

Farmington incumbents vie for 4-year seats

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Re-election is guaranteed Tuesday for the three Farmington City Council candidates.

But they aren't assuming anything. Instead, Mary Bush, Arnold Campbell and James Mitchell are going door-to-door—even on rainy days such as Sunday—and making it known to residents they do care and want to work on their behalf.

One of the messages going door-to-door sends to people is "you're serious about the position," said Campbell, the veteran of the three with 10 years council service. "And it shows them you're interested in the comments they have to make."


"If people are out raking their leaves, I stop and talk," said Mitchell, who was elected in 1995 to fill an open seat after Richard Tupper chose not to run. "It's important to let people know I want to be a city council member. I think people like to know you're interested in the office and are not being elected by default."

And all three incumbents are interested enough in the office to want to finish in the top two slots Tuesday, thus earning four-year terms. The third-place finisher will get a two-year term. There are no other local issues on the ballot. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Quite frankly," said Mayor Pro tem Bush, finishing her first four-year term, "I don't want to have to run again in two years ... I definitely want the four-year term."


The main reason, obviously, is four years allows them twice as

Name: Mary L. Bush
Age: 44
City Council: 1993-to-present. Currently mayor pro-tem.




Job: Self-employed real estate broker.
Education: Graduate of The Realtors Institute; now completing Michigan Political Leadership Program.
Resident: 13 years
Family: Single

Name: Arnold T. Campbell
Age: 47
City Council: 1986-91; 93-to-present



Job: Ford Motor Co. reports on the quality of company products.
Education: Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management, from Lawrence Tech; MBA degree from Central Michigan.
Resident: 19 years
Family: Wife, Betsy, sons, Andrew, 18, Bryan, 14.

Name: James K. Mitchell
Age: 46
City Council: 1995-to-present



Job: Vice President and Legal Counsel, Lifetime Doors, Inc., Farmington Hills
Education: Bachelor of Art degree from University of Michigan in history and political science; law degree from University of Detroit
Resident: 42 years
Family: Single

long to see various projects through to completion.

"You know you can embark," Campbell said. Four years provides "enough time to accomplish some of the goals. With a two-year term, you don't know if you'll be around to finish anything."

All of the candidates want the full term, but none are actively campaigning against the others. They like the chemistry on the council as well as the way the elected officials work with Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff and his staff.

"We genuinely respect each other," Mitchell said. "We certainly have our differences of opinion. But I do feel we can regard each other as friends."

According to Bush, she is "very

privileged" to be on the council. "It's a great council and a great city staff."

Bush, Campbell and Mitchell concur that there are too many important projects ahead to quibble about term length. All three view as essential to Farmington's future the various efforts now under way to enhance the downtown district.

These include the Downtown Development Authority's long-range strategic planning, the so-called "visioning" process being coordinated by Wayne State University and, more recently, the beginning of the first master plan review since the 1960s, by the planning commission.

Such efforts are crucial, Bush said, to an older city that is virtually 100 percent developed.

"I don't think our issues are the same as in other communities," said Bush, who as a Realtor shows prospective homeowners around some of Farmington's neighborhoods. "We are almost totally developed. But, as an older community, we have to strive and work hard to maintain—which Frank (Lauhoff) does a great job at."

Mitchell, who calls himself more a public servant than politician, said all of the downtown planning projects are happening for a reason.

"We're looking to the future ... It's going to pay dividends," he said. "We try to stay a step ahead, we're constantly looking to improve ourselves. If we don't, we'd see a deterioration. But we're not going to allow that to happen."

Candidates' goals: Keeping downtown vital, prosperous

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Once again, the Farmington City Council race is uncontested. On Tuesday, barring any unforeseen write-in candidacy, voters will re-elect incumbents Mary Bush, Arnold Campbell and James Mitchell.

A low turnout of the city's 7,000 or so registered voters is forecast. For those who do vote, the only question is who will get the pair of four-year terms and who will finish third and wind up with a two-year stint.

Why do you want to continue on council?

Bush: "I guess I'm a firm believer that local government is not a spectator sport. I really feel the years coming up on council will provide a special opportunity for all of us to shape the future of Farmington. I want to be part of that process."

Campbell: "There are a lot of things that need to be done in the community, such as continuing the development and viability of the downtown. And maintaining our very good city services, including public safety."

Mitchell: "Being on the city council is a public service position and I've really enjoyed it. We have a good city manager and staff, and it's a great community to live in ... A lot of things are going on in the city right now."

What are your strengths?
Bush: "Being open-minded, having the ability to clearly view both sides of a situation ... Anybody that knows me knows of my love and dedication to the community and what it stands for."

Campbell: "My strength is the ability to work with a variety of

different people, being able to research and understand the issues, compromise and achieve win-win results."

Mitchell: "I think I look at a lot of the details of things, the way things function and operate, as well as the big picture. I guess, there are times I read something and I feel I can question things on a specific issue ... At the same time, I'm not there to question what the city manager does."

What is your greatest contribution so far to the council?

Bush: "Time spent serving the people. For all practical purposes, city council is community service. Sure, we receive a salary (\$800 per year), but with the hours and time spent, it would certainly come down to pennies per hour."

Campbell: "I would say organization. Also, continually reviewing efficiencies (improvements) that could be done. For example, I was instrumental in getting the city to develop a Web page."

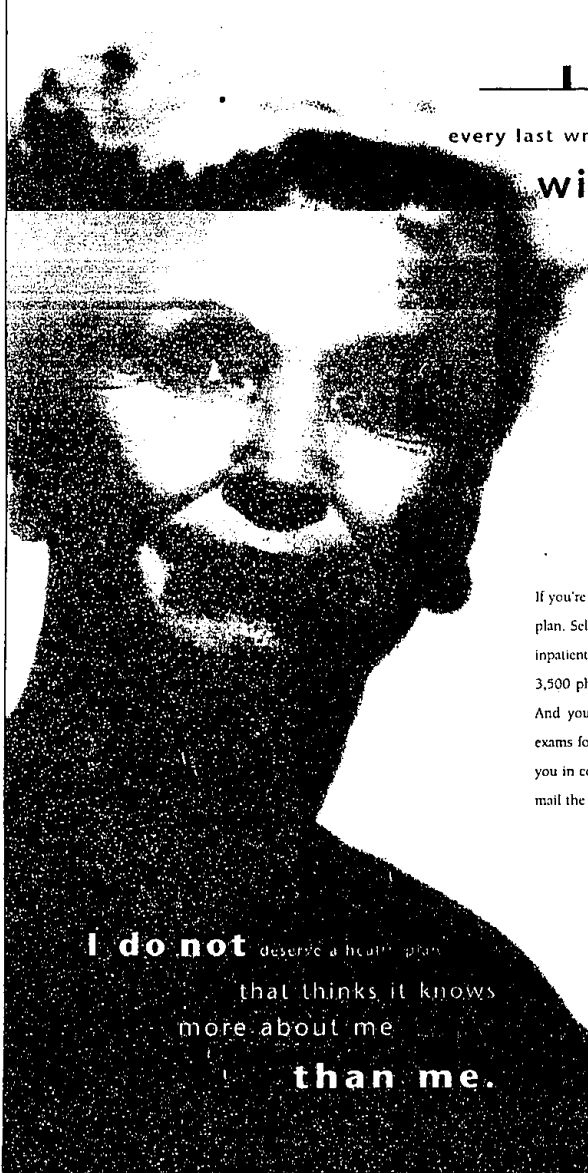
Mitchell: "Participation at a lot of (city) events lets people know I'm present, to provide my input. I try to participate in as many activities as I can and be involved in boards and commissions." For example, he stepped up to join the new historical committee, which is working to develop a multi-pronged vision for the Warner Museum: in marketing, fund-raising and public awareness.

What goals have you set?

Bush: "We really need to get the word out about the (historical) museum committee. A lot of people don't realize it's a city-owned property and, like any old building, it requires maintenance and repair." She also cited the various long-range planning efforts for downtown, those being done by the DDA as well as the "visioning" process being facilitated by Wayne State University.

Campbell: "Having a viable downtown is important, not only to the city of Farmington, but to the surrounding areas ... We're the center for the community. It's important we have a very aggressive and busy downtown, a place people think about coming to."

Mitchell: Like the other candidates, he listed the importance of improving downtown, partly to spur on businesses and residences in the rest of Farmington. "It becomes infectious. Once you see the development in downtown, you'll see it take off in other pockets of the city."



I did not earn

every last wrinkle to be dealt

with disrespect.

I did not work my whole

life to be told what

to do when I retire.


I do not

deserve a health plan

that thinks it knows

more about me

than me.



selectcare
MEDICARE GOLD
we're changing healthcare. For Good.

888-506-GOLD

Mail to: SelectCare Medicare Gold
2401 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 700, Troy, Michigan 48064

Name _____

Address _____

City / Zip _____

Phone _____

SelectCare Medicare Gold is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with a Medicare contract. Anyone with Medicare living in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County may apply. You must continue to pay Medicare Part D premiums and use plan providers. Up to a \$1,000 annual limit on prescriptions.

\$ CASH \$
Waiting For You At
Italia Jewelry
Bring In All Of Your
Old Diamonds & Gold
ROLEX
Watches Wanted
Any Condition
\$199 BATTERIES
for Most Watches
Excluding Lithium • Waco • Limit One
23463 W. 7 Mile Rd. Livonia • (424) 442-7878

THINKING ABOUT...
AIR CONDITIONING
CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE QUOTE
(248) 476-7022
D&G HEATING & COOLING
19140 Farmington Road • Livonia

BLINDS DIRTY?
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
Verticals • Mini-Blinds
Venetians • Pleated Shades
Curtain & PVC, etc.
Ultra Sonically Cleaned &
Pressed, Bentons & Distorted
Slats Protected, Lubricated
Working Mechanisms
Get the 5th Blind FREE up to 60"
Alexander's Blind Cleaning
Fully Insured • On Site Mobile Service
1-800-254-6344

**How To Avoid The
Biggest Mistakes Most
Home Sellers
Make...Free Report
Saves You Thousands!**
Farmington, MI - To get a copy of
this truth revealing FREE
REPORT that tells all you need
to know, call 1-800-555-3217 Ext.
114, 24 hrs. for a Free Recorded
Message. Discover how to avoid
costly mistakes with little-known
insider tips and techniques!
www.alexanderreport.com