

Marks in 19th District race Fees

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2 Hills council vets among 3 in GOP primary

Pledging to maintain the conservative stance of the current commissioner, Ben Marks is running for the 19th District Oakland County Commission seat.

"Although I'll bring my own spin to it, obviously," said Marks, who is executive director of Longacre House.

Marks, 74, former Farmington Hills councilman and mayor as well as past president of the Michigan Municipal League, said he'll maintain a strong, conservative voice of the current 19th District Commissioner Donn Wolf.

"I know what I can do; I know where to go. I know a lot of the people there and they understand me," he said. "People from county committee he serves on know I say what I think and I try to think it out."

Wolf announced he will not seek re-election in order to spend more time with his grandchildren. Farmington Hills Councilman Terry Sover and Jo Anne Molin of Northville will

take part in the Republican primary Aug. 4. Molin could not be reached for comment. Deborah Goldberg of Farmington will run unopposed in the Democratic runoff.

The 19th District includes all of Farmington, southern Farmington Hills and a precinct in Southfield. The position pays \$25,000 annually.

Marks said he will protect the interests of local residents while maintaining a county perspective.

The Farmington Hills resident serves on an ad hoc committee addressing the Emergency 911 issue. He's also worked on a county solid waste committee.

Marks served on Farmington Hills City Council 1984-93, including an appointed term as mayor.

"I've kept my hand in county and state politics ever since I left the council," he said.

"You have to give up a little parochialism because what you do there affects the entire coun-

ty. I don't ever want to see Farmington, Farmington Hills or this district get short shrift. You're the watchdog."



Ben Marks

Marks is active in GOP politics and is president of the 400-member Farmington Area Republican Club. Partisan politics is part of the landscape, even at the county level, he said.

"You have to know when to do things with the party and know how to things without the party. And that's where the experience comes in," he said.

As a member of the Emergency 911 Committee, Marks is against the 4-percent user fee being proposed. The term user fee is not being used properly, Marks said.

"I don't have an option here; this is a tax," he said. "A user fee gives me the opportunity to use it or not."

"I believe if the electorate wants it, they should have a chance to vote for it."

Budget hearing set

The Farmington Board of Education will host a public hearing about the 1998-99 budget at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Lewis Schulman Administration Building, on Shiloh Road.

The hearing will precede the regular board meeting, when the \$117 million budget could be approved.

have to make up the difference, Grant said. "They're still going to give the church their cut," Grant added.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi disagreed, saying the fee increase will cut into non-profit organization proceeds.

In order to get off the merry-go-round discussion, council members agreed to put the carnival permit at half of Grant's proposal — \$120 — and look at the issue again later.

Vagnozzi asked that each proposed increase be voted on separately. Councilwoman Vicki Barnett and Vagnozzi voted "no" on increasing fees for carnival and special event permits.

Fee increases approved for copies of agendas and meeting minutes still don't cover employee cost involved putting them together. But under the Freedom of Information Act, it's more important people have access to those materials, city officials said.

Agendas and meeting minutes are typically available for free when picking them in person at the City Clerk's Office.

People will now be charged \$50 for a mail subscription, instead of \$25. Developers and other for-profit groups subscribe to meeting minutes and agendas in order to keep track of council and commission business, said Kathy Dornan, Farmington Hills city clerk.

Many user fees have not increased in 15 years, Dornan noted.

Wasting the day away



Record crowd: "It's the biggest turnout we've ever had," said Haven King, special projects coordinator for Farmington Hills, regarding the Hazardous Waste Disposal Day Saturday. In all 924 carloads — 208 from Farmington and 716 from the Hills — dropped off items unfit for trash or recycling bins. Above, Waste Management employees Paul Wonsack and Dave Collinge collect and sort recyclables.

In line: Alex Hines, 5, and his mother, Sandra Hines of Farmington Hills, wait about 15 minutes to turn in a year's worth of batteries.



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