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HOW YOU VOTED

MAYOR
Winner receives two year term and is noted with a check mark.

Paul Sowerby	5,447
✔ Aldo Vagnozzi	8,633

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
Top three vote getters receive four-year term

✔ Vicki Barnett	8,440
✔ Nancy Bates	8,202
Dennis Fitzgerald	6,182
Ben Marks	6,429
✔ Terry Sever	8,041

PROPOSALS
A 1-mill tax increase to upgrade police and fire

✔ Yes	9,261
No	4,931

Have council vacancies filled at the next August primary or November general election rather than at the next odd year general election.

✔ Yes	11,607
No	1,955

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
Top two vote-getters receive four-year terms; third place finisher gets two-year term

✔ Bill Hartsock	523
✔ Jo Anne McShane	531
James Mitchell	464

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Curious feds: *U.S. Secret Service agents are investigating a stolen credit card case in Farmington.* /5A

OPINION

Mayoral mission: *We share our views on the first-ever Farmington Hills mayor race.* /10A

SPORTS

And still champs: *Mercy High School breezed to its 29th Catholic League title in girls swimming.* /1C

A fine finish: *Farmington's girls cross country team proved its among the best in the state, finishing fifth in Class A.* /1C

AT HOME

Room to view: *Area designers gave colorful expressions in room vignettes they created at Michigan Design Center.* /D

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SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayor-elect: *Supporter Stan Slovick congratulates Aldo Vagnozzi on his election win in Tuesday's first-ever Farmington Hills mayoral race.*

Hills goes Aldo' way

His opponent outspent him 4-to-1, but Aldo Vagnozzi scored better with voters who have selected him as Farmington Hills' first directly elected mayor.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Aldo Vagnozzi, the son of Italian immigrants, will be the first directly elected mayor of Farmington Hills.

The popular city councilman easily defeated a well-healed attorney in what many called a divisive campaign. Vagnozzi, 70, was outspent by Paul Sowerby 4-1, but won the vote, 3-2.

"I thought I was going to win, just from the reaction I was getting door-to-door and then today, when I went to 10 precincts," Vagnozzi said. "I think it proved that Farmington Hills voters were interested in local issues; not issues that had nothing to do with city government."

Vagnozzi had taken Sowerby to task for soliciting support of politicians, judges and others who do not vote in Farmington Hills. Sowerby had also used his stands on abortion, school issues and federal tax policy as part of the campaign.

Sowerby, who gathered with supporters at the Radisson Hotel, across town from Vagnozzi's celebration at the Botsford Inn, said he had thought he would win right up to the end.

"I thought I would win," he said. "I thought we ran a first class campaign."

See MAYOR, 3A

Voters say big yes' to public safety tax

BY JILL HOCKMAN
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills homeowners will [illegible] more full-time firefighters and a higher tax bill next year after voters on Tuesday approved a tax hike to fund the city's public safety departments.

Voters passed a 10-year, 1-mill tax increase that will go into effect in July. The millage will cost the owner of a $150,000 house an additional $76.50 per year. The city's average home market value is $153,000.

Voting in favor of the increase were 9,261 Hills residents, while 4,931 voted [illegible] the increase. The proposal was supported by 65.26 percent of city residents who voted in the general election.

A majority of absentee voters in precincts 6 and 14 voted against the millage. But overall, the measure received a majority of yes votes in each precinct.

The millage will generate $2.6 million, which will be used to increase the number of police and firefighters on the streets. Millage supporters [illegible] Farmington Hills has not increased its police and fire forces to keep up with a rapidly increasing population.

Police Chief Bill Dwyer said his department is already preparing to hire new officers to patrol the city. By July, an additional two cars will be patrolling Farmington Hills at all times, and a third car will be added by year three of the millage.

Another traffic officer and emergency dispatch supervisor will also be [illegible]

Dwyer said he was pleased that voters passed the public safety millage the first time it was on the ballot. In other communities, it has taken more than one election for similar measures to be approved, he said.

"The community was made aware of our needs and supported those

See MILLAGE, 6A

Vicki Barnett

Barnett triumphs as top vote-getter

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

HILLS COUNCIL

For the second straight time, a non-incumbent woman was the leading vote-getter for city council in Farmington Hills.

Vicki Barnett, like Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio in 1993, challenged incumbents and candidates with good name recognition. And like Oliverio, Barnett topped the field.

"I felt I had done everything I could do," said Barnett, who celebrated along with Mayor-elect Aldo Vagnozzi and others at the Botsford Inn. "I walked beginning in May and June. I was no stranger to the community and to issues. But you always worry when there are five candidates for three seats."

It was a dramatic turnaround for Barnett, who just a year earlier had been thrashed in a state Senate election by incumbent David Honigman.

When Barnett had met with supporters a year earlier, the mood was pure "MacBeth," as she lost 2-1. But Tuesday night, it was "All's Well That Ends Well."

"I was really honored to win," she said. "I think walking (door-to-door) was key. I think this community is interested in open government.

"That's what people are looking for. They are disenchanted."

They weren't disenchanted with Barnett, giving her 22.5 percent of the vote compared to 22 percent for incumbent Nancy Bates and 21.5 percent for incumbent Terry Sever.

Former Mayor Ben Marks finished fourth with just over 17 percent and former Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Dennis Fitzgerald finished last with 16.5 percent of the vote in his first try for city council.

Bates said she never took her support for granted and was happy to finish second.

See COUNCIL, 3A

Jewish community honors slain leader

BY JILL HOCKMAN
STAFF WRITER

Some 4,000 Detroit-area residents packed Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills Monday night to attend a memorial service in honor of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

News of the service — coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the Jewish Community Council and other Jewish synagogues and organizations — spread quickly among the estimated 160,000 Jews who live in Metro Detroit.

Organizers planned the service in less than 36 hours, said Southfield resident Allan Gale, associate director of the Jewish Community Council for metro Detroit. Only one city-wide Jewish event — the springtime celebration of Israel's independence — has drawn a higher attendance, Gale said.

Still, Gale said he was not surprised by the community's overwhelming response to the murder of Rabin, who was gunned down by a right-wing Jew at a rally for peace.

Some 1,500 mourners, which included Arabs, Palestinians, and other non-Jews, filled the sanctuary at Adat Shalom, a synagogue that is named for peace. Another 2,500 people watched the service on televisions from the synagogue's foyer and social hall.

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham and U.S. Rep. Joseph Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Twp, were among those who attended the memorial service.

The service included songs, prayers and speeches by area Jewish rabbis and leaders, including community leader Max M. Fisher, a personal friend of Rabin.

"It's hard for me to believe that he's gone," he

See RABIN, 4A