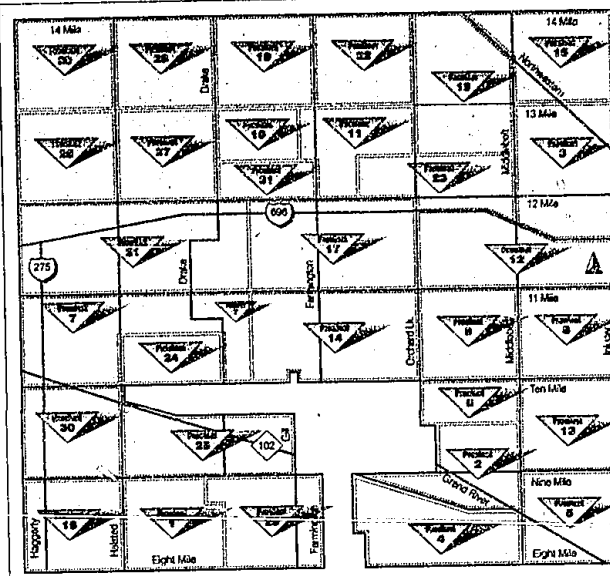
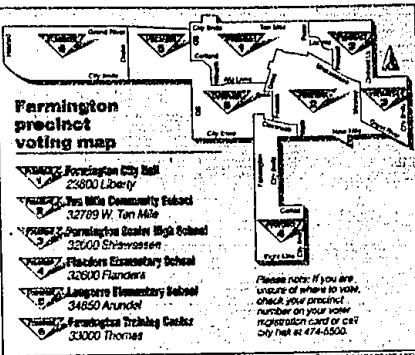


ELECTION '95



Precinct voting map for the City of Farmington Hills

1. Power Middle School (34740 Phoenician)
2. Farm. Community School (30415 Shawnessee)
3. Woodbrook School (28420 Hamlet)
4. St. Paul's Lutheran Church (28005 Middlebelt)
5. St. Alexander's Church (27335 Shawnessee)
6. Larkspur School (32800 Tuck)
7. Holistic School (30201 11 Mile)
8. East Middle School (25000 Middlebelt)
9. East Middle School (25000 Middlebelt)
10. Dundalk Middle School (32800 12 Mile)
11. N. Farmington High School (32900 13 Mile)
12. Farmington Hills Activities Center (28600 11 Mile)
13. William Grace School (28040 Shawnessee)
14. Alameda School (32400 Alameda)
15. Finney Center (32000 Eight Mile)
16. Fairview School (28500 Oak Crest)
17. First Presbyterian Church (26155 Farmington)
18. Highmeadow School (30175 Highmeadow)
19. Forest School (24545 Old Timber)
20. Grace Chapel (27995 Halsted)
21. Forest Pl. Baptist Church (26805 Farmington)
22. N. Farmington High School (32900 13 Mile)
23. Kentbrook School (32130 Bonnet Hill)
24. Grace Chapel (27995 Halsted)
25. Gil School (21195 Gil)
26. Hope Lutheran Church (32200 12 Mile)
27. First Baptist Church (28711 Drake)
28. Faith Covenant Church (35415 14 Mile)
29. Finnish Center (26900 Eight Mile)
30. Gil School (21195 Gil)
31. Dundalk Middle School (32800 12 Mile)

THOMAS GUNTER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vote from page 1A

cit. The top two vote-getters receive four-year terms; third place finisher is on for two years. Hartsack and McShane are incumbents.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in both cities. Turnout is expected to be above average in Farmington Hills; while Farmington is projecting a lighter than usual voter turnout. Absentee voter ballots are often used as a barometer.

"The last week has been slow," said Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman, who estimates 7,300 absentee-vote ballots have been taken out. "The process of returning them has been slow. There's still a lot of ballots out."

Voters can personally return AV ballots up until polls close on Tuesday. "The sooner the better, though," Dorman said.

Without a tax question on the ballot, there was a 20.34 percent voter turnout in the 1993 Hills election. In 1991, when voters had two tax questions to ponder, turnout was 23 percent.

"We expect the turnout to be more than the average city election," Dorman said.

Only 14 to 15 percent of Farmington's 7,894 registered voters are expected to cast ballots in Tuesday's election, said Farmington Deputy Clerk Janice Schmidt. A lower than usual turnout is mainly because there is no race.

"They need to come out and vote because it decides who gets the four year terms and who gets the two-year term," Schmidt said. Assuming every voter does cast ballots for all three candidates, there would be a three-way tie.

In 1993, Mary Bush and Dick Tupper drew from a hat to determine who would receive the four-year term after they were deadlocked for second place. Bush picked the four-year term; Tupper received two years. Tupper is stepping down after 22 years.

Schmidt is not relishing the idea of a repeat deadlock. "I know it could happen," she said. "It would be up to the Board of Canvassers what to do."

Students take Vagnozzi, pass safety millage

BY BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

If the younger generation could have its way, Aldo Vagnozzi would be Farmington Hills' first directly-elected mayor.

In mock election results of high school seniors at Harrison, North Farmington and the Farmington Alternative Academy, Vagnozzi was a big winner for mayor, winning the overall vote, 162-105, a 61 percent majority.

Vagnozzi won by better than 2-to-1 among Alternative Academy students voting in the Farmington Hills race, 15-7. He won by a 63-37, or 63 percent, among Harrison students who voted and by a slimmer, 58 percent (84-61) margin.

"I want to congratulate the students for exercising their opportunity to vote for the Farmington Hills mayor and city council as well as the ballot proposals," he

said. "Of course I'm pleased with the overwhelming support."

"While the student vote cannot be interpreted as an indication of how their parents will vote, it is a sign that my message that this election is about local issues, local needs and local solutions is getting through."

Sowerby said he would have liked a better result, but appreciated the chance to speak to students in forums at North Farm-

ington and Farmington High schools.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak at those forums," Sowerby said. "As these students graduate, become 18 and start paying property taxes, I think they are going to appreciate my positions more."

The three city council seats would go to Dennis Fitzgerald,

See STUDENTS, 7A

Hills citizen group opposes 1-mill public safety proposal

BY BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

A small group of citizens is working to defeat a proposed public safety millage that they call "pork."

"The people pushing this millage are scaring people," said Harris McBride, who has often spoken out against tax proposals in Farmington Hills.

McBride is among about "a dozen" members of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, which is distributing literature in an effort to defeat the proposal that would increase city taxes by 1 mill for a 10-year period. The tax would pay for more police and firefighters along with a permanently manned, centrally located fifth fire station.

McBride said he is concerned with the amount of the tax increase (\$76.50 for a house with a market value of \$150,000), the fact that after the first five years there are no specific proposals on what the money will be used for,

and the length of the proposal.

"They say it's for 10 years," he said. "But they'll be back in 10 years. It's really a permanent increase."

Backers of the proposal have laid out specifics of the first five years, but say beyond that they would have to see what needs the city has. They cite statistics showing how Farmington Hills has not increased its police and fire forces to keep pace with a rapidly increasing population.

City Manager Bill Costick said many of the claims made by the group are wrong.

"They are citing the management audit," he said. "It says that we are at a crossroads."

More than that, the audit praises the city's efficiency, but suggests improvements in manpower and technology — two goals of the proposal — in order to stay ahead of future problems.

Mayor Joanne Smith not only supports the proposal, as did the entire city council, but she's an-

gry at the group's tactics, including putting its fliers on car windows at churches.

"They're using scare tactics," she said. "On the eve of the election, they come out with this. This is a small band of malcontents."

Smith said the group cited the SMART and OCC proposals as tax increases. She said those, like the public safety proposal, were ballot issues and they were approved by the voters, not imposed by the city council.

She said the response from residents to the group supporting the tax, Citizens for a Safer Farmington Hills, has been strong to improve the city's police and fire service and response times.

"They are demanding a 24-hour fire department," she said.

McBride said there were other ways to pay for improved service. He said a retiring debt service millage and other money in the budget could be used for the improvements.

Veteran Hills city council members bid adieu with bittersweet memories

BY BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

It was bittersweet for outgoing Farmington Hills Mayor Joanne Smith and Councilman Larry Lichtman at the Oct. 30 council meeting.

The two have given years to the city, both as council members and by serving on the planning commission and zoning board. Both had also been targets of a bitter recall campaign, along with four other council members, late last year.

Smith chose rather to reflect on her long association with residents and the city and not dwell upon the recall, something she hopes future potential public servants understand.

"Politics gets a bad name," she said. "But everything's politics. It simply means a way of learning to get along, compromise. City council is the toughest because this is

state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills; for her support and for first appointing him to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He became the youngest city council member and in 1994, the city's youngest mayor.

"And at 37, I'll be the youngest to retire," he said, adding that he was not counting himself out of future political or city involvement.

Lichtman, whose father Fred was a charter commission member and mayor, thanked his family and friends for their support, especially during the unsuccessful recall campaign. Lichtman said he was thinking a good deal about a friend, Nick Fishman, who recently died.

"We mirror each other," he said. "He has three kids. He was 39. It's been on my mind a lot."

Lichtman said he would be spending more time with his family and at his legal practice but added that he would be working

to elect Dennis Fitzgerald to the city council.

Smith, whose husband Bill works for Ford Motor Co., said she and her husband will do some traveling. She retired in October from her job as a counselor and social worker at the Sarah Fisher Home.

Council members also heard from Girls State Representative Jennifer Batila, 17, who attends Harrison High School.

"Most kids my age frown or roll their eyes at the mention of government," she said, adding that her week at Central Michigan University for the conference during "nine hot days in June" made her more aware of how government works.

The council also honored several members of boards and commissions for their service. Those recognized included:

Harry Kozera Jr. (5 years), Pat

See ADRIU, 7A

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