

Pair from page A1

precincts, Cantrell said, to avoid any "hint of impropriety" that could bog down the election process. Every detail is closely scrutinized and must be handled according to specifications.

Although it would be nice for Harry and Phil to work out of the same precinct, being separated isn't so bad. They do get to meet for dinner, over at O'Sheehan's Pub. The restaurant's employees know the election workers and that they need to get back to their stations quickly.

"You have to keep moving to eat in an hour," said Harry.

Added Phil, "Most of the time we wear a badge. They serve us immediately."

The Farises, parents of four adult children, put in the long hours for mealy pay (\$75), but that doesn't bother them. For them, doing their civic duty is the real payoff.

"It's a nice thing to do for the city," Phil said. "I think you feel accomplished when you do something like this."

Not for everybody

One reason the couple comes back every time Cantrell or Schmidt calls is the difficulty in recruiting younger election helpers. Younger workers often make up families where both husband and wife work. Getting time off from work can be difficult if not impossible for such families.

"Younger people, at some point, will have to assume responsibility," Phil said. "But when you have little children at home, what are you going to do? And while the job has its

'Younger people, at some point, will have to assume the responsibility. But when you have little children at home, what you going to do?'

Phil Faris
—Precinct worker

rewards, it isn't for everybody.

The pace of the long day can be either rapid-fire or slow enough to border on boredom. To deal with boredom, precinct workers bring in books, magazines and decks of cards.

"During the lulls you do read a little bit," Harry said. "But we mainly talk."

According to the Farises, precinct workers also have to deal with slow pokes who don't have a clue who to vote for even when they go into the ballot booth.

"It's helpful if people read the ballots and study them before they come in (to vote)," he said. "And not when they're in the booth."

Meanwhile, precincts must have equal representation between the major political parties. If a voter is experiencing difficulty making decisions, and assistance is required, "You need one Democrat and one Republican to go into the booth," Phil said.

That's probably another reason why the Farises are assigned to different precincts. They're both Republicans.

Officials seek answers on vacant grocery store

More than one month after the Downtown Farmington Center Farmer Jack closed its doors for the final time, city officials are still wondering what's in store.

Nagging questions remain:

- Will Farmer Jack (and its parent, Greater Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.) cooperate with center landlord Kimco Realty Corp. to bring in a new supermarket?
- Will the chain keep the storefront vacant — even though Farmer Jack/A&P continues paying rent?

The store's status will be updated by city attorney John Donohue during Monday's Farmington City Council meeting, scheduled for 8 p.m. at 23600 Liberty.

Donohue's report will be based on his findings from a recent meeting with Farmer Jack/A&P officials, also attended by city officials including Mayor Mary Bush, Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Hartsack and City Manager Frank LaHoff.

"It'll be an opportunity to explain the status of Kimco's progress and A&P's cooperation," LaHoff said Thursday.

Donohue will "lay out the legal remedies that could be pursued" if the supermarket chain does not relinquish control of the downtown store to Kimco "in a reasonable period of time," LaHoff added.

There has been little progress since the store closed on June 27. But LaHoff again stressed the city's goal of being able to "protect the viability of downtown and not promote blight." And blight is something that the



Lonely stroll: This Downtown Farmington Center patron walks past window signs in front of the vacant Farmer Jack store. City officials plan on presenting a status report about the situation during Monday night's meeting.

city simply won't tolerate, LaHoff added.

On June 22, during a city meeting with Frank Descenzo, director of leasing at Kimco, councilmembers Arnold Campbell and Hartsack hinted strongly that the city would take legal action if the storefront were to remain vacant indefinitely.

Farmer Jack's lease with Kimco for the downtown site expires Sept. 30, 2001.

"We're worried about the possibility of them (Farmer Jack) holding the lease, you collecting the rent and us holding the bag," said Hartsack to Descenzo that night.

More than 800 residents

signed a petition requesting a top-quality, full-service grocery store for the vacant storefront. That petition was sent to Kimco's offices in Cleveland.

Meanwhile, Farmer Jack currently operates a larger store at Farmington Nine Mile, in the Crossroads Shopping Center.

Arraignment from page A1

Parker denied bond and Summerville was remanded to custody.

"Police termed the slaying a crime of passion. Investigators, who were alerted to the scene by

a friend who hadn't heard from Ellis in a week, found a knife with a 5-inch blade on the victim's wrist. A blade and broken parts of another knife were on the bed. Other evidence at the

scene indicated a struggle in the bedroom.

The victim's Jeep Cherokee and personal items from the apartment were stolen.

Summerville's name was found on numerous greeting cards in a file folder at the scene. The name matched one on a bloodied shirt that was found in a washing machine at the apartment, according to police.

Minneapolis police arrested Summerville on May 14 while he was driving the victim's Jeep.

Athletic director search hits snag

Farmington Public Schools' search for a new athletic director apparently is at a temporary standstill, following an unexpected setback.

The district administration thought it had lined up a successor for retired athletic director Ronald Holland and was recently prepared to recommend school board members hire that candidate. But the announcement was put on hold, pending additional talks.

Subsequently, that candidate

dropped out of the picture. Instead of finalizing the agreement and announcing the new hire, the district will now begin interviewing other candidates for the position.

"We don't have an athletic director at this point in time and we will be setting up interviews toward the end of (this) week," James Myers, the district's executive director for K-12 instruction and student services, said Thursday. "We're going back to the drawing board on this one."

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a true right to life candidate

- Occupations: Interior Designer, Ethan Allen, Inc. Livonia
- Religion: Catholic, Member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
- Previous Employment: Co-Owner of small retail business in Northville, 1981 to 1989
- Education: Graduated High School, Attended College and Continuing Education classes
- Memberships, Activities: Republican Women of West Oakland County, Italian American Club
- Family Information: Married, Mother of 3 daughters, presently raising 2 grandchildren, ages 3 and 6.
- Date of Birth: October 18, 1943

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Slurs from page A1

I'm not sure they thought it through."

Representatives from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council met Friday with employees and residents at Rainbow Rehabilitation — some who were shaken from the incident — to express support and reinforce that diversity is valued in the two cities.

"We wanted to reassure them that incidents like this will not be tolerated in the community and that this is not what our community represents," said Karen Bolson, the community council co-chair with Jim Hall.

"We want to extend ourselves to them. They did express that they felt the police did a fine job."

Bolson added that the council is "very pleased that the city of Farmington acted quickly to identify the responsible parties."

Karen Goss, house manager at Rainbow Rehabilitation, could not be reached for comment later Friday.

"Our attitude is the same as the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council," Goss said. "We want to create a healthy, safe living and working environment for all people. For all people. One that's sensitive to the richness and diversity in the

community."

The teenagers told police investigators that they tossed the two posters into the trunk of a car and started driving around the neighborhood looking for a place to leave them, Goss said.

"They had seen African Americans at that address, but I'm not sure they understood it was Rainbow Rehabilitation," Goss said. "It kind of clicked. But we found no evidence that they were targeting" that center.

An employee at Rainbow Rehabilitation found the posters on the front porch, sometime between 8:30-10:30 p.m., and contacted police.

One of the posters was covered with racial slurs, written in black ink. The second poster was the collage. At the bottom of the collage was a significant clue for the police. There was a partial address label.

Goss said the mailing label led to the arrests, that all of the teens confessed to participating in the act and that their parents "are very concerned" about the incident.

There is no connection between the Rainbow Rehabilitation incident and one taking place previously on Oakland, involving the discovery of anti-Semitic fliers, Goss added.

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