Council candidate stays out of pockets

Editor's note: In the coming weeks, as the Nov. S city council served on the Zoning Board of election draws near, the Observer will be talking with condidates and letting you know who they are, what they think they can do for the city, and how they stand for itssues.

By Joanne Mallazawski staff wiler

What you see is what you get.

What you see is what you get.
That's how Farmington Hills City
Council candidate Joanne Smith describes hersel." I can't be pressured
by groups." she said, "And I can't be
in anyone's pocket. I don't have any
private agenda. I am an honest and
ocen person."
The 35-year Farmington Hills resident's jump into the political arena
for a shot at one of four seats on the
city council this year Isn't something
new for her. She's done it before. A
former council member in 1978-79.
Smith also served in 1978 as mayor
protem.

Smith also served in 1976 as mayor.

The political process isn't her only involvement in city government. You probably recognize her name. Most recently, she's served as chairwoman of the Farmington Hills Planning Commission in 1990 and this year. She's been on the commission.

"I'VE LEARNED to ask more per-tinent information of the experts and the public. I don't have any private agenda. I have to go with what ex-perts tell me. What I see. What I

read.
"That is not to say we don't listen
to the people. But you have to say,
'These are the reason why we do this
for the benefit of the whole.'
Sometimes residents next door to an
tasue have the most compelling reason to be heard."

son to be heard."

Change is also something Smith said she has no problem with. After years on the planning commission, she said she knows that "ordinances become more than something in a book. It's living and growing. When it's not right, it's got to be changed."

Change, however, is also some-thing Smith can do in her own life.

CITY COUNCIL

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While her daughter — one of Smith's five children — studied for her master's degree, so did Smith.

"I had a goal, something I wanted to do. I didn't just want to go to make a model of the sound of th

SMITH ACKNOWLEDGED that the city council in the past few years has been having problems. Referring to the council meetings — as mony do — as "Monday Night at the Fights," Smith said she believes it's

'I can't be pressured by groups. And I can't be in anyone's pocket. I don't have any private agenda. I am an honest and open person.'

— Joanne Smith Farmington Hills City Council candidate

not sitting in those seats. So I don't know what the problem is "The mayor this year has avoided the bitterness of the previous year. That's fine. I congratulate him. But someone has to grasp the leadership and take the better atmosphere and let's get on with it. They haven't done that," she said, referring to issues that were postponed or bumped back to the planning commission for further study.

How would Smith handle the

How would Smith handle the meetings?

"I'd probably say: Let's have a motion. Let's discuss this point, that point. That point. That no one says that Let's make a decision. People are afraid to open a can of worms. I can only guess what's going on."

In the next four years, Smith believes the city should be concerned with maintaining its quality and rehabilitating older areas — residential and commercial — of the city to avoid deciline. "You never stop growing, Growth is something we all do, Farmington Hills has get

nation)."

SMITH ALSO wants to be a part of improving communications and relationships with the Farmington Public Schools. "The schools are ours. I'm not sure we have addressed wars with the school of the school ours. I'm not sure we have addressed how we can work with the school system. We have one financial pock-

Buying land for parks and recreation is also on the top of Smith's list of things that must be done in the city in the next four years. Having grown up in Grand Rapids, Smith said is the understands the value of having open space.

Officials at the time believed open spaces in subdivisions were adequate.

spaces in subdivisions were away
quate.

Smith is running her own campalengant Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman on the Farmington Hills Parks

Sho is writing the own campalgn

Sho is writing her own campalgn

Hierature, walking door-to-door and
has put up lawn signs. The money to
pay for her campalgn, Smith said, is
coming from fund-raisers and her
checking account.

"I represent all the people. I don't
represent a subdivision. My name is
in the phone book. People can call. It
was an answering machlon. I will

have an answering machine. I will sit down with people."

Forest fund-raiser helps child's wish come true

Students, staff and parents at For-est Elementary will help a child's wishes come true this year.

As part of the commemorating of As part of the commemorating of the schools 25th anniversary, the parent-teacher organization there got involved with the Rainbow Connection, a Michigan-based charity dedicated to fulfilling the wishes of chronic and terminally ill children .ages 3-18.

"We wanted to put something back into the community that has served us so well," said Forest principal Walt Jablonski, who has been at Fig. est for nearly 19 years.

"It was a wonderful way to start off our 25th year," said co-president Linda-Kaplan. "And-this is just the beginning."

Forest Elementary third graders Ketheryn Kerns (left) and Gins Rey take a break to share a frozen cherry Coke during the all-achool fundraiser at Bonaventure sketting rink. Television talk show host Marilyn Turner (below) host Marilyn Turner (below) kates with Forest Elementary students Briannon Silborachein (left) and Vanessa Georga at Bonaventure sketing rink in Farmington Hills. The students skated sa fundraiser for the Rainbow Connection, a Michigan group that makes wishes come true for ill children. Turner is honorary chairwoman for the group.

'We wanted to put something back into the community that has served us so well."

— Walt Jablonski

show host Marilyn Turner, honorary chairwoman for the charity, was on hand selling buttons that sald "For-est Makes Wishes Come True."

A total of \$1,000 — proceeds from the skating party, button sales and a further donation from the PTO — will be spent on the wishes of one child from the area.

A roller skating fund-raining party "We asked that these funds be di-was held Sept. 25 at the Bonaventure sected to one recipient," Sald PTO skating rink in Farmington Hills, "President Bonnie Murphy, "That where students, parents and teach-ers participated. Even local TV talk

"We picked this theme because we liked the idea of our kids helping other kids."

The Rainbow Connection is based in Rochester Hills and grants at least 80 wishes each year. It was founded six years ago by former Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson in memory of a friend and two children of his who were killed in a plane crash.

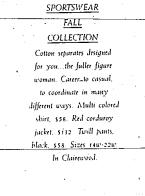
Many children and their families have gone to Disney World in Florial, while others have requested trips to see their grandparents or other family members. Often, children from urban areas want to go on anorthern Michigan vacation, One unusual with granted was a teenage boy's request to have PASs, the all-sports cable television channel in-stalled on his television. sports cable television stalled on his television.

Information on the Rainbow Connection can be obtained by calling 651-1261.



Elissa Kraft, a third grader at Forest Elementary, skates with her schoolmates as part of the all-school fund-raiser.





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