agnozzi loves politics, hitting campaign trail

BY BILL COUTANT

You could call him a sort of po-

you courd call him a sort of po-ipulist.
But although he's there with a pamile and a handahasks for the there and the sort and the sort and there for Aldo Vegnozzi.
A longtime council watcher, for-imer achool-board member and union activist, Vegnozzi has abed any traditional political stereo-type. And that comes out in his campaign as he can comfortably talk about property values, traffic or cable television.
And although the door-to-door intched has been his bread and

butter, Vagnozzi has been willing to change with the times, sup-planting the hoofing with some tubing — as in, ironically, cable TV ad. Wagnozzi relishes dobating op-portunity to cout future volers. "Tve debated at the (Farming-ton Hills) Alternative Academy," ho said. "Some of those students have really had some interesting oxperiences. And many have had to work, so they ask some good questions." The grandfather of six (soon to be seven) is a Wayne State Uni-versity graduate and World War II veteran who became active in

politics in 1948. "I always admired (Gov.) Soapy Williama," he said of the former siste escective. "He was very per-ceptive and he know who you were. He was a fresh politician in thase days. And he was sincere." That style has not been lost on Vagnozi, whose family came to

ing spouse of a deceased elderly resident he visited in his last campeign. "We have a lot of older widows and widowers whose needs are not being met," he said, considering some possibilities for new pro-

this country from Italy when he was a boy. He will remember do-tails about his constituents when he returns to their house during his nert campaign. "Til see a newborn one time and then come back and see a 2-year old," he said. But the downside is the grievgrams. Vagnozzi frequently refers to

his wife of 46 years, Lois, as the more perceptive and intelligent in and stays in close touch with his four children. "I feel great physically." he says of his walking campaign that would wear out a lot of younger politicians. But that's his way.

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Potential voter: Hills may-oral candidate Aldo Vagnozzi gets on a fire truck with his granddaughter Casey Fleeter and daugh-ter Barbara Fleeter during the fire department Open House Oct. 8.

Arthritis Today Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology (18829 Farmington Road Livonia Michigan 48192. Phone: (810) 478-7860 WHAT IS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITS WHAT IS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS • Volume a second water part to describe a second by period to table. They if an estimation is volume as a prime provide the abustion from the second period by the abustion from the second period by the abustion of the second period by t is production of antibodes. It includes more than medicine. The individual must recordigure has on her kile to account for the in crust is anothen the exercism must access limits on activity that result because of impaired point.



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sive," he said. Vagnozzi has questioned police nd fire department response

Vagnozzi has questioned pointe and fire department response times and worked to improve them. That is why he is cam-paigning for the proposed public safety tax that would improve ser-vice and cut down the response "People are concerned about it (the proposal)," he said, adding that it won't be an easy sell to taxpayers. "I've had a lot of ques-tions about it."

Like his opponent, Paul Sower-by, Vagnozzi would like to see the fire department increase its EMS presence and save the city money.

And he's concerned as well with a diminishing amount of revenue horing that the state returns to Farmington Hills. "That's our money," he said. "It comes from taxes paid in this city that are supposed to come back to this city." While he's proud of his Demo-cratic Party affiliation, including having the honor of being in the electoral college in 1992, Vagnozzi has taken his opponent to task for "playing partisan politica." Sowerby has the endorsement of many of the county's best-known and most influential Republi-cans, such as U.S. Rep. Joe Knol-lenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, and Oakland County Executive L

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PI

Brooks Patterson. "I understand that they're not voting for Sowerby," he said, not-ing that neither can because they are not Farmington Hills resi-dents.

are not rarmington fulls resi-dents. Vegnozzi has made a point of attending city functions, and has sometimes been the only elected Hills official at public hearings. "That's important because. I think they are much more likely to listen to an elected official," he said, adding that he was the only Farmington Hills councilman at the Public Service Commission regarding the July power outage and at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources hearing on a proposed waste treatment expan-

sion that would affect the Seeley Drain that runs through Farming-ton Hills.

Vagnozi worked to tighten re-quirements for planned unit de-velopments, to give public notice to more residents, to get such pro-posals before the city council ear-lier and to institute a referendum for that type of zoning.

After some unsuccessful cam-paigna, including two runs for Farmington Township supervisor before the city days, Vagnozzi isn't taking anything for granted.

"I've learned to be a little hum-ble," he said, "But I enjoy cam-paigning."

