

Seven file to serve on Hills City Council

BY KEVIN BROWN
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In this fall's version of "Survivor," three will win and four will fail.

Seven Farmington Hills city council candidates filed the required minimum of 146 signatures to get on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The candidates include three incumbents: Jon Grant, Jerry Ellis and Cheryl Olivero.

Joining them to vie for three available four-year terms are Randal Bruce, Ken Massey, Robert Webster and Jess Elson.

By the Tuesday filing deadline, only Webster's submitted petition signatures had yet to be certified.

Grant, 48, heads a printing and promotional products business. He has served 12 years on council and is seeking a fourth term. "I'm very interested in seeing through the 14 Mile and Northwestern project and the Eleven Pines project," he said.

"We have a good council and residents are happy with the direction of the city. I bring experience that has some value to the city, and I'm still interested in serving the community."

Olivero, 47, a warranty administrator with Bob Sellers Pontiac, has served eight years on council. "There's just some issues I would like to see through to completion - Eleven Pines, the 14 Mile-Northwestern Triangle project. I decided I wasn't ready to leave."

Randy Bruce, 41, has served as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for six and a half years. "It's given me a lot of very good experience with development issues with businesses and residences," said Bruce, adding

he's interested in a range of quality of life issues, including dog parks. "No government has more control over our lives than local government. I'm running because I'd like to have more of an input on how the city is developed."

Jerry Ellis, 67, has served five and a half years on council. "The present city council has put together a first-class management team," he said. "We have an award-winning fire department and police department; our youth program is a model for the nation," he said, adding more can be done.

Jess Elson, 55, who sells promotional advertising, said a change needed on city council.

"Some people who are there now are doing a fine job, but some don't have the people's concerns at heart. I'd like to make sure that people who come in with a concern or interest are heard and helped, instead of getting a lot of lip service."

Council candidates Ken Massey and Robert Webster could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Holiday trash pick-up delayed

Due to the Labor Day holiday, trash pick up in Farmington and Farmington Hills will be delayed.

There will be no trash pick-up on Monday. Pick up will be one day late. Monday's pick-up will be Tuesday. Tuesday's on Wednesday and so on.

For more information, call the Farmington Hills Division of Public Services, 553-8580 or the City of Farmington, 473-7250.

Mayor from page A1

and a former branch manager. "The job of the city is to protect residents and provide basic services and parks and recreation. One thing I'd like to see the city do is acquire more park land."

"Southfield has 37 parks and Farmington Hills eight," he said, adding, "I think the city has been too accommodating to developers over the years."

In announcing her candidacy in recent weeks, Bates said, "I'm really proud there's been no major mileage increase for six years. I've worked really hard to keep Farmington Hills family friendly and business friendly."

She cited her work to form community groups, including the Commission for Children, Youth and Families, the Mayor's Youth Council and the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation.

Bates also testified before the State Highway Commission in Lansing to seek legislative support for noise reduction efforts sought by some residents along I-276. She serves as vice-chairwoman on the National League of Cities human education development committee, and calls her

favorite job working with the youth council, because it's important to get young people involved in government.

Olivero said, "I don't think the city should redevelop every square inch. If the city turns into a series of giant malls and superstores, it's going to negatively impact the quality of life."

Asked how he'd seek to build support on the city council for programs, Olivero said, "If it's good for the city and council members have the city's best interest at heart, then the support will come naturally."

Olivero charges the city council "has not been up front about the Eleven Pines development." He said a \$5 million sewer fund, planned to be dedicated to the project, "is supposed to be used to repair storm sewers. People have leaking basements. Instead they use that as down payment for Eleven Pines."

He said there are 157 names on a petition supporting the golf course project, not the broad support the council maintains. "I'm of the opinion that if it's a good development, private enterprise should be assuming the question is, to what extent?"

Dead crows have been turned in to the Farmington Public Safety Department but none have tested positive for the West Nile Virus.

"I think it is a concern of everybody," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss. "We know that it is here, the question is, to what extent?"

Dead crows were found on Wittaker and Flanders Streets, and the area of Frederick and Cloverdale. According to Farmington Hills city naturalist Joe Derek, no dead crows have been reported there.

"If they're showing up in other communities, they're testing positive," he added. "It's probably here."

Derek said because the area has been fairly dry this summer,

there have been fewer mosquitoes.

People contract the virus by the bite of infected mosquitoes. The virus has infected crows, which usually die of the disease.

Area residents who observe the dead birds should either contact the Farmington Public Safety Department at (248) 474-

4700, the Farmington Hills Police Department (248) 473-

9800 or the Michigan Department of Community Health hot line, 1-888-668-0869.

The hotline asks the public to report both dead crows and blue jays, which are in the crow family. To date, no human cases of the West Nile Virus have been found in this area. Few people die from the infection.

As of Monday, eight crows

tested positive in Michigan - six in Oakland County, one in Macomb and one in Detroit.

The following is a list of recreational activities offered through the city of Farmington Hills. For information about any of these events, call (248) 473-1800:

FALL PROGRAMS

The Recreation Division is now accepting registration for scheduled fall leisure programs. The Recreation office is at 25600 11 Mile Road at the Costick Activities Center. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

The new Big Break Venue is open on selected Friday and Saturday nights and is held at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Current scheduled concert dates are Oct.

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LIVE MUSIC

The new Big Break Venue is open on selected Friday and Saturday nights and is held at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Current scheduled concert dates are Oct.

13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. All bands (alternative, jazz, rock, etc.) interested in playing at the Big Break Venue on a Friday or Saturday night can send or deliver a tape or CD to the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Attn: BB Live Music, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

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PUNT, PASS & KICK

Boys and girls ages 8-15 (age as of Dec. 31, 2001) have the opportunity to show their punting, passing and kicking skills in

a local PPK competition at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 14 and the program is free.

OPEN GYM

The William Costick Activities Center gym, on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster, is offering adult basketball 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sundays, adult volleyball 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays and teen basketball 1-3 p.m. Sunday.

Cost for residents 17 and younger is \$2, and \$4 for non-residents; and \$3 for residents 18 and older, \$5 for non-residents.

No West Nile found in local dead crows

BY SUE BUCK
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Universal precautions

Mike Wiggins, deputy director of the Farmington Public Safety Department, has advised his staff to use universal precautions. They will place the dead crow in a double plastic bag and will refrigerate but not freeze the crow prior to calling the MICH.

There is no evidence that a person can get the virus from live or dead infected birds. However, people should avoid handling live or dead infected birds with bare hands.

Crows killed by cars or in other ways should simply be reported as road kill to the Farmington Department of Public Works.

The West Nile virus has been identified in more than 70 species of birds found dead in the United States. Most of these birds were reported by the public.

West Nile virus is an inflammation of the brain caused by viruses and bacteria, including viruses transmitted by mosquitoes, according to the Centers for Disease Control's Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases.

The disease is caused by West Nile virus, which is commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. It is closely related to the St. Louis encephalitis virus found in the United States.

West Nile had not been documented in the Western Hemisphere until 1999. It is not known where the U.S. virus originated, but it is closely related genetically.

The virus is not transmitted from person-to-person, animal-to-person, or animal-to-animal.

There is no reason to destroy a dog or cat, for example, just because it has been infected with West Nile virus. Full recovery from the infection is likely.

West Nile virus can't be contracted from touching or kissing a person who has the disease or from a health care worker who has treated someone with the disease.

In areas where mosquitoes carry the virus, few mosquitoes — less than one percent — are infected. If the mosquito is infected, less than one percent of people who get bitten and become infected will get severely ill.

"The chances you will become severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small," according to the CDC's information.

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