

# Agreement on issues marks Hills candidate forum

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

The six candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council were more conspicuous in their agreement over issues such as the budget, public safety and redevelopment than they were for any differences.

Incumbents Jon Grant, Larry Lichtman, Ben Marks and Aldo Vagnozzi, and challengers Vincent Lorelli and Cheryl Oliverio, breathed a collective sigh of relief at the conclusion of the televised debate sponsored by the Farmington Area Republican Club as the campaign went into its final week.

"Although the candidates, most especially challenger Lorelli, have differed over how to keep a tight budget in a city that will see fewer new development dollars while maintaining and improving services, they all seemed to be on the same page when it came to priorities."

Moderator Cathy Webb read questions posed by the executive board of the Republican club.

Larry Lichtman, the mayor pro

**■ The six candidates are seeking four seats with the top three finishers winning four-year terms and the fourth finisher winning a two-year term.**

tem seeking his third term, said preparing for the possible shortfalls in state-shared revenue if a proposed property tax reform bill becomes law, redeveloping the city's older sections and using strategic planning to make necessary infrastructure improvements are the three biggest challenges in the coming year.

Lorelli, a 28-year-old attorney and restaurateur, said the city already has high taxes that are forcing young people to look for a home elsewhere.

"We're going to have a city only for the rich," he said.

Lorelli also returned to his theme of developing wherever possible and doing whatever the city can to keep the quality of the schools high.

Oliverio said the protection of

city park land would be a challenge.

Vagnozzi said notifying residents of new developments in their area would be a challenge along with keeping police and fire protection services high.

Grant said developing the Mercy Center property the city recently agreed to buy would be important in the coming year.

All agreed that an ice arena would be a good addition to the city. And all agreed that private money should pay for it, unless as Oliverio, Grant and Lichtman said, voters are interested in approving a special tax to support such a venture.

The candidates also took advantage of a question on what distinguishes them to brag a bit.

Vagnozzi characterized himself



Grant



Lichtman



Lorelli



Marks



Oliverio



Vagnozzi

as "proactive," a councilman "not afraid to take on the power structure." He cited his battles with Detroit Edison, MetroVision cable company and the post office over various citizen concerns.

Grant stressed his diverse background and business experience.

"I know what it is to stick to a budget and meet a payroll," he said.

Lichtman, whose father Fred is a former mayor and served on the charter commission, cited his ex-

perience as a lifelong resident and his knowledge of legal and financial issues as indications of his commitment to "tradition and progress."

Lorelli, 26, cited his youth and inexperience as virtues. Lorelli said he has not been part of a council that "spends too much."

Marks, who was a member of the city's charter commission, said his experience and record as fighter for local control have helped the city. He cited his fight against a proposal to build Tiger

Stadium in the area as an example of his 26-plus years of service to the city.

Oliverio said she is the only candidate who is a stay-at-home parent. That, along with her eagerness to be an accessible council member, make her unique, she said.

The six candidates are seeking four seats with the top three finishers winning four-year terms and the fourth finisher winning a two-year term. The election is Tuesday with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



SHARON LEHUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Civics lesson:** Senior Ron Caldwell votes in government class at Harrison High School. He's assisted by Pat Millstead, a nurse at the school.

## Student voters like Lichtman, Vagnozzi

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

If government students at four high schools in the Farmington area are right, veteran councilman Aldo Vagnozzi can worry more about throwing a locust north and less about how he'll do in Tuesday's election.

In mock elections at Farmington High School, North Farmington High School, Farmington Hills Harrison High School and Farmington Alternative Academy High School, 325 students voted in a preview of the Farmington Hills City Council race.

Vagnozzi took the most votes (185) among students who cast ballots at Farmington High and also finished first with 22 (of 23 possible) votes at the Alternative Academy. He finished second among Harrison voters and third at North.

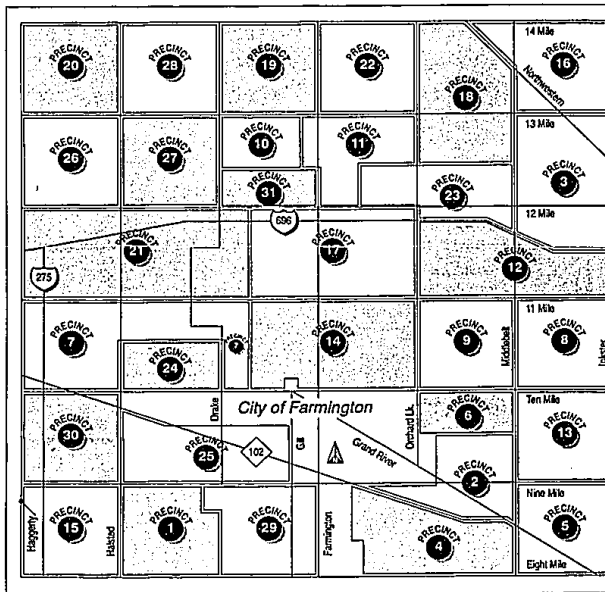
Among those students "registered" to vote, the turnout was relatively high. At Harrison, 86 out of 120, or 72 percent, cast bal-

lots. At Farmington, 101 out of 160, or 67 percent, voted. At North, 115 out of 292, or 39 percent, voted. About 15 percent of the 150 Alternative Academy students voted.

The students voted for four candidates, the same choice voters will have Tuesday.

Larry Lichtman, a graduate of North, had the most total votes with 217 (to Vagnozzi's 208), taking first at his alma mater with 67 of a possible 115 votes, second at the academy with 14 votes, second at Farmington with 76 votes and fourth at Harrison with 40 votes.

Lichtman finished with his name on 67 percent of the ballots, Vagnozzi was on 64 percent, Jon Grant, who won the Harrison vote with 62 votes, was on 50 percent of the ballots, Cheryl Oliverio also was selected on half of the ballots (actually two more than Grant), Ben Marks was selected on 42 percent of the ballots and Vince Lorelli was selected on 41 percent of ballots cast.



### Precinct voting map for the City of Farmington Hills

- 1 Power Middle School (34740 Rhinewood)
- 2 Farm Community School (30415 Shawanawee)
- 3 Woodbrook School (28400 Harwich)
- 4 St. Paul's Lutheran Church (20005 Middlebelt)
- 5 St. Alexander's Church (27835 Shawanawee)
- 6 Lakeside School (23800 Tuck)
- 7 Hildebrand School (26801 11 Mile)
- 8 East Middle School (25000 Middlebelt)
- 9 East Middle School (25000 Middlebelt)
- 10 Duncal Middle School (23200 12 Mile)
- 11 N. Farmington High School (23200 12 Mile)
- 12 Mercy Center (26800 11 Mile)
- 13 William Grace School (29040 Shawanawee)
- 14 Alameda School (21400 Alameda)
- 15 Finnish Center (23200 Eight Mile)
- 16 Fairview School (28500 Oak Crest)
- 17 First Presbyterian Church (26165 Farmington)
- 18 Highmeadow School (30175 Highmeadow)
- 19 Forest School (24545 Oak Timber)
- 20 William Tyndale College (25700 12 Mile)
- 21 Forest Pk. Baptist Church (29005 Farmington)
- 22 N. Farmington High School (23200 13 Mile)
- 23 Karbrook School (22130 Bonnet Hill)
- 24 William Tyndale College (25700 12 Mile)
- 25 GB School (21195 Oak)
- 26 Hope Lutheran Church (30200 12 Mile)
- 27 Fire Dept. Headquarters (26711 Drake)
- 28 Faith Covenant Church (35415 14 Mile)
- 29 Finnish Center (23200 Eight Mile)
- 30 GB School (21195 Oak)
- 31 Duncal Middle School (23200 12 Mile)

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**WHIPLASH**

Whiplash is the name lawyers give to a neck injury in which your head is suddenly thrown back to the extreme hyperextension - and then thrust forward in recoil - hyperflexion. This motion may generate sufficient momentum to bring your chin to your chest.

The most common cause is a rear end car collision, though football injuries or unexpected falls down stairs can produce similar results.

If you experience whiplash, you should first check to see that you have not lost feeling in your hands or feet, and that you can move your fingers and toes with no loss of coordination. If so, you can be thankful to your medical care.

However, your body is likely to react to such a sudden and punishing force. You will may develop neck ache secondary to severe neck muscle strain. The neck holds the head to the body by a series of cervical vertebrae, a row of ribcage starting from the base of the cervical vertebrae No. 7 and ending at the back ridge of the skull (the occiput). It is these muscles that take the brunt of the punishment in whiplash.

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