

Incumbent stresses give, take, not bickering

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

A highlighter marker is Farmington Hills City Council incumbent Nancy Bates' constant companion. "It's not good high political theater. But I go to sites (under discussion) I study issues. I see the impact. I talk to citizens," said the two-year councilwoman, who trounced opponent Paul Sowerby, an appointed council member, by a 2-1 margin in the 1989 city council election.

Bates freely admits she doesn't see the need for bickering and hostilities — a common characteristic of the city council. "The objective is to get the job done. I'm not sure the job gets done by humiliating the city staff," she said. "When I get vocal, it's when I vote. I think it's important to state the issues. I'm not sure the community is served by bickering. I believe things can be resolved with a little give and take."



Bates says grandstanding is not her style. "I'm not combative." Instead, Bates, 58, says she prefers to address the needs she notices in the community or those needs that are brought to her attention.

She credits herself with being the force behind the cablecasting of council meetings. "I wrote a memo and asked that the meetings be cablecast."

BATES SAYS she saw the need for board and commission members, as well as council members, to learn the proper way of running public meetings. A workshop on parliamentary procedure followed.

Currently, Bates is trying to get a litigation prevention workshop going. And she brought the council's attention to the need for an ordinance regulating or preventing vacant houses.

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the newspaper)," said the legislative assistant to state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, who will not endorse in this election.

Bates' election to the council wasn't her first venture into community life. And she is no stranger to politics. In 1976-78, she served as the organizing chair for the Commission on Aging. She also served on the Farmington Area Arts Commission, 1974-77.

She also served as campaign

manager and campaign worker for former state Rep. Sandy Brotherton, state Senate candidate Lee Caprock in 1978 and most recently for Dolan. Bates also is well-known for ArtStart Pre-School. She was the founder and owner until she sold the business to the three teachers she hired for the program. "It was for children to get a sense of themselves."

THE MOTHER of three grown

children says she brings a well-rounded perspective to the city council. "I have been a business owner, I'm a mother and wife, I have concern for seniors and my church is a significant part of my life."

Her work in Lansing, Bates said, adds to her work on the city council. She's able to see what's coming down the pipe that might effect the city.

The same goes for her work as an alternate delegate to the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments.

Right now, she's excited about a SEMCOG subcommittee study, called a regional development initiative. It involves cooperative planning efforts between communities as well as possible pooling of tax revenue.

She's more excited about the regional planning aspect — as a means to curtail urban sprawl — than she is about tax pooling.

"We've got to plan regionally," Bates said. SEMCOG has predicted that within 10 years, there'll be a 40 percent increase in land usage (regionally) by a 5-8 percent increase in population. "That's a lot of land for a few people. And they'll have to build roads, sewers, water."

The idea, Bates said, is for business to go back to where the infrastructure already exists. That saves

tax dollars and land. Another idea is to have developers build the infrastructure if they want to build on open land far from roads and sewers and other public services.

"It (urban sprawl) can stop here or it can go to Novi, Brighton and onward," said Bates.

LOOKING AHEAD, Bates said she sees that the city will continue to be challenged with traffic problems. It's important to ensure improved roads so traffic can move. But Bates doesn't want to see roads in the city turned into six-mile stretches of pavement.

Worried about density, Bates said the city will be confronted with the land that remains undeveloped. "We have funny little pieces of property left. This is going to have to be done (planning) on an individual basis."

Bates says she expects to spend about \$2,500, with a lot of it her own money. Most donations are in the \$35 range. She's also received two \$100 donations.

And she's aware of some concern about developer influence with campaign donations.

"I don't think developers are inherently evil. There have been some abuses, but you have to be mindful of undue influence. Citizens have a lot more influence and can put a lot more pressure on you."

Activities lend support to anti-drug awareness

Activities are continuing in the Farmington schools and throughout the community to bring awareness to drug and alcohol problems and to try and prevent future abuse.

The events focus on all drug and alcohol abuse, although organizers are focusing on alcohol and its effects on the family for this year's Substance Abuse Awareness Month which runs through October.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, Jon and Julie Anne Williamson will be washing cars for free at their Orchard/12 car wash in Farmington Hills, and will also take donations from customers for the parent anti-drug group, Farmington Families in Action. Some 30-36 volunteers from FFIA will be on hand to inform customers about the anti-drug effort.

The Williamsons purchased the car wash in 1984 and "turned it into a very good business for ourselves, our employees and for the community," said Jon Williamson. They employ about 35 people, including a number of young adults.

Also coming up this weekend, is the YMCA Family Walk/Run on Saturday, Oct. 26. Three different events begin and end at the YMCA at Farmington Road and 12 Mile. The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per family.

During October, several other businesses got into the anti-drug effort. The Little Professor book store

in Farmington donated 15 percent of book purchases to FFIA from Oct. 9-13. Domino's pizza donated 10 percent of sales at their three Farmington/Farmington Hills area stores to FFIA from Oct. 11-13, and Valvoline donated \$3 from each oil change done at its business on Grand River.

Students in grades four through eight in the Farmington Public Schools participated in a rap music contest, and students throughout the district have planted red tulip bulbs on school grounds.

Throughout the schools and community, residents have been encouraged to wear red ribbons on their clothing, and tie red ribbons on their



cars as an anti-drug message. Students and staff members in the schools are being encouraged to wear red on Oct. 30 as a show of support in the effort.

At Oakland Community College — Orchard Ridge Campus, the student services department hosted a week of events focusing on alcohol abuse.



The rap team from Eagle Elementary performs in front of the camera. Pictured are (from left) Allena Attisha, Melissa Donovan, Stephanie Gormley and Katherine Leik.



East Middle School students perform a skit with an anti-drug message for students at William Grace Elementary. Called "The Up Side of Down," Chris Patros (center) plays "Ronnie" who discovers that he doesn't need to give into the peer pressure of drugs and alcohol because he has many friends who will support him.

Is That Painting in Your Attic a Rembrandt?



Ask the Experts at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Expertising Day, Tuesday, October 29.

Perhaps you've wondered about that painting from your grandmother, or the china in your basement. Is it quality? Antique? Genuine art or great impostor?

Find out at the Detroit Institute of Arts' first Expertising Day on Tuesday, October 29. DIA curators will be on hand to examine and give free advice on items from paintings and prints to jewelry and porcelain. Simply bring your item to the DIA's Woodward entrance (as the museum is otherwise

closed on Tuesday), and you'll be directed to an expert who can tell you about it.

Even if your painting isn't a Rembrandt, you may find a very good reason to be glad you're its master.

Please limit three objects per person, and these request inspections must occur in the week. No monetary value will be given. Objects on paper must be accompanied by a photograph. Large items will be available.

For more information, call 313-487-2000, ext. 2000. Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM, Tuesday, October 29. The Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202 • (313) 833-7900



photos by SHARON LEWIS/staff photographer