

Apathy rules at Precinct No. 6

Only 4 voters cast ballots there Tuesday

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't at all what Marjorie Nonian expected for her first time working as a voting precinct chairwoman.

In last Tuesday's elections, her 6th Precinct had what is believed the lowest voter turnout ever in Farmington Hills when only four voters showed up at the polling place in the North Congregational Church on 12 Mile.

And when an Observer reporter telephoned her Friday about the dubious distinction, her precinct has 1,409 registered voters - she was chagrined, though not too surprised.

"I figured something like that," said the former civics teacher. "Isn't it a shame about the political apathy we have in this country?"

The precinct was created two years ago in a redrawing that was suggested by the state when the original Precinct 20 exceeded the 2,500-voter limit.

That precinct was bounded by 13 Mile and 14 Mile roads, with Haggerty on the west and Halsted on the east and included many single family dwellings, according to Barb Haller, voter registration director in the city clerk's office.

Precinct No. 6 now consists solely of the 216-unit Crossroads condominium complex and two apartment complexes - the 240-unit Village Green Apartments and the 252-unit Country Ridge Apartments, all of which are located along Haggerty Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile.

City officials noted that city elections usually have light turnouts and that apartment-dwellers tend to be more transient and feel a lot less affected by such elections.

But Nanian wasn't impressed. An attorney who also works as a substitute teacher at Manogian Charter School in Southfield, where her son attends, Nanian is the granddaughter of Armenian refugees who escaped the horrible massacres of World War I in their native Turkey.

Ironically, Nanian had been substituting at the school this week and found herself asking her young charges - many of whom are children of recent immigrants from the former

Soviet Union, Iran and Turkey - if they knew "What was special about this Tuesday?"

"She has to explain it was election day and that 'people in this country get to pick their leaders.'"

"You couldn't do that where you came from," she told them. "How lucky you are to be living in this country!"

She plans to suggest to her principal that, come the next election, the children visit a polling place and see the voting machines and the voting process.

At her precinct on Tuesday, she said, the first two voters came at 8 and 9 a.m., with the other two later in the afternoon. And she had to turn away two voters who came to the wrong polling place.

"Actually, I was glad I had a small turnout because I got to handle all the details of the job and be sure I did it right," Nanian said.

And... in between voters?

"We solved all the world's problems and I got to catch up on a whole month's worth of Observers," she said.

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by Herbert W. Gardner, D.D.S., & Martha P. Zinderman, R.H., D.D.S.

ALL COMES OUT IN THE WASH

Back in 1992, a National Cancer Institute study linked alcohol in mouthwashes with oral cancer. The concern that centered largely on mouth rinses with high alcohol content has now all but been discarded due to the latest findings of an FDA advisory panel. This is good news for those concerned with maintaining good oral health because the non-alcohol mouthwashes found to be most effective in combating plaque and gingivitis are those that contain higher concentrations of alcohol. The alcohol in these mouthwashes acts as a solvent for the active ingredients. Those rinses with other lower concentrations of alcohol or no alcohol at all are either less effective in fighting plaque and gingivitis, or their effectiveness remains unproven.

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PHARMACY INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE

AGENDAS

Farmington Hills Council
City Hall, 474-8115
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10
Public hearing on rezoning requests for Phoenix Land Development on south side of 13 Mile, east of Orchard Lake.
Consider approval of comfort station at Founders Sports Park.
Consider constructing three new soccer fields and reconditioning three existing fields at Founders Sports Park.

Consider forming task force to study sister cities program.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority
City Hall, 478-1219
8 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12
Agenda items include:
Business recruitment, executive director's reports.
Grisini-Metz presentation on downtown planning.

CLARIFICATION

A 41-year-old Redford Township man, who formerly taught special education students in Farmington, pleaded no contest rather than guilty to reduced charges of criminal sexual conduct.

An article in Thursday's Farmington Observer incorrectly reported the plea of Jeffrey A. Downing, who was accused of exchanging marijuana for sex with two, teen-aged brothers.

He pleaded no contest to two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct on the day his trial was scheduled to begin.

Both of the victims formerly lived in north Redford in the neighborhood where Downing lived alone, township police said.

He originally was charged with six counts of first-degree CSC, but avoided trial by pleading no contest to the lesser felony offenses as a result of a plea bargain agreement between assistant Wayne County prosecuting attorney Patricia Leonard and defense lawyer Eric Lumborg.

A no contest plea means the defendant does not admit guilt on the record, but is not disputing wrongdoing, said a spokeswoman for Wayne Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenney.

Fire from page A1

trailer to visit at a neighboring trailer and noticed his trailer was burning about 2:10 a.m.

He ran back to the trailer and began banging on it to awaken Bake, who then jumped through the window.

Fire investigators found a smoke detector and battery at

the scene, but could not tell if it had been functioning at the time the fire broke out.

Firefighters from Stations No. 3 and 4 took about 42 minutes to halt the fire. No other trailers were damaged, the Manor spokesman said.

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Troy A. Burns, M.D., Founder/Medical Director

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JOINT INJECTIONS AND JOINT PAIN

When in pain, prevention is not better than a pinch of cure.

At times, the best therapy for a painful swollen knee is the removal of any excess fluid from the joint and the injection of a steroid preparation into the knee.

Would someone with arthritis of the knee benefit from an injection of steroid before the knee pain flares again? The question arises when a person with arthritis is prone to take a long trip and wants to be as well as possible during that time.

The medical answer is that such preventive therapy is not possible. The reason is twofold. First, steroids put out inflammation but do not prevent it. Second, if you have the flare from spreading from joint to joint. However, if you have the flare from the joint itself, you may only need the steroid in the joint. Water is beneficial only after the flare begins. The steroid holds for several joint injections, which are helpful only when the pain, heat and irritation of inflammation begins.

Second, is the problem of knowing that the knee or any other joint which you want arthritis prevented, is it the joint is ready to become inflamed. The experience of patients and doctors shows that it is impossible to know which joint and at what time swelling and pain will occur. You may call for joint injection in the knee, when the joint is ready to flare in the shoulder. The general rule of prevention being better than cure does not fit for joint injection therapy.

Orthodontics
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

A CHECK OF EARLY HABITS

When young children persist with such habits as a reverse swallow, tongue thrusting or sucking their thumb, their teeth can be affected by the pressure exerted by their fingers or lower lip. Over time, this may lead to tooth movement. Orthodontists encourage the correction of such habits before any orthodontic treatment begins, lest the habits create the same pre-treatment conditions once orthodontic appliances are removed. The fact is that the positioning of "baby" teeth can significantly affect the look and health of the permanent teeth that replace them. Because maloccluded baby teeth may block the eruption of permanent teeth, it is a good idea to have young mouths checked for indications of habitual behavior that may adversely affect kids.

Most babies need to suck on a thumb, finger, or pacifier to comfort themselves. It is the fortunate one who finds other ways of soothing themselves. Parents often debate which is better: having a baby go to sleep with a pacifier or find their thumb if waking is what is needed. There are advantages and disadvantages to both of these habits. If you would like additional information on today's column, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP at 440-5853. One office is conveniently located at 10223 Merriman.

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