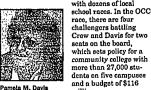
Retain OCC incumbents

mile, Carol L. Crow and Pamala M.
Davis, you've carned our endorsements for additional terms on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees.
On Monday, June 12, Oakland County voters — probably an embarrassingly few county
voters — will settle the OCC election, along
with dozens of local



All six candidates seem to care deeply about the quality of edu

cation in the far-flung OCC system, but we believe Crew and Davis deserve to be re-elected. In this particular election, we think experi-ence is to the candidates what location is to real

cstate — everything. Crew and Davis have made the most of their first terms on the board. Both have good attendance records.

Crew. a Waterford Township resident, seems to have matured into an effective trustee. Currently, she's the OCC Board Chair. A nurse in a psychiatric hospital, she has been known to start a work shift at 4 a.m. so that she's available for a typical ceremonial luncheon that board chairs have to attend.

Royal Oak resident Davis, who has served a building inspector in that city, has the

ability to cut through the bureaucratic non-sense to get to the heart of an issue. She seems to be without guile; what you see is

what you get. She keeps the board grounded.
"She's more like one of the (OCC) students
than anyone else on the board," said a long-

time OCC observer.

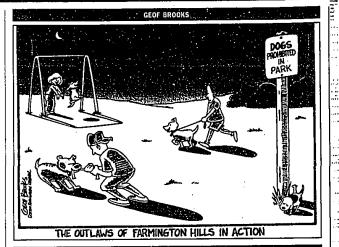
A note to Oakland voters: If you're thinking of skipping the OCC election, please think

OCC is a major part of the economic engine that drives Oakland County. With its 27,000-plus students, OCC is the 12th largest community college in the nation. The college has five campuses (Royal Oak, Southfield, Farm-ington Hills, Waterford and Auburn Hills), an extension center in downtown Pontiac and a district office in Bloomfield Hills. The campus-es consist of 46 major buildings containing 375 classrooms and laboratories.

In addition to those students who collect their associate degrees and go directly into the workforce, over 40 percent of OCC's grads go on to four-year colleges. The college also retrains 20,000 workers each year for the county's industries and is responsible for tak-ing hundreds of single parents off public assis tance and putting them on payrolls.

The seven trustees oversee a budget of \$116 million of which 58 percent is from Oakland County property taxes. Their actions have farreaching effects on the future of the school and the county.

So why do only 15,000 or so bother to vote in this important election? Unless a community has a hotly contested local school or a millage question, many tend to skip the June school elections. Perhaps school elections should be changed to coincide with Noven ber's general elections. It's something to think about . . . as you're voting in the OCC election Monday, June 12.



LETTERS

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity we ask that you provide a contact telepone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Joanne Maliszewski, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335, faxed to Joanne at (734) 459-2700 or emailed to jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net

'd like to share with you how fortunate I feel that Priscilla Brouillette is seeking re-election to the Farmington School Board. Prill has shown during her term on the school board that she is a caring, thoughtful listener who takes the time to learn all the facts before

casting her vote.

Prill is able to keep the needs of Farmington's children and youth at the forefront of all board discussions while still being sensitive to the needs of the teachers and administrators.

We are indeed fortunate to have someone of Prill's integrity and leadership skills working on behalf of our schools.

Deb and Paul Ramsey Farmington Hills

Vote for Marjorle

n election that is drawing little attention in the June 12 balloting for two positions on the Oakland County Community College board of trustees. That is also the same election for two Farmington school board members, both of whom are unopposed.

I want to call attention to the OCC trustee condidary of Mariore Nonin Muserian First

candidacy of Marjorie Nanian Mugerian. First of all she is a resident of Farmington Hills and with an OCC branch located in our city it would be nice to have someone from our com-

munity on the board.

Secondly, and more important, Mrs. Mugarian has a background of educational and community involvement that qualifies her to sit on the OCC board. This includes teaching in high school and junior high as well as in business college.

She is an attorney who was founder and president of the Armenian American Bar Association, as well as past president of the Parent-Teacher Association at a school for children with learning disabilities. Locally, she has been active as a board member of Fox-moor Subdivision Association in the 10 Mile

She has been in the private practice of lav since 1982, a published author and a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

I hope you will consider voting in this elec-tion and voting for Marjorie Mugerian. Aldo Vagnozzi Farmington Hills

Teens deserve credit

It is shameful for Rep. Andrew Raczkowski to imply to any parent that he was responsible for the county's decision to install a green arrow at the traffic light in front of Harrison High School. This is why I must respond to a

High School. This is why I must respond to a letter in your newspaper on June 1.

Three students, Andy Metry, Tony Kales and Nevin Hill, decided to take on the issue of traffic safety in front of their high school.

They were compelled as a result of the tragic accident involving a fellow student earlier this year. After meeting with Kevin McCarthy, the city's traffic safety engineer who recommended they involve County Commissioner Terry Sever, things began to happen.

The students met twice at 7 in the morning with Commissioner Sever and once with

The students met twice at 7 in the morning with Commissioner Sever and once with Kevin McCarthy and Dave Allen, the county's traffic safety engineer, to plead their case. They requested a public hearing with the Farmington Hills City Council and continued to meet in the morning prior to classes to produce a video and gather statistical information to support their need for change.

sults of their extra effort brought for-The results of their extra effort brought forward recommendations that exceeded those of previous studies. Their data, compassion and determination made it impossible for the Oakland County Road Commission to deny their request. Results Bair discrete afthrought. land County Road Commission to deny their request. Brent Bair, director of the County Road Commission, was impressed enough to commit to City Manager Stove Brock that the county would install the most advanced equipment. This will result in safety improvements any time the school creates traffic at that tersection. These remarkable teenagers made it hap

pen. They were the ones studying, recom-mending and pressuring the authorities to act. In fact, Rop. Raczkowski got involved weeks after Andy, Tony and Nevin created such an interest in this issue as a school assignment.

our teengare deserve to be recognized and credit must be given properly. Andy, Tony and Novin are examples for all of us that if you want to make a difference, you can! Adults must step back from the limelight and let our teenagers get their just reward and recogni-tion. They are our future, and they must believe in themselves!

Cheryl Oliverio Councilmember Farmington Hills

Incumbents deserve seats

outcome of the June 12 Farmington Public Schools election will be no sur-prise. Two seats are open and two incum-bents, board president Priscilla Brouillette ud trustee Gary Sharp, are seeking re-elec-

ition.
While turnout is expected to be low in this incontested race, we urge voters to get to the polls and cast ballots for Brouillette and

We are disappointed that no challengers earne forth in this election.

came forth in this election.

A contested race generally prompts debate and creates a need for more in-depth discussion of issues. It also forces incumbents to defend their positions and actually campaign for the seats to which they wish to be re-elect-

Without the benefit of a contested race, however, Brouillette and Sharp have nonetheless been visible during the campaign season. Both participated in a candidate debate hosted by the Farmington PTA Council and both have been conducting meetings with individ-ual school's parents and PTAs, speaking in opposition to the voucher proposal on the November ballot.

With or without a challenger, Brouillette descrives re-election. She clearly speaks for the students in the district, cares about them and ares about their education. But she remains ever mindful of the district as a whole, par-ents, administrators and educators.

enus, administrators and educators.

As board president this year, she has used for authority with care, attempting to strike a falance between the needs of all parties givolved in, and affected by, the school disfict. She speaks her truths quietly and clear-







legal background to sort through delicate, yet complicated issues. We wish Brouillette and Sharp good luck. We also urgo them to remain ever mindful of the public's right to know about what is hap-pening in the district. We also urge them to lead the way in encouraging parental involve-ment, not only in the schools, but at public board meetings. As we have said before, putting a parent off because of what he or she

has to say only leads to increased resentment

Sharp, an attorney, has shown he knows his stuff and, like Brouillette, is con-

erned about the students. He was appoint-ed to the board in 1998

after the resignation of Joe Svoke. He was then elected in June

1999 to serve the final

enr of Svoke's unexpired term.
There is no doubt

Sharp enjoys his work on the board. His

enthusiasm is evident, particularly for the

students and their accomplishments. In

the years to come, we expect Sharp will play

a key role, using his

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION: What are our plans for a summer

vacation?

We asked this question in front of the downtown Farmington Post Office.



"We're going to my Mom's. She's in Saugatuck."

Janet Diehi Farmington Hills



"We're going to going on pio-





"We're going to Norway, it's a family reunion."





"We're leaving for a cottage near Sault Sto. Marie."

Margaret Farmington Hills

Farmington Observer

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Our Mictor: "Recover me publish community newspapers, we think about community journalism in a fundamentally different way than our bigger competition. They consider themselves to be independent from the stories and communities they cover, swooning in to write the unusual or sensational and then dashing off to cover something else. We regard ourselves as both occurate journalists and as caring citizens of the communities where we work."

— Philip Power