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outside help to contribute to these improvements.

Also participating in the forum were council candidates Randall Bruce, Jess Elson and Robert Monroe Webster. The forum was sponsored by the Farmington Area Republican Club. Candidates made opening and closing statements, and answered questions.

In an opening statement, Bruce, Zoning Board of Appeals chairman, said he offered experi-

ence the city would need in pursuing redevelopment.

"The only agenda I have is to make this city the best city I can make it," Bruce said, adding he would seek to rein in spending and keep taxes low, and that he would bring to council energy, drive, courage, creativity and ability to follow through on projects.

Elson, president of the Michigan Promotional Products Assoc-

iation, said he has talked to residents "about what they've received and not received in terms of quality sewer systems. We need to make sure our citizens are given choices they really want."

Elson said that through his business experience he has dealt with individuals, with big and small companies, and budgets.

"We need to work on big and small community issues," Webster, a former military counter intelligence officer who

is a project manager for Pitney Bowes, said he has served in a leadership role in every civilian and military community he has lived. He said the city should seek knowledge-based firms to lead redevelopment for the future.

Holding aloft recent city budget summaries, Webster said, "I'm very happy with what I've seen," adding, "I see the value of a development authority." He said that if the city had trouble providing services and making

needed infrastructure improvements, "I would raise property taxes as a last option to bring money to the budget."

Grant, a 12-year council veteran, said he was glad to have been part of council's accomplishments. He said they included buying park land and the Costick Center, not raising taxes in six years, operating the ice arena through user fees, and having nationally recognized police and fire departments. He said his involvement on several community boards has allowed council to be better informed.

"For 12 years my only agenda has been the best interest of the community," he said.

In his closing statement, Massey said voters "should ask why infrastructure questions haven't been handled to date."

"There are 7-to-nothing council votes too often. You should ask, 'Do I want new ideas and fresh approaches,'" he said, adding he would "pull together business and residential in a true partnership."

Ellis, like other incumbents, ticked off council accomplishments in recent years, including national recognition for a youth after-school program. He cited his work to keep cell towers out of residential areas, which included a trip to Washington, D.C., to get information and meet with lawmakers.

Oliverio, with eight years on council, said that before she votes on an issue she reads information provided to council, listens to council members and residents. She said being a great listener was a top skill she brings to council.



Randall Bruce



Jerry Ellis



Jess Elson



Jon Grant



Ken Massey



Cheryl Oliverio



Robert Monroe Webster

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DASHLEY

Students plan inspiring concert

By SUE BUCK
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A group of Farmington High School students is inviting the entire community to an Inspiration Concert to raise money for families in New York affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy at the World Trade Center.

"We want to raise money for the Firefighters Widows and Children's Fund," said organizer Jaymo Vainer, a junior.


The event called "A Night of Remembrance" takes place from 4-6 p.m. Oct. 13 at the pavilion in Heritage Park, which is located on the west side of Farmington Road between 10 and 14 Mile roads.

Vainer is joined in her efforts by other students in a new class called "Leadership in Student Groups," which is taught by Kim Dwyer. They are Emily Danbrook, senior; Sarah Thomas, senior; Erin Deroo, sophomore; Emily Morris, junior; Stephanie Peterson, sophomore; and Diana Ebrware, senior.

The students were inspired by another teacher who told them about the tragedy of losing her father in the line of duty two years ago, Dwyer said. "They took the initiative and are pulling it all together."

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