

Wolf, Lopez weigh in on county issues

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The election forum featuring 19th District Oakland County Commission candidates Donn Wolf and Kurt Lopez was historic.

Wolf, the Republican incumbent, and Lopez, the Democratic challenger, were part of the Oct. 16 election forum sponsored by the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners. It was the first in memory between two commission candidates.

Lopez, a second-year law student at Wayne State University and 10-year Farmington Hills resident, admitted to being a little nervous. He is challenging Wolf for the second time.

Wolf seemed to warm to the subject of politics, reciting his long record that included

involvement with the council of homeowners in 1976, Farmington Families in Action, the Council for the Arts, and election to the Farmington Hills City Council beginning in 1980, where he served eight years, including a year as mayor.

With less exposure than most political races, both candidates did their best to explain the role of a commissioner.

Wolf cited the county's award winning service to residents as cost effective and said he could announce a .1-mill tax decrease countywide.

"We have a large \$546 million budget that includes human services, the courts, the sheriff's department, health department and others," Wolf said. "We want to spend the money wisely and fairly, and bring services to people. We're not legislators."

Lopez said the commissioner should be a voice for his local community.

Lopez said he would work to change the government structure to put the road commission under the authority of the county commission. He cited road construction zones where there were no workers and yet traffic was diverted or the road was narrowed.

"We need to have elected representatives making the decisions," he said. "That would make it more streamlined and effective."

Wolf said his was a record of



Kurt Lopez

making efficiencies that included saving \$1 million in the county's pension plan, privatizing auto repair, selling 60 of the county's cars and turning a \$24 million shortfall into a \$7 million surplus.

Both candidates said they had opposed a public safety millage that was passed by Farmington Hills voters but had wanted the community to decide the issue.

Lopez said he would lobby against local money going to pay for programs in other counties.

Wolf said that he would like to get more money back to Oakland County, a donor county, and

cited Wayne County as one of the biggest recipients of state tax dollars.

Wolf, who opposed the SMART millage that also passed, said his opposition was based on inefficiencies at SMART and the authority's refusal of a audit requests.

"The system has changed," he

said. "Now there is service east to west, not just north and south. Farmington Hills is one of the leaders."

In terms of growth, Lopez said he was concerned about a lack of planning, citing Pontiac as a casualty.

"Instead of promoting urban sprawl with a road that ends in Waterford, with the proper plan we could maintain the older part of the community," Lopez said.

Wolf said planning development for 63 communities in the county was beyond the province of a 25 member commission.



Donn Wolf

OBITUARIES

DELORES JEAN ZERIO

Mrs. Zerio, 64, of Farmington Hills died Oct. 16 in Arizona. Born in Detroit, Mrs. Zerio was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Richard; daughter, Patty Uhrin; sons, Steve and Dan; mother, Helen Mazur; sister, Mary Ann Baril; brothers, John and Charles Mazur; four grandchildren.

Services were at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Fred Kletner of St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

BETTY L. WOLFE

Mrs. Wolfe, 66, of North Carolina, formerly of Farmington, died Oct. 17.

Born in Ypsilanti, Mrs. Wolfe was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, John; daughters, Jan Williams, Karen Morris and Suzanne Hoalt; six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Oct. 20 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Deborah Kerr of Belleville Presbyterian Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

OLIVIA MARIE BLAIR

Olivia Marie, one-month old, died Oct. 17 at home.

Survivors include her parents, John and Maureen; grandparents, Ed and Joyce Blair; grandfather, Joseph McSweeney; sister, Morgan.

Mass was celebrated Oct. 19 at St. Aidan Catholic Church with the Rev. Gerald Finnerty officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.

TED J. BANAS

Mr. Banas, 84, died Oct. 18 in Courtyard Manor of Farmington Hills.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Mr. Banas was a commercial photographer.

Survivors include his sons, Thomas, Ronald and James; daughters, Carol Koziara and Maribeth Janer; sisters, Bernice Reisinger and Betty Cebula; 11 grandchildren.

Services were at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. James Wright of St. Alexander Catholic Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to MADD, Leader Dogs for the Blind or the American Diabetes Association.

ELEANORE CONNELL LAWRIE

Mrs. Lawrie, 78, of Birmingham died Oct. 18.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Lawrie was a homemaker. After a successful career as a model and entertainer she married and raised her family. She was a volunteer for the Michigan Cancer Foundation, A Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, a Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader, chairwoman of the Metropolitan Girl Scouts, PTA president and chairwoman of the Dental Fluoride program for all the Southfield schools.

Mrs. Lawrie was president of the Magnolia Community Women's Club and a member of the Women's Stock Club. She was a volunteer for the American Red Cross at Providence Hospital for 25 years.

Survivors include her husband, Alexander; son, David; daughter, Gail Ann Tellier of Farmington Hills; 10 grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated at Holy Name Catholic Church with the Rev. Robert Burke officiating. Burial was in Acacia Park Cemetery, Birmingham.

Memorials may be made to Providence Hospital Cancer Center, 22301 Foster Winter Drive, 3rd Floor, Southfield 48075.

Arrangements were made by the A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, Troy.

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