

## Hills council

### Ellis, Grant, Kurzeja merit votes

Farmington Hills voters are lucky to have four proven, qualified candidates in the running for three city council positions. We believe that **Jerry Ellis, Jon Grant and Massie Kurzeja** would be the best for the council.

Overall, it's safe to say folks in the community seem quite contented with the job being done by city government in Farmington Hills. Only four candidates filed for three seats, and nobody filed to run against Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. That says a lot about the level satisfaction with city services, development issues, traffic and decisions being made — or it says something about apathy.

Either way, all four candidates — Ellis, Grant and Kurzeja plus incumbent Cheryl Oliverio — deserve some of the credit for that current level of satisfaction, since they've all been involved in city government to various degrees in recent years.

Ellis has proven to be a valuable asset in his first year on city council. The attorney with a background of community involvement has shown a proclivity for taking the bull by the horns on otherwise thorny issues. Before becoming a councilman, Ellis used his place on the parks and recreation commission to lead development of the city's parks through outside grants and helping craft the plan to build an ice arena without using tax money.

Councilman Ellis is also credited with fashioning the city's recent cellular tower ordinance. He put in the legwork, joined city administrators in writing an ordinance and seems to have satisfied both the residents and the cellular telephone industry. At the council table, Ellis uses his legal credentials to ask pointed questions on important issues, rather than making comment for the sake of hearing his own voice.

Grant, a two-term incumbent, is truly one of the doers in Farmington Hills, the "go to" person on countless projects. He grew up in the community and has been involved — usually in a leadership position — in a diverse number of groups including the Eight Mile Road Boulevard Association, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Children, Youth & Families, the Farmington Fam-

ily YMCA and much more. He owns a business in the community and he's one of those who is always willing to pitch in where it's needed.

On the council, Grant provides thoughtful views with an eye toward neighborhood and business concerns. He also keeps an objective perspective on the effect of issues for the entire city. He has keyed on much-needed technology improvements for city employees, while also pushing the causes of the fine arts and city's youth center.

Kurzeja may not be a typical council member, but she's still an asset. She brings decades of experience fighting for her Old Towne part of the city, plus service on the Zoning Board of Appeals and half a year on city council just over a year ago. So far in this race and at her only debate appearance, she's been the only one to bring up some issues that need airing.

On the parks millage, she wants to know about the seed money for an aquatic center and she's asking good questions. On roads, she's the only one saying that, yes, some of our roads will need a third lane, to allow left-hand turns while still allowing other traffic to move along. On development, her view reflects many residents who feel the city needs tougher ordinances and tougher resolve by council to defend them. We disagree only with her seeming willingness to spend more time in court defending city issues. We prefer the art of compromise outside a courtroom for resolving most of these types of issues. But we think her plain-talking, maverick viewpoint deserves a place on the council.

In her four-year term, Oliverio has played a role in bringing public attention to and developing an action plan for the deteriorated state of the farm buildings at Heritage Park. She has proven an unassuming but reasoned voice on council.

As stated earlier, voters really can't go wrong in this election. But we endorse **Jerry Ellis, Jon Grant and Massie Kurzeja** on Nov. 4.

P.S. It goes without saying that we endorse incumbent Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, who is unopposed and one of city's best and most popular ambassadors.

## Fun, common sense should reign

Halloween began more than 2,000 years ago as a night when Celtic tribes communed with the spirits of the ancestral dead, according to the researchers at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

For Christians, it's the evening before All Saint's Day (Nov. 1). It was originally called All Hallow's Eve, which became Hallow's Eve and eventually, Halloween.

Halloween has gone through many changes. Trick or treating was one of the last elements to emerge in the celebration of American Halloween. It became popular after 1920 and first began during the Thanksgiving holiday when children dressed up and begged from house to house on the last Thursday in November. Later, people began trick or treating for Halloween to scare off ghosts and goblins by dressing up in costumes.

Halloween conjures up many images in this area. In years past, tainted candy and debates about witchcraft and violence have tarnished what had been a very popular event for many youngsters and adults.

For most, Halloween is a time for kids to get dressed up in costumes and go from house to house learning that their neighbors are nice, generous people who are willing to carve up a pumpkin with a scary or silly face and stand on the porch handing out candy or other goodies. Farmington even duplicated the idea for its downtown businesses, a tradition that



Treats only: Dennis Hall hands out candy in downtown Farmington Saturday as 5-year-old Emily Prog of Farmington gladly accepts.

continued for a couple thousand costumed visitors Saturday.

And these days, many homeowners are doing more than carving up pumpkins. Many are decorating with lights and other displays that rival many a Christmas light display.

There's plenty of activity at Halloween time — parties, communitywide trick or treating at shopping malls and downtown areas along with the traditional neighborhood ritual.

Halloween can be just a fun evening that allows children to use their imaginations to make up costumes. It lights up neighborhoods with decorations.

So, play it safe, use common sense, but have some fun!

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### QUESTION:

How do you plan to celebrate Halloween?



We asked this question at Big Apple Bagel in Farmington.

Arthur Kilpatrick  
Livonia



"We're very conservative about Halloween. What we do pass it out is coins: We don't give out candy."

Marlene Kilpatrick  
Livonia



"The traditional way with candy and the children wearing costumes during the day at school."

Mary Kehrl  
Plymouth



"Got candy."

Zachary Fischer, 3  
Farmington Hills

## LETTERS

### Commending good works

Al I too often, good works by dedicated public servants go without acknowledgment. I am writing to publicly express appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the Mayor, Mr. Aldo Vagnozzi and council members Mr. Jerry Ellis, Mr. Jon Grant and Mrs. Cheryl Oliverio in crafting the most enlightened cellular and wireless communication ordinance in the country. As a member of the cellular study commission, I can personally attest to the complexity of the federal and local issues that had to be reconciled. The wishes of the powerful telecommunication industry versus local resident concerns for the sanctity of residential neighborhoods and conforming use. These individuals in particular distinguished themselves as proponents for the resident's welfare. They should be commended. May their good works continue.

Alan Vosko  
Farmington Hills

### Revise IRS system

What with the recent hue and cry about the many unjust actions of the IRS it's high time to completely change the system.

For far too long the bureau has had far too much power and can break someone without notice.

Many innocent people have suffered because of this display of power and they are apparently only answerable to themselves.

A great many people are scared to death by the IRS and that is apparently the way they want it.

In a large part, the American people are very good about paying their taxes. Certainly there must be a better way, and far less costly, to collect our taxes.

It's high time the president and Congress take this sword of Damocles off our heads.

Ross Rhinehart  
Livonia

### The Day Earth Stood Still

The month of sweet October

when the harvest had come in was the sweetest of Octobers that there has ever been.

The skies were full of blue the trees were full of green, The colors changed more slowly That October so serene.

'Twas the year of ninety-seven, that October so serene, The day was twenty-seven, four days to Hallowe'en.

The day the markets crashed all around the world, a day in calm October when the money flags unfurled.

The market symbols clashed with a clap of thunder, The fabric of the mighty Dow was left in shreds asunder.

They tried to cool things off for about an hour. But it was to no avail. Some had no buying power.

The bears had at the bulls this time. Each ever to contend. Soon there was a halting and they rested once again.

Well, then, what if any conclusion can we draw? That bulls and bears will always be at the hoof and claw.

There is no learning here, what ever can we do? The thirty-first day of October gives us a holiday BOO!

Ray Knes  
Farmington

### Above public scrutiny?

Regarding Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi's venomous comments about me in the Oct. 9 Observer:

Frankly, I don't care what Mr. Vagnozzi thinks about me, but at least he seems to be beginning to pay attention to people, even including myself, just a plain ordinary citizen. But let me be more specific about his comments.

First, Mr. Vagnozzi doesn't like me because several years ago I referred to him as being a link or so down from the top of the food chain. Second, he apparently believes his own and Chief Dwyer's press. Third, I did say that I thought Kevorkian assisted suicides must be investigated. I know there is no law in Oakland County against assisted suicide. I suggested that leaving dead bodies lying around in motel rooms and such might be prosecuted not the suicide. Fourth, so what if I question police practices, coincidentally when a police officer was injured in performance of his duty? Does he think the police are above public scrutiny? Does he think he can fool all the people all the time?

So the police get awards, so what? They get awards for not much more than showing up for work on time.

Fifth, I did not say police spend too much time trying to cut down accidents by reducing speeding nor did I say they should not try to keep young kids from smoking. What kind of a mayor is this guy who can't seem to get anything straight?

If we have a mayor who sees everything public officials do through rose colored glasses and that citizens such as myself do not have the right to criticize government; what does that say about Mayor Vagnozzi?

Kenneth Kemp  
Farmington Hills

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— Philip Power

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

This week in history as reported in past editions of the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Enterprise.

### 40 YEARS AGO - OCT. 31, 1957 (ENTERPRISE)

The editorial page noted the closing of Farmington Mills, a 62-year grist mill run "faithfully, honestly and well" by the Gildemeister family for that entire time. "There is likely some poetic justice in the fact that the site of the city's oldest business, which has given so much in the way of service, will some day become the city community center..."

### 25 YEARS AGO - OCT. 28-29, 1972

A giant puddle on Kenwood Street near Eight Mile Road could finally be drained under plans for an assessment district to pave and drain Tuck, Radcliffe, Eldred and Kenwood streets. The so-called Lake Kenwood, nearly 6-feet deep in some places, is caused by a plugged storm drain.

### 2 YEARS AGO - OCT. 30, 1995

Farmington Hills officials were taking their case against a proposed waste treatment plant in Commerce Township to Lansing.