

Candidates discuss goals, issues

Incumbent looks at issues beyond her own back yard

McShane campaigns for 2nd term

Editor's note: Five candidates — including three incumbents and two challengers — will vie for three seats on the Farmington City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Today we focus on first-term incumbent JoAnne McShane.

By Casey Hane
staff writer

JoAnne McShane looks beyond her own back yard at issues that will affect Farmington, but has her roots firmly planted here.

The first-term Farmington City Council member, a 20-year resident of the city, is running again because she has confidence in her ability to deal with people and the tough issues that lie ahead.

"I think I have the ability to connect with people," said the 40-year-old insurance representative for Horace Mann. "To perceive what people want and what they feel."

McShane, who lives on Glenview Court just north of Shawnee, also believes a city council member should also care about federal and state issues and their impact here.

"I don't think politics today can be just what you see in your own back yard," she said. "The federal deficit, the savings and loan scandal — have such an impact on everyone. You have to look at them to understand what's happening in your own city."

McShane is the only female candidate running this year, while she said it is important but not the primary issue.

"I'm glad there's a woman running," she said. "I'd love to see more women represented on the council and on boards. But they have to be nurtured and brought along."

"I just want to see some vigor — some people with new ideas. New ideas are welcome."

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— JoAnne McShane



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HER OVERALL philosophy about serving on the council is simple: "To accurately and honestly represent and advocate the welfare and concerns of Farmington residents." She does that, she said, by talking with residents, listening to their concerns, and trying to do something about problems.

McShane has been active in the community for years. She sits on advisory boards for Farmington Families in Action and the Commission on Aging. She has also been involved with the League of Women Voters, the Professional Women's Network, the Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens, Our Lady of Providence League and Friends of the Library. An active environmentalist, she is a member of the Sierra Club.

Politically, she served as the chairwoman of the Farmington Zoning Board of Appeals before being elected to the city council and has been the council representative to the city's Planning Commission.

The mother of two grown children, McShane grew up on Detroit's west side and spent a lot of time on Belle Isle, where "nobody had the material things. We just had the outdoors." She said she still has strong feelings about nature and the environment.

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McShane also said she "still feels strong ties to Detroit. I still care about it." But with 20 years of residency here, Farmington is her home and she hopes to win enough votes for a four-year term in November.

"It's been very satisfying, very rewarding," she said about her first term, a two-year term she won in 1989. "To me, the job of a councilperson is to reach out."

McShane sees future city councils having to make some tough decisions, especially with the loss of money.

"That's what I see as the biggest problem," she added. "We keep getting more programs mandated, and less and less money to pay for it."

This year's race will be a close call, she said, because all the candidates are running hard and are viable.

She is doing some door-to-door campaigning, has been invited to meet people in various neighborhood groups through coffee, and plans to use a literature drop. She is also using lawn signs throughout the city.

Oliverio takes second stab at winning a council seat

Editor's note: As the Nov. 5 Farmington Hills City Council election draws near, the Observer will be talking with the seven candidates and letting you know who they are, what they think they can do for the city, and how they stand on issues.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Ron Oliverio describes himself as a regular working man with no ulterior motives.

"I just want to make a contribution to the city and then make way for someone else," he said.

This is the second time Oliverio, 37, has thrown his hat into the local political ring. He was defeated in his first attempt for a council seat in 1989.

But the vice president of investments for First of Michigan Corporation — he manages a group of stockbrokers — still talks about the then-controversial industrial-research-office zoning issue that drew him into the public limelight in 1989.

"It really opened my eyes to the degree of contempt some public officials hold voters in," said the father of four children, Nicholas, Kevin, Joseph and Alexander.

"At the planning commission, we were treated rudely and contemptuously," Oliverio recalled about the days when residents fought city hall in opposition to IRO.

OLIVERIO'S TALK of IRO leads to his feelings about elected and appointed officials and developers. Simply, he's suspicious. "Some members on the council are far too cozy with developers," said the member of the city's reactivated ethics committee.

"These guys (developers) are businessmen and expect a return on their investment. It's not a coincidence certain people are voting in favor of a developer," he said, referring to campaign contributions from developers.

Oliverio's concern also stems to the land — about 15 percent — that remains to be developed in the city. There's a lot of money on the table. He thinks there's going to be a lot of pressure to deviate from the master

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land use plan. There's going to be spot zoning and variances."

Government for Oliverio is something he wants to get involved with because he feels it's his obligation and because he's interested. But he has no intention of making a career of it. A limit on terms is what he would like to see.

"I think everyone has an obligation to perform some type of civic duty. With the problems we're seeing in the country, more people better get involved. The best place is locally."

THE FIVE-YEAR Farmington Hills resident also is a student of history and government. "You see civilization making the same mistakes century after century," he said. "Government has the habit of over-spending to destruction." He also belongs to two societies — Richard III Society and Wingfield Family Society — that are history and research oriented.

The past president of Independence Commons Homeowners Association also is tired of the bickering and personality politics on the city council. He said he won't be that way. But he also said serving on the city council is "a job anyone can do."

"My promise is that I will represent the people of the city. I owe nothing to any developer or anyone who could pressure me to vote in a manner not ethical."

He's also hoping that his involvement in government will encourage others who might not think of themselves as public servants to get involved.

"I'VE GONE from wondering to watching to wanting to make things happen," he said.

Compared to two years ago, when he was as he describes "a new face running at the last minute," Oliverio is running a more aggressive campaign this time.

He is going door-to-door and making phone calls to get his message across. Lawn signs, direct mail and literature drops are also part of his strategy. He's also getting advice from some council members, such as Terry Sever, and support from Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and Jean Fox.

He plans to spend at least \$5,000 to get elected and admits that in the political realm, money equals success.

Oliverio said his platform is trying to get property tax assessments under control.

"I will work to get the ear of legislators in Lansing," he said.

Police seek witnesses, call shooting a 'prank'

By Tim Smith
staff writer

In an incident described by West Bloomfield Police Chief Ronald Cronin as a "prank," four shots allegedly were fired Monday afternoon at a Wallied Lake woman in a supermarket parking lot.

But the shooting is no laughing matter to Cronin, who intends to charge whoever did it with felonious assault — even though the shots actually were fired by a toy cap gun. Cronin said police are investigating the incident, which took place about 5 p.m. outside the 14 Mile-Farmington Kroger store.

"They sell these cap guns today and they look almost real," Cronin said. "That's why we take it as a serious charge."

Two suspects in the case, both white males, were last seen driving north on Farmington Road in a blue, two-door Dodge hatchback with Michigan State University stickers in the back window. The shots were fired by one of the two suspects, Cronin said.

"There was no sign of a robbery or anything like that," Cronin said. "We're looking at it as more of a hoax or a prank."

"But even if it isn't a gun, if they point it at someone and it puts them in fear of their life, we'll charge them with felonious assault."

CHRONIN SAID the woman, 30, got out of her parked car and was walking toward the supermarket when she heard what appeared to be two gunshots.

The woman told police she ducked behind the suspects' car and heard two additional shots while the suspects drove away.

"This girl had a lot of guts," Cronin said. They (suspects) said something to her like 'You're stupid to come up to the car.'

According to Cronin, evidence that a cap gun was fired was found at the scene, not where the woman said the suspects were parked.

The police chief said there are no witnesses that we can contact, anyone. She said there were people there that night have seen it.

An employee at the 14 Mile-Farmington Kroger said the incident did not trigger any disturbance inside the store.

"NOBODY HAD seen anything in our store," said the employee, who requested his name not be printed.

'We're looking at it as more of a hoax or a prank. But even if it isn't a gun, if they point it at someone and it puts them in fear of their life, we'll charge them with felonious assault.'

— Ronald Cronin
West Bloomfield Police Chief

"It's only hearsay as to what happened."

Cronin said people should think twice about trying a similar prank, because officers — who think legitimate weapons are being pointed at them — might shoot back.

"There have been people shot because of toy guns. And killed."

Anyone with information about the incident should contact the West Bloomfield Police Department at 682-9200.

election notes

Editor's note: Throughout the 1991 races for Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils, we will include under this heading items such as scheduled candidates nights, endorsements, campaign information or other tidbits voters may find interesting about the political race. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

• The five hopefuls for the Farmington City Council are expected to attend a candidates forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Oakland Area at 7:30 p.m. today at the Southwest Oakland County Cable Commission, 24201 Research

Drive, Farmington Hills. The event, which will be taped and played later on cable TV, is open to the public, but space is limited. Call Shelley Paros at 661-9047 for reservations.

• The Farmington Hills candidates are also expected to attend a candidates forum sponsored by the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23. The debate will be in council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

The candidates will be interviewed by a three-member panel, which includes Marty Krohner, COHA trustee and past president, Wendy Strip-Sittamer, executive di-

rector of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, and Tom Baer, Farmington Observer editor.

The event will be cablecast live, as well as tape delay. Questions will be taken from members of the audience, as well as by phone from home viewers. Refreshments will be served following the program.

• The seven Farmington Hills City Council candidates are expected to attend a candidates forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Oakland Area at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile.

The event will be cablecast live on Channel 12.

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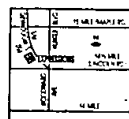
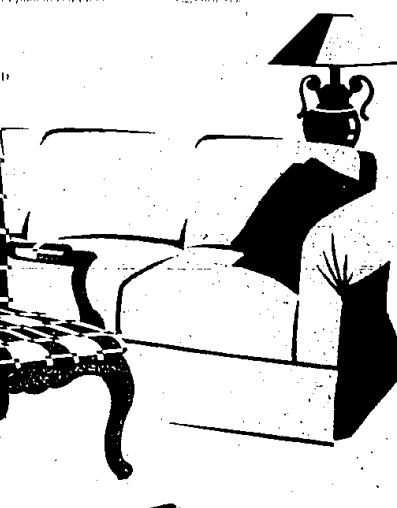
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