling center. We need to take action now to prevent more pollution and higher prices for disposal. However, this program should be cost efficient and self-supporting. I believe monies generated from the recycled materials could be earmarked to support the program.

5. How well do you feel city officials are balancing neighborhood needs against downtown redevelopment?

Downtown development and neighborhood services need ongoing maintenance. We've spent a large amount of money replacing downtown sidewalks, which did not need replacement, while neighborhood curbs, which are badly deteriorated, go unrepaired. There is a cost of replacing curbs and sidewalks is a great financial burden to many residents.

6. Is the 23-officer public safety



Joanne Fellenberg challenger

handle police and fire calls? If not, would you support a tax increase to hire more officers?

Additional police should cover the shopping areas. The additional cost should be shared by the business store owners and the city. This will allow the 23 officers to more effectively patrol residential areas.

7. The city tax rate is 10.4 mills, well under the 20-mill charter limit. Are residents getting adequate municipal services? If not, what services should be improved and how should improvements be paid for?

The 10.4 mills is fine and should not be increased. Increasing property values cover inflationary costs



JoAnne McShane challenger

department adequately staffed to handle police and fire calls? If not, would you support a tax increase to hire more officers?

Having been a Farmington resident for 18 years, I consider myself fortunate. I've experienced fast, efficient and courteous response when I've needed assistance. I do not feel we need more officers or a tax increase at this time. I think a periodic review of the functions and duties of this department would be beneficial in pinpointing any waste of resources.

7. The city tax rate is 10.4 mills, well under the 20-mill charter limit. Are residents getting adequate municipal services? If not, what services should be improved and how should improvements be paid for?

Let's keep that tax rate where it is. The fact that we have not raised the tax rate closer to the 20-mill charter speaks well of our city management. Our tax rate is one of the lowest in Oakland County. Services are adequate. Any improvements could be accomplished through a review and restructuring of current City departments, systems and functions. A tax increase should be the last resort.

8. Is the tax rate affordable to most residents?

Obviously, no one wants higher taxes. Our taxes benefit the city as a whole and we must maintain the level of service. There are those who, unfortunately, find taxes a heavy burden. We must develop alternative ways to raise the necessary funds to alleviate some of this burden.

9. Should public safety officers be required to live in the city? (At present, they must live within a six-mile radius of the city).

Our public safety officers have the right to live wherever they choose within a six-mile radius. I support this requirement. Ours is a combined police and fire force; our officers need to live within a reasonable distance to the city when responding to calls.

and additional expenses. Let us survey the citizens.

8. Is the tax rate affordable to most residents?

No.

9. Should public safety officers be required to live in the city? (At present, they must live within a six-mile radius of the city).

If the public safety officers live outside the city for financial reasons, let us see if we can help them move into the city. What about other city employees?

10. Should the city continue to be part of the six-city Southwest Oakland County consortium that's pursuing a separate solid waste disposal plan or should it join the county-administered plan?

Let us join the least costly plan.

11. Would you favor annual joint meetings between this community's three top taxing jurisdictions: Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington school board?

No.

12. What general directive should the council give to the new traffic safety advisory committee?

Needs further research.

13. What are the top two challenges for the city as 1990 approaches?

Keeping our city livable and safe. Keeping taxes low.

14. What prompted your candidacy?

I want to serve our community.

10. Should the city continue to be part of the six-city Southwest Oakland County consortium that's pursuing a separate solid waste disposal plan or should it join the county-administered plan?

It is my understanding that we are part of the county plan. Cities cannot undertake this task independently; the costs are unaffordable. We have experienced a 45-percent increase in landfill costs this year. The city paid approximately \$80,000 in '87-'88; 1990 is projected to be about \$218,000. By joining together, and as an authority, we will be better able to maintain costs and implementation of our plans.

11. Would you favor annual joint meetings between this community's three top taxing jurisdictions: Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington school board?

Yes, we need to jointly address cost containment and avoid duplication of services. We currently conduct joint meetings between the city and the Hills. I would be in favor of a joint meeting at least annually with the Farmington school board.

12. What general directive should the council give to the new traffic safety advisory committee?

The directive the council should give is to study the traffic patterns, identify the problems, and present proposed solutions that take into account the impact to the entire city when an action or change is implemented. The board also needs to review adjoining cities' traffic patterns and trends to pinpoint current and future impact on Farmington. The council needs to let the board know it is open to alternatives.

13. What are the top two challenges for the city as 1990 approaches?

The first challenge for 1990 is of great environmental concern and an expensive one. We have already taken the first step in providing a 24-hour recycling center. We need to further develop this program to include curbside recycling. Disposal of our solid waste and landfill costs have escalated by 45 percent this year alone.

The second challenge is to fight drug abuse by strongly and actively supporting and working with Farmington Families in Action, the Farmington Schools and the police department.

14. What prompted your candidacy?

The desire to bring responsive representation to the people of Farmington prompted me to run for council. I feel we can, and must, implement new, insightful, cost-saving solutions to the problems facing our city. I will strive to preserve the small-town historic character of the city by protecting the city from overdevelopment through careful planning and rigorous application of our current zoning ordinances.



The Farmington Municipal Building is at 23609 Liberty.

RANDY DONIST/TAFT photographer