

★ Farmington Hills City Council Election ★

Farmington Hills voters will choose three people for four-year city council terms on Tuesday, Nov. 4. The four candidates were asked to answer the following three questions in 75 words or less.



Jerry Ellis
Age 53
Resident 22 years
Employed as an attorney
Community service:
Incumbent, 1 year on city council; former parks and recreation board member, chair.



Jon Grant
Age 45
Resident 41 years
Owner of Reliance Group printing
Community service:
Incumbent, 5 years on city council.



Massie Kurzeja
Age 60
Resident for 36 years
Employed as data input/billing, Top Flight Avionics
Community service:
6 months on city council, 10.5 years on zoning board, Grand River Corridor Committee



Cheryl Oliverio
Age 43
Resident for 10 years
Employed in warranty department, Bob Sellers GMC
Community service:
Incumbent, 4 years on city council

1 What is your top priority for the city of Farmington Hills in the coming year, and how will you deal with the issue?

Ellis: The major issue facing Farmington Hills is keeping commercial development out of residential neighborhoods. I drafted an ordinance that kept the cellular industry from placing towers and antennas in residential areas while not inhibiting their ability to operate. I would continue to look for innovative solutions to the complex problems that will be brought on by the deregulation of the electrical utilities and the continuing development and redevelopment of Farmington Hills.

Grant: My top agenda item is technology. We are currently approximately 50 percent completed with phase one: network design, hardware installation and training. The next phase is probably the most important: analyzing departmental needs for software solutions. I plan to spend a good deal of time involved in this phase of the project. We will be seeking cost saving solutions for each department, looking at ways to begin generating cost efficiencies from our technology investment.

Kurzeja: Farmington Hills has grown rapidly and our infrastructure is showing the strain. Council must carefully scrutinize all development in order to foster improvements to our roads and water system. Zoning ordinances control the quality and character of our city and its neighborhoods. We absolutely must adhere to and defend our zoning ordinances. Top priority should be given to revising and enforcing our ordinances to protect current residents, the remaining wetlands and open space.

Oliverio: Public Safety is our top priority. Our fire department is working jointly with Community EMS to improve emergency service and response time. We are also improving our community policing by putting more police officers in the neighborhoods. None of this could be accomplished without the cooperation of the residents with their support of the Public Safety Millage two years ago. Working together as a community, we can enhance this Quality of Life issue.

2 Please explain your view of the city's parks millage renewal on the ballot in November.

Ellis: I support the renewal of the parks and recreation millage so we can continue to provide the quality facilities and programs that the citizens of Farmington Hills deserve. The millage renewal will enable us to continue our senior citizens programs and our youth programs. It will also provide us with the funds to acquire more park land, upgrade San Marino, consider building an aquatic park and provide for the cultural arts.

Grant: This Parks and Recreation renewal is critical to the continued quality of life in Farmington Hills. The proposal incorporates two new, highly regarded issues: Cultural Arts and an Aquatic facility. Senior, youth, bike path and park facility programming are also critical. I supported the operation and maintenance of existing facilities to come from this millage before we programmed dollars for new facilities. It is crucial that we not burden our general fund with these expenses.

Kurzeja: At the risk of sounding un-American, I cannot give 100 percent support to the current proposal. It is my belief that we should maintain what we have while being cautious about investments that effect our future. This proposal includes \$2 million "seed" money for an aquatic center without spelling out important facts: total cost, location, size, capacity, employee liability, etc. The millage expires in 1999 so there is ample time remaining for study and revision.

Oliverio: The residents of this community have always supported our Parks and Recreation Millage. We have been responsive to their priorities. Our park system has grown. This millage renewal is needed to continue to maintain our parks, and expand our programming. We are proposing exciting new projects requested by the community. This renewal will enable us to continue operating one of the finest parks and recreation programs in the country, without raising taxes.

3 Why should voters elect you to city council?

Ellis: I should be re-elected because I am dedicated, capable, and have a record of getting things done. I've been involved in bringing over \$6 million in grants to Farmington Hills to help develop our parks. I devised the plan to build the ice arena without the use of tax dollars. I drafted the ordinance that kept cellular antennas out of our neighborhoods. In short, I can find innovative solutions to the issues facing the city.

Grant: I believe my broad base of community involvement and business experience bring an important perspective, working network and balance to our council bench. I have the background, experience and character to make the tough decisions that come before us as the voters' representatives. I'm committed to representing the residents' desire for the community, keeping in mind I must represent the city's best interest, as a whole.

Kurzeja: Voters value experience. My experience includes being a city council member, serving 10 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, vice chair for the Grand River Corridor Committee and participation on numerous ad-hoc committees. I welcome the opportunity to use my experience and insight to help residents preserve all that is good about our city. My 30-year tenure as a resident gives me a unique perspective and appreciation for Farmington Hills and its residents.

Oliverio: I have worked very hard during my four years on council to listen and respond to residents' concerns. This is confirmed by my direct communication with the voters. Working in the city and being involved in my children's activities gives me the opportunity to be in constant contact with the community issues. My strength in serving the residents is the grass roots approach of knowing and understanding neighborhood concerns.

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