

# Seven file to serve on Hills City Council

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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 148 signatures to get on the Nov. 6 ballot.

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

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, Oliverio'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."

Oliverio, 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 quit."

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 developing."

Jerry Ellis, 57, 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, 58, who sells promotional advertising, said a change is 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 or 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, 553-9580 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 tax millage increase for six years. I've worked really hard to keep Farmington Hills family friendly and business friendly."

She cites 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-275. 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.

Oliverio 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, Oliverio 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."

Oliverio 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 needs. "I'm of the opinion that if it's a good development, private enterprise should be assuming the

risk and reward for things like golf courses and country clubs," Oliverio said.

"Farmington Hills residents are very generous, but they abhor waste," Oliverio said. He is an American Legion member and an Army veteran during the Vietnam era and a past member of the city ethics committee.

Bates has said she plans to spend \$5,000 to \$6,000 on the campaign, for yard signs and mailings. Oliverio said he's budgeted \$10,000, adding he'll go door to door and promote his campaign Web site [www.ronformayor.com](http://www.ronformayor.com).

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 28600 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.

## RECREATION NEWS

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. Upon submitting a tape or CD, bands will be contacted if chosen to play at Big Break Venue. For more information please contact (248) 473-1805.

**FOOT, FASE & 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-resident, 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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Three 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 Quast. "We know that it is here, the question is, to what extent?"

Dead crows were found on Witteraker 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) 473-9600 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 infections.

As of Monday, eight crows tested positive in Michigan - six in Oakland County, one in Macomb and one in Detroit.

**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 MDCH.

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.

ly to Middle Eastern strains.

In 1999, 52 cases of severe disease, including seven deaths, occurred in the New York area. In 2000, 21 cases were reported, including two deaths in the New York City area.

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for a few days, according to CDC information. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit West Nile virus to humans and animals while biting to take blood.

The virus is located in the mosquito's salivary glands. During blood feeding, the virus may be injected into the animal or human, where it may multiply, possibly causing illness.

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.

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.

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**The Farmington Observer**

A HomeTown Communications Network publication  
33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335  
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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

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All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department. The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, Michigan 48335, (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric assumes no liability to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertised order.

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**ALL LEAGUES START EARLY SEPTEMBER**

**LEAGUE OPENINGS FOR:**

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