O&E Thursday, November 7, 1991



This week's question:

Why do you feel voting is important?

We asked this question Tuesday at East Middle School, where three Farmington Hills precincts were represented.



We've been residents for about 25 years. It's part of our life cycle, I guess. It's just the American way. — Margaret Alegnani Farmington Hills



'it's the only thing you've got. If you don't vote, than there's no complaining. — Theresa White Farmington Hills



'i think it's our responsibility to vote. It's our right and our privilege. I try to vote in every one.' — Dan O'Donohue Farmington Hills



"My son asked me that this morning. I told him I thought It was my responsibility as being part of the community. — Susan Cook Farmington Hills

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the preliminary agenda of the Farmington Hills City Council. Meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council Council chambers

31555 11 Mile 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11

Newly elected or re-elected city council members will be sworn in following the Piedge of Alleglance led by Boy Scout Troop 110. Under City Manager Reports, the council will consider setting a

"I think (I's Important for people to exercise their right to put the right people in office. I've lived here 37 years — they're destroying the atmosphere of this city." — Kolth Nicholis Erreinence Hills Farmington Hills

Passing the gavel

First woman mayor calls job rewarding

By Casey Hana stall writer

Farmington's first woman mayor will pass the gavel later this month when her two-year term as the city's council meeting — the last full meeting over which Shirley Richard-son will preside — abe recalled the past two years to which bake devoted hours of time in representing the ecity, and thanked city department heads, residents, businesses and ber job "challenging and most reward-ing."

"Serving as the first woman may-or was an experience I will never forget," she said.

or was an experience I will never forget," she said. Richardson apologized to Mayor pro tem Raiph Yoder, who goi little chance to fill in for her at communi-ty events. "I always folt the need to be there," she said. "Willingly, I ac-cepted these responsibilities and gave of mystelf to be a full-time, ceremonial mayor."

IF TRADITION reigns and Yoder is re-elected Tuesday, he would like-iy be chosen by his peers to fill the next mayoral term.

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Farmington gels a new mayor every two years following a city council election, when council mem-bers elect one of their peers to do the lob, It is a ceremonial position, with the mayor running city council meetings and representing the city at various community events. Day-to-day operations in Farmington are run by an appointed city manager, as they are in neighboring Farming-

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'Serving as the first woman mayor was an experience I will never forget. . . I always felt the need to be there (at community events). Willingly, I accepted these responsibilities and gave of myself to be a full-time, ceremonial mayor.' – Shirley Richardson

ton Hills. Richardson, 54, is not only the city's first woman mayor, but was the first woman to serve on the Farmington City Council. She was appointed to fill a wacancy left by Alton Bennett in 1986, then was sub-sequently elected to a four-year term in 1889, receiving the top num-ber of votes in that year's city tion. At the time she didn't feel being

Another reason to ge

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woman was important, but added a woman was important, but addee that "we are long overdue." Richardson has maintained her eye for beautification while soated as mayor. She has volced concern about signage and awnings and worked to ensure the city's image was maintained. During her 1099 campaign, she tied green ribbons to trees instead of using lawn signs.

HER BEAUTIFICATION efforts

IIER BEAUTIFICATION efforts have included years of involvement in the Farrington Beautification Committee, Keep Michigan Beauti-jul and the Beautification council of Southeastern michigan. Richardson has also been active in the community and was named the Farring good Parring good Beautification Community and was named the Farring good and the sense of the the community and was named the formation of the sense of the the sense of annily. Her three grown supprised her by coming into town to share her find night as mayor Mon-day. They and busband, John, gave ter a plaque in the sign of a '1' to show their support. "We've always been a closeknit family," she said. "I've always been here for them — it's nice they're here for me."

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