

Whitener has plenty to do in PGA role

By C.A. Rieck
staff writer

There's a brief description Gary Whitener applies to his first year in office as a Professional Golf Association district director: "It's been exciting."

What with the Shoal Creek Country Club controversy and, on local turf, the Tom Colucci affair, it's been eye-opening, to be sure. But Whitener has enjoyed it.

"I love it," the director of Livonia's golf courses said. "I really do." Whitener was elected as a district director in October, 1989, in a vote of Michigan PGA members. The district he represents includes three of the nation's 41 sections: Michigan, northern Ohio and southern Ohio. The three sections alternate electing the district director to a three-year term.

THERE ARE 13 district directors, two independent directors, three nationally-elected officers and the past president on the PGA's executive committee, the organization's decision-making body. And although the travel and prestige accompanying this job may seem alluring, there's an enormous work load, too.

Whitener's cramped office at Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course is a testimony to that. File cabinets and shelves are stuffed with petbooks dealing with issues facing the PGA, the kinds of things Whitener and the 18 other executive committee members must review and make a decision on.

The Shoal Creek controversy is a prime example. Shoal Creek was the site of last year's PGA Tournament, one of the four major tour events. When it was discovered the Birmingham, Alabama club had no black members, the public erupted. Similar racist allegations convinced the National Football League to pull the Super Bowl out of Phoenix when the state voted against an official Martin Luther King holiday. The PGA Tournament would stay at Shoal Creek, after a local black man was granted an honorary membership.



FILE PHOTO

Gary Whitener, a Farmington Hills resident, finds his new role as district director for the PGA challenging.

SUCH DISCRIMINATION is hardly out of the ordinary at country clubs. There are clubs with only Jewish members; others are reluctant to allow women to join. Since they are private clubs, their membership practices usually go unchallenged.

The PGA wants to protect the private club's right of self-determination. "We made a stand, on our feeling on that," said Whitener. Whitener wasn't connected with the Colucci case, but as a PGA official the fallout has reached him. A one-time Farmington Hills resident, Colucci has been charged in a civil

suit with taking \$420,000 in Michigan PGA funds. No criminal charges have been filed as yet.

The job has kept Whitener busy. Indeed, he hedged on running for the office. "I almost wasn't going to because I had this new golf course I was working on," he said, referring to the Links of Novi, a 27-hole course

that he is part-owner of (it's scheduled to open in mid-May).

But Whitener reconsidered. "Golf's been good to me, and I wanted to give something back," the 53-year-old Farmington Hills resident said.

He has. In his first year on the job, Whitener figured he'd been to the PGA's headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, a half-dozen times. There have also been trips to Shoal Creek for the PGA Tournament; Palm Springs, Calif.; and Atlanta.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS try to conduct most of their meetings during the winter months (Whitener estimated 30 days spent at various gatherings last winter). There should be no more than eight meetings during the summer. This, in addition to conference calls and daily fax messages.

There's a lot of hassles and loads of work, but there are enough pluses to offset the problems—the beautiful resort locations of the meetings, for example, and the perks associated with the job.

Those aren't what Whitener has treasured most, though. "The camaraderie and friendships are just super," he said.

Indeed, though he has yet to reach the midpoint of his term, Whitener has already discovered the worst part of the job. It will last, he estimated, "about 30 seconds."

It comes at the end of his term, when he gives his farewell address. He's witnessed others present their parting speech, and it's usually very emotional.

"I'm already preparing my speech, and it's for two years from now," he said.

Such a moment isn't something he's looking forward to.

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN PHONE: 473-9566

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Road Improvements Special Assessment Roll No. C-238 in the amount of \$70,248.99, for the construction of Road Improvements in said City to be located as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Karen Court	Nine Mile Road	Northerly Terminus

has been filed in the office of the City Clerk for public examination.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 15th day of April, 1991, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, to review said Special Assessment Roll and to hear any objections thereto.

Appearance and protest of the special assessment at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Mailed: April 4, 1991

Published April 4 and 11, 1991

Phone: 473-9566

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336 OAKLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement: Construction of Road Improvements to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Glen Orchard Drive	Farmington Road	Raphael Road
Ivywood Drive	Raphael Road	Northerly Terminus
Hopcroft Ct.	Raphael Road	Westerly Terminus
Glen Valley Drive	Farmington Road	Raphael Road
Finncen Ct.	Glen Valley Drive	Southerly Terminus
Raphael Road	Farmington Road	Ten Mile Road
Dohoney Drive	Raphael Road	± 850 Ft. North

2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$439,100.00 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of 80.0% of said improvement is to be assessed, being \$351,000.00 to-wit:

TIN. RPE. SECTION 35, CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, Portions of Kensington Gardens Subdivision	
23-35-318-000, 021, 022, 023 and 028 thru 029	
23-35-317-001, 004, 009, 010, 015, 018 thru 024, and 028 thru 032	
23-35-377-001, 002, 003, 008, 009, 011 and 033	

All located in the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

4. That the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 15th day of April, 1991, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, to hear and consider any objections to the said improvement.

5. If the City Council approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the improvements. Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1973, as amended, provides that the special assessment must be protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the special assessment. The hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, if at all, at some time in the future pursuant to notice given as required by law. Appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required.

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City Clerk

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Fox Creek will be co-site for tourney

Forget the snow warnings. Spring is here, whatever the weatherman warns, and local golf courses are open for business.

It's also not too early to start thinking about the annual Observer & Eccentric's Golf Tournament. True, it's not scheduled until Sept. 28-29, but there are a couple of changes that deserve immediate consideration. Like the course. Whispering Willows will not be the only site this year; for the first time, the men will play 18 holes on both Whispering Willows and neighboring Fox Creek.

Also, the women's tournament — cancelled a year ago due to a lack of participants — will be reinstated with a new date. Since both courses are available, both the men and women will play on the same weekend.

So get ready, golfers living within the O&E's coverage area. You have less than six months to get in shape.

Further details and entry coupons will be forthcoming in all Observer & Eccentric editions. For more information, contact Whispering Willows at 476-4493.

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336 (313) 474-6115

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk, City of Farmington Hills, at the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336, until 10:00 a.m. local time, APRIL 19, 1991. Bids will then be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time for:

BID NO. 90-91-139 1991 SUMP PUMP PROGRAM
BID NO. 90-91-140 1991 TREE SERVICE PROGRAM
BID NO. 90-91-141 1991 SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM

Specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Department on or after THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1991.

All offers submitted are to be clearly marked for the specific item. The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities, and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Published April 4, 1991



NOW OPEN
with 18 holes to play

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336 OAKLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement: Construction of Road Improvements to be located in the City as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
New Bradford Drive	Thirteen Mile Road	Oak Point Drive
Oak Point Drive	Farmington Road	Colony Park Drive
Hunter's Pointe Dr.	Westerly Terminus	Colony Park Drive
Maple Leaf Lane	Westerly Terminus	Colony Park Drive
Forest Ridge Drive	Southerly Terminus	New Bradford Drive
Colony Park Drive	Oak Point Drive	Oak Point Drive
Huntleigh Drive	Oak Point Drive	Farmington Road
Oak Point Blvd.	Thirteen Mile Road	Oak Point Drive
Oak Point Circle	Oak Point Drive	Oak Point Drive

2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$432,100.00 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of 80.0% of said improvement is to be assessed, being \$326,900.00 to-wit:

TIN. RPE. SECTION 09, CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, Portions of Colony Park Subdivision Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and acreage parcels	
23-09-202-004 thru 010	23-09-251-005 thru 008
23-09-203-007, 010 thru 017	23-09-276-001 thru 011
23-09-204-001 thru 008 and 010 thru 020	23-09-277-001 thru 031
23-09-226-001 thru 012	23-09-278-001 thru 007 and 012
23-09-227-001 thru 011	23-09-279-001 thru 020
23-09-228-001 thru 011, 014 thru 040	23-09-279-013 and 024

All located in the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

4. That the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 15th day of April, 1991, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, to hear and consider any objections to the said improvement.

5. If the City Council approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the improvements. Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1973, as amended, provides that the special assessment must be protested at the hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the special assessment. The hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, if at all, at some time in the future pursuant to notice given as required by law. Appearance and protest at such hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the City Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required.

THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Mailed: April 4, 1991

Published April 4 and 11, 1991

THINKING ABOUT...

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FARMINGTON SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for roof renovation at Forest Elementary School, Kenbrook Elementary School, Woodside Elementary School, Harrison Penthouses and North Farmington High School second floor until 1:30 P.M., Monday, April 29, 1991 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 33500 Salsawasee, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Beverly Haxman. They will be opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities therein, or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting at 3:00 P.M., Thursday, April 11, 1991 at North Farmington High School, 31900 West 15 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336.

A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany the bid. Bid specifications and documents may be obtained from the purchasing department, 33500 Salsawasee, Farmington, Michigan 48336, (313) 489-3346.

CATHLEEN M. WEBB, Secretary
Board of Education

Published April 4 and April 11, 1991

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336 OAKLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

1. That the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement: Construction of Road Improvements to be located in the City on Salisbury and Ambeth Streets from Truck Road to Dixie.

2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$35,900.00 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.

3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of 80.0% of said improvement is to be assessed, being \$28,720.00 to-wit:

TIN. RPE. SECTION 35, CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, Portions of Kensington Gardens Subdivision	
23-35-318-000, 021, 022, 023 and 028 thru 029	
23-35-317-001, 004, 009, 010, 015, 018 thru 024, and 028 thru 032	
23-35-377-001, 002, 003, 008, 009, 011 and 033	

All located in the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

4. That the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 15th day of April, 1991 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, to hear and consider any objections to the said improvement.

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THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN,
City Clerk

Published March 23, 1991 and April 4, 1991