

# Young Farmington veteran stresses participation

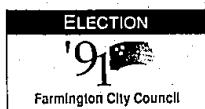
**Editor's note:** Five candidates — three incumbents and two challengers — will vie for three seats on the Farmington City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Today we focus on incumbent William Hartsock.

**By Casey Hane**  
staff writer

Eighteen years ago, a young William Hartsock was elected to his first term on the Farmington City Council.

Today, the 41-year-old Cass Street resident is running for his seventh term on the city council. He said he plans to continue to fight for responsible government, to maintain the city as a good place to live, and to encourage resident participation in the process.

"We're the governmental body that's closest to the people," he said. "If we don't have that mutual trust, then we've failed somewhere. We continue to be as open as honest as



we can with people."

The most important part of city government is not the council, he said, but how residents interact with their city.

"We need to encourage participation — in this vote, in council meetings, on boards and commissions, getting involved in your subdivision," he said. Do something. Like the Nike commercials say — get up and just do it."

HARTSOCK FIRST ran for the council unsuccessfully in the 1970s and won a two-year term on his second try in 1973. He won successive four-year terms with high percentages, and today is well-entrenched in the day-to-day concerns of residents and the issues facing the city.



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William Hartsock  
city council veteran

This year's council race has brought out a number of issues, but Hartsock is concerned that a lot of misinformation is also being promoted.

"In my 20 years in running for this office, I don't think I've ever seen so

much misinformation," he said. "I have found that unsettling."

Key to being a successful council person, is being able to listen, Hartsock said. "You always have to be able to listen and change your mind, if necessary. If someone comes up to

city hall to talk, they should be given every opportunity. They should know that someone's interested in hearing their point of view."

Hartsock said he has gotten an earful by going door-to-door, listening to residents and their concerns, which have mainly centered on property taxes. Hartsock said he believes it is important for local government to work closely with state officials at changing the tax situation.

Currently a partner in the regional investment firm of Roney & Co. and an entrepreneur who has been involved in starting two companies over the past decade, Hartsock said he brings a good sense of business and finance to the city in a time of financial uncertainty because of state and federal cutbacks. He also worked as a certified public accountant for eight years before striking out on his own.

OVER THE YEARS, he has served on the city's planning commission and zoning board of appeals, served as mayor in 1979 and 1983 and chairs the Southwestern Oakland

Cable Commission.

Hartsock is no stranger to the Farmington community. The father of one has lived here for 28 years, graduating from what was then Our Lady of Sorrows High School. He is an active member of the Farmington Exchange Club and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

He holds two bachelor's degrees from Eastern Michigan University — one in political science and another in business administration with an emphasis on accounting and finance. He became interested in politics as a youngster, when his father regularly took him to events. Hartsock recalled going to see Soapy Williams and Martha Griffiths at various times.

Serving on the council remains important to Hartsock. "By serving on this capacity, it has allowed me to make a meaningful contribution: because I believe in the philosophy that a person's life is not measured in its duration, but by its donation," he said.

# Incombant says Hills council must be decisive

**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 Malezewski**  
staff writer

Decisiveness — not a lack of leadership — is the problem with the Farmington Hills City Council, according to incumbent Larry Lichtman.

"I don't think the council has been as decisive as it should be," said the two-year councilman. "I don't think that's productive. It's costly and results in residents feeling like they are getting less than a fair hearing."

Lichtman, 33, thinks voters want independent thinkers.

"People can't expect where you have a group of seven people — who all got to their positions on the city council in different ways — that you're going to have them all follow neatly behind someone. Nor is that



necessarily desirable," said Lichtman, who served on the zoning board of appeals 1985-1989 and as chairman, 1987-1988.

The toughest issues still remain in the coming years. And that's where decisiveness will be needed. "We have to address them head-on and make a decision. We will need sound reasoning and good judgment."

But as far as the election goes, Lichtman says voters should look beyond selecting a candidate based on their stand on one issue.

"If you elect a candidate because you agree with the candidate on one issue or not — what are you left with when the issue goes away?" asked Lichtman, the father of three children, Nathan, 11, Lindsay, 8, and Anna, 1.

HE SUGGESTS that voters consider "Who is this person? What are his or her basic qualities and do they



**'People can't expect where you have a group of seven people — who all got to their positions on the city council in different ways — that you're going to have them all follow neatly behind someone.'**

Larry Lichtman  
Farmington Hills incumbent

have the tools to do the job."

Lichtman, who was raised in Farmington Hills, says he stands "for family values and objective reasoning and a more professional approach to city government."

Good intentions are one thing. But Lichtman says the city has grown to the point now where more is needed.

"I don't think it's enough anymore

to have people making decision who have nothing to contribute more than their time," said the former council liaison to the ad hoc committee on toxic and hazardous substances, which stemmed from the industrial-research-office zoning controversy.

"I'm not criticizing anyone in the race but some (candidates) have

much less understanding (of) what issues are facing the city. Some of the issues are very complex. It helps to have background in one way or another."

Lichtman believes his history in the community is a bonus for him as a candidate and as a council member. "I want to be a council member because the community means a lot to me. It's always been my hometown, and I want it to continue to be a very desirable place to live and raise a family."

Lichtman refers to his tenure on the zoning board of appeals and his less-than-one-year experience on the planning commission as his practical knowledge that helps him as a council member.

AS AN ATTORNEY, Lichtman says he "solves other people's problems. People pay me to spot issues and find a reasonable and cost-effective way of solving them."

Longterm planning is one of the challenges Lichtman believes faces the city in the next few years. "Yes, it's said that the city has grown up a bit and changed in certain respects. But there's going to be change whether you like it or not. We would be better to address the issues and

plan and manage the change."

Lichtman says he believes in longterm planning and identifying — and addressing — issues that will be a concern 5-10 years from now. "I stand for spotting issues, getting input, deciding what people want and finding a cost-effective way of doing it. But doing it in a non-confrontational way. I try to be assertive, but not argumentative."

Yet some in the city council audiences have complained that Lichtman has appeared condescending, perhaps a little rough, when a resident complains or comments.

Lichtman says he is neither. "I don't think I'm condescending. I think it's hard sometimes to make a point without having people thinking you are personally criticizing them. As a council member, I feel I have an obligation that the record is accurate and information is accurate when we make a decision."

He also acknowledges that he has been the brunt of pointed comments and accusations from the audience during meetings. "I've learned you have to have a thick skin. You have to grin and bear it — the personal comments."

# Business leaders honor '91 Citizen of the Year

**By Tom Baer**  
staff writer

The speeches were finished, the dessert plates pushed away and the coffee cups filled and refilled.

There was nothing left for the Farmington-area's 1991 Citizen of the Year to do but savor the moment in the almost-empty hotel banquet room with friends and family.

Lloyd H. Smith, Farmington High School's debate coach the past 47 years, was recognized as the area's top citizen Wednesday evening at a Chamber of Commerce dinner at the Baronne Hotel in Novi.

The spry septuagenarian, who spent almost half a century helping area youth through music and debate and aiding the community through the local Kiwanis Club, had very little to say when called to the microphone to accept the honor and the plaque.

"It's been a pleasure all the way through," Smith had told the audience of about 100 at the Baronne. "It's been a labor of love."

AFTERWARD, Smith was fondly remembered by some former students from the 1940s.

"He was my school teacher, yes," said Bob VanEvery, FHS '45, with a laugh, "and I don't know how he got much older and I didn't. But I look back and realize he was a wonderful teacher."

Another voice from the past, local



**'It's been a pleasure all the way through. It's been a labor of love.'**

— Lloyd H. Smith  
long-time debate coach

insurance man Bill Conroy, was also heard from Wednesday night.

"The conductor of a band always loses his temper at some time," said Conroy, who played trumpet in an orchestra band in the mid-40s. "The greatest of them throw their batons. But Lloyd never did that."

"He eventually helped me form my own band. I think he even named it for us — 'The Terrier Five.' It became my dance band and helped get me through college. I never would have done it without his encouragement."

SMITH'S LONGTIME (they'll celebrate their golden anniversary

next May) wife, Dorothy, was already plotting where in their Farmington home to hang her husband's new plaque.

"I think I'll take mine down and hang up yours," Dorothy Smith said. Her plaque? She was the Kiwanis' Wife of the Year. "I guess the Kiwanis felt sorry for me that year," she said.

Lloyd and Dorothy met on a hayride while they were students at Albion College. They came to Farmington 47 years ago because a better-paying teaching position was offered here.

"It seems like yesterday," Smith said.

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## on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
Council chambers  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21

The following public hearings are scheduled:

- Introduction of zoning text amendment to regulate temporary businesses and uses.
- Introduction of zoning text amendment for permitted uses in industrial-research-office districts.
- Rezoning from RA-1, single-family residential to RCE, elderly housing, or SP-1, special purpose district, on the east side of Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile. Proponent:

Kenneth Allen Owner Nandor and Ilona Zimmermann

- Consideration of vacation of watermain easement within the Robert Bosch parcel.

In unfinished business, the council will consider enactment of an ordinance for temporary free standing, wall sign, and banners within the city, and a resolution regarding the land use and zoning by adult foster care facilities.

The council also will consider a resolution regarding operations of the U.S. Postal Service. Members also will consider approval of a watermain payback for Belfast Street.

**Farmington City Council**  
Council chambers  
23600 Liberty Street  
8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21

The council will receive a progress report about the Eight Mile Farmington roads signalization and will consider appointment of an emergency management coordinator. The council also will receive a report from the city manager about the Farmington Road-Oakland Street parking and household hazardous waste day.

**Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Council chambers  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22

For agenda call zoning at 473-9540.

**Farmington Hills Ethics Committee**  
Lower level conference room  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23