

# Opinion

21898 Farmington Road/Farmington, MI 48336

Tom Baer editor/477-5450

BAF O&E Monday, November 5, 1990

## Our picks

### Views, backgrounds weighed

**T**HE FARMINGTON OBSERVER takes seriously its role in the election process. The newspaper staff has conducted interviews with those running for office in Tuesday's general election. Editors and reporters have reviewed the candidates' educational, political and professional backgrounds in making the endorsements.

Most local endorsements appeared in the Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 editions of the Farmington Observer. To reiterate:

#### STATE HOUSE — 69TH DISTRICT

Incumbent Republican Jan Dolan, a former Farmington Hills City Councilwoman, has been described as having class and grit.

She seems made for local government and should be re-elected. She doesn't buckle under to the demands of the moment, and she is tough enough to fend off the lobbyists.

#### COUNTY COMMISSION

We think it's time for a change in the 15th District, which includes the northwest corner of Farmington Hills, so we're endorsing challenger Albert Zolton, a Democrat, for commissioner.

In the 27th District, which takes in Farmington and a big chunk of Farmington Hills, Donn Wolf, the Republican incumbent, deserves another term, as does Eileen Jaffe Oaks, a Democrat, in the 21st District, which includes the southeast corner of Farmington Hills.

#### OTHER ENDORSEMENTS

Voters in the 18th Congressional District should re-elect Republican William S. Broomfield in office. He's hard working and dedicated, a Washington insider with 34 years in office.

In the race for two new seats in the Oakland County Circuit Court, we endorse a current district judge, James P. Sheehy, and an experienced legislator, Rudy Nichols. Don't let these important votes be influenced by name recognition or money spent on the campaign.

In an almost even race for the state Court of Appeals, we prefer Linda S. Hallmark as a worthy successor to retiring Judge Walter Cynar. Hallmark for the past 10 years has been a hearing referee in Oakland County Circuit Court.

#### 47TH DISTRICT COURT JUDGESHIP

The two candidates are both qualified for the bench, but the appointed incumbent, Judge Frederick L. Harris, gets our endorsement.

Harris has managed to pick up some vocal detractors since his appointment 18 months ago. But most of the criticism, we think, is personal, not professional. Harris seems to be doing his job in running an honest and efficient court.

However, we think the judge should seriously consider what people are saying about him. His image may need a little polishing.

#### STATE SENATE — 15TH DISTRICT

Again, both candidates are impressive, but we think incumbent Sen. Jack Faxon, a Democrat, should continue in office.

A 26-year veteran, Faxon has built a tremendous power base. It seems to us that he's used that power to help district residents.

Faxon has a special interest in education, and seems to work well with local officials. He's in the district a lot and the citizens have his ear.

Faxon, though, shouldn't get too comfortable in his niche. He needs to keep looking at the tough issues and plugging away at them.

## from our readers

### Your photo gives us a lift

To the editor:  
Being away from the U.S.A. and our home, missing the family and feeling very sentimental, my husband and I received a letter from our children.

I must say the other context in the letter was exciting and a great relief. I know the picture, Aug. 16 of our front door and the mailman.

We want to thank you all for picking our house for the newspaper picture.

I know the letter is overdue, but we have been gone for quite a while and I am just getting caught up on my work.

Thanks again.  
S. Hadjimarbos,  
Formerly of Farmington Hills

If one accepts the idea that one of the purposes of art is to bring to our existence greater understanding and meaning, then the Mapplethorpe exhibits in question simply do not qualify as art.

UNFORTUNATELY, it seems the issue of homosexuality has obscured the true issue at hand. If Mapplethorpe's exhibits had shown women being degraded by men or had they shown blacks being degraded by whites, or perhaps included symbols of anti-Semitism would the response have been different?

I assume it would and rightfully so. If the homosexual community supports the Mapplethorpe exhibit, why do they allow themselves to be degraded in such a way?

In recent times, it would seem that our artistic community has adopted the idea that art must be offensive to be "original." I propose that art need not be offensive to be good. However, the creation of art that brings to life meaning and dignity to man's existence requires insight and hard work.

Perhaps some of those in the art community who must offend other's sensibilities are incapable of the insight and self-discipline required in the course of creating true art.

Finally, let me add that the National Endowment for the Arts generally supports many useful and wonderful artistic endeavors. It is truly a shame that Mapplethorpe's so called "art" serves as such a threat to the NEA.

Perhaps, one day, let's judge art on what it is, not on whose political sensibilities it offends.

Dr. Leonard W. Wades,  
Farmington Hills

real disagreement among the citizens of Farmington Hills as to the direction that this park is taking, yet development is continuing at a breathless pace.

Lynnda Lindhardt,  
Farmington Hills

### Finish up road work

To the editor:

I wish to bring to the public notice the inconvenience caused to thousands of Oakland Community College students at the Auburn Hills campus due to the road work at Featherstone.

At present, I am a student at this campus. As far as I can remember, the road work at Featherstone seems to be going on forever, since the summer of 1989. I think it is too long to test one's patience.

Thousands of students attend this campus every day. The working students, with a tight schedule, try hard to make it to the classes in time. It is delaying and frustrating when they are stopped by a flagman.

I sincerely hope it would not go on for another year.

J.P. Kerker,  
Bloomfield Hills

### Opinions are to be shared

Opinions and ideas are best when shared with others.

That's why the Farmington Observer encourages its readers to share their views with others in the From Our Readers column.

Submitting a letter to the editor for publication is easy. Letters should be typewritten or printed legibly and kept to 300 words. Letters must be signed and include the address of the sender.

Names will be withheld only for the best of reasons, and the decision to do so will be made by the editor.

Letters should be mailed to: the editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

### Take politics out of art

To the editor:

The recent controversy surrounding the Mapplethorpe exhibit at Cincinnati has prompted me to offer my input as a professional artist.

While it may not be the role of government to censor art or decide on behalf of the individual what may or may not be seen, those who support the Mapplethorpe exhibit should recognize that by accepting money from the government, the artistic community must accept a "de-facto" government control over the arts.

While no open minded individual supports any unnecessary form of government censorship of individual rights, one must also accept that when a large segment of the community finds something supported by their taxes morally offensive, it is likely their elected representatives will take note. In fact, it could well be argued they are duty-bound to do so.

Oddly, during this controversy, no one has taken the time to examine the central issue of the debate. Why do so many find the Mapplethorpe exhibit offensive?

While it could be argued that an artist has the right to "challenge" conventional thought, it can also be argued that the artist whose work degrades the dignity of an individual or group of individuals is in fact not an artist at all.

### Stop work at Heritage

To the editor:

I read with great interest the two most recent letters to the editor regarding Heritage Park.

The first ("Sees park as sterile") seemed to address the core of the problem — why are we spending tax dollars to create a manufactured natural setting where a truly natural setting once existed?

The opposing viewpoint letter ("Heritage is 'jewel' park") appeared to be a tightly choreographed rebuttal to virtually every criticism of the park's development that has been addressed to date.

It is obvious that there is some

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