Hat trick



Cap on: Farmington High senior Mike Carolan grimaces as his girlfriend Jamie Livermore puts his hat back on as they sit in the stands watching the Falcons boys' soccer team play Wednesday at North Farmington High. North Farmington High won the district match, 4-2.

Sowerby, Vagnozzi end debates for Hills seat on optimistic note

By BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

Like two boxers in the final round, Farmington Hills mayoral candidates Paul Sowerd the bell one more time. The two men, aquaring off in the first directly elected mayoral campaign in the city's young history, went over mostly familiar territory in their seventh and final debate Wednesday morning at the Optimist Club breakfast at the San Marino Golf Club on Halsted.

🖼 The question of campaign finances came up as Budge Gere asked how much the candidates had

"You can't have a full-time EMS without having a full-time fire station," he said.

Vagnozzi added that Farmington Hills' tax rate has decreased in the past eight years.

The question of campaign finances came up as Budge Gereaked how much the candidates had raised.

Vagnozzi said he'd raised about \$10,000, or 20-25 percent of what he had heard Sowerby would be raising (\$50,000). Sowerby said he did not think it was a real issue, adding that he was complying with election laws.

All candidates were required to file with the Oakland County Elections Commission by Friday.

According to their fillings Vagnozzi had contributions of \$9,767.50 and had spent \$8,372.88. Sowerby had reported contributions of \$42,211.58 and expenditures of \$35,076.11.

Sowerby montioned that State Rep. Jan Dolan had contributed to the fund-raisers of all of the city candidates, including Vagnozzi.

When asked who they endorsed for city council, Sowerby named Fitsgerald and Ben Marks. Vagnozzi said he supported Terry Sover, Nancy Bates and Vicki Barnett.

Trees to be planted in subdivisions

Farmington Hills City Council recently approved the planting of 61 trees in eight subdivisions.
The trees still be placed in the front yard right of way of residential lots in Country Ridge, Green Velley Estates, Copperwood Est. Copperwood North, Stration Hill. Strathmore, Hunter's Point Colony and Arbor Caks.
The Planting Program is in its eighth year. During that time

and linden.

The planning office works directly with each homeowner to locate the tree on the lot, to oversee the trees' short-term and long-term care, and to provide replacement trees for those that die.

This year's contract for providing and planting the trees was awarded to Tom's Landscaping and Nursery. The cost of the contract is \$11,690 and includes a two-year warranty on the trees.

Land, renovation plan to invigorate Grand River area

BY BILL COUTANT BIAFF WEITER

A recent property donation and a plan to renovate a regional

A recent property donation and a plan to renovate a regional car rental company property will both beautify and help in the economic redevelopment of the Grand River corridor.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car donated 1.7 acres of vacant land on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and Grand River that fronts the Rouge River. In addition, the company bought property that had belonged to Farmington Hilla Chrysler Plymouth.

The donation and consolidation come at a good time. The city secured a grant to make curb and other safety improvements, add lighting that will improve both the beauty of the corridor from Eight Mille to Middlebelt and with the cooperation of local residents and businesses, keep it a viable economic nrea.

City Planning Director Parkets of the countering and the donated land will be used as a green buffer area between the businesses and residents.

The two parcels together cre-

will be used as a green buffer area between the businesses and residents.

The two parcels together create an area that can be developed into a park at some future date. "Countegan said.

The improvements to Grand River are being paid for with federal Community Development Block Grant money of \$347,000, Michigan Department of Transportation money (\$100,000), a \$7,000 contribution from the Economic Development Council and \$100,000 in city capital funds.

Improvements to the stretch of the historic boulevard will include landscaping, screening, handicap ramps, driveway access, street lighting and removal of old teleptone poles.

Several other businesses have worked with the city to renovate.

🗃 'Our administrative offices for our 65 loca-tions in southeast Michigan and northeast Ohlo will be at that ofanchor business at one end while Botzford (General Hospital) will be anchoring the other."

> Michael Kane Enterprise vice president

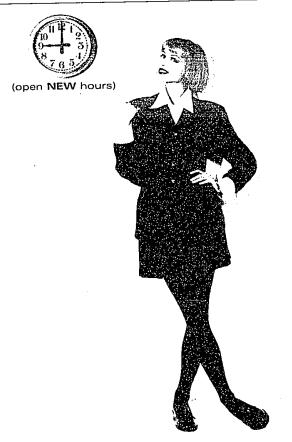
change signs and facades and add landscaping. But the Enterprise renovation would be the biggest single business project along the boulevard to date.

"Our administrative offices for our 65 locations in southeast Michigan and northeast Ohio will be at that office," said Michael Kane, Enterprise vice president. "We hope to be the anchor business at one end while Botsford (General Hospital) will be anchoring the other," he said. "We're excited about the project."

"We're excited about the project."

Enterprise, which has more than 2,400 offices in North America and will have more than \$2.4 million in revenues this year, rents cars on a local basis, has a largo fleet leasing operation and also sells its used vehicles. The Grand River location will take part in all three activities as well as being a regional office.

"Ninety percent of this will be office space," Kane said. "We worked on the Grand River Avenue Corridor) Study Committee with residents to come up with something that will really improve the area for them as well."



Monday through Friday, 10 am to 9 pm Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm Sunday, Noon to 5 pm