

Council, mayor begin new terms

BY KEVIN BROWN
SBW/WHTE
kbrown@ecce.com

It was about as festive as a Farmington Hills city council meeting gets, with smiling family members gathered in the council chambers.

Clerk Kathy Dorman on Monday administered oaths of office to Mayor Nancy Bates, Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and Councilmen John Grant and Jerry Ellis following their reelection Nov. 6. Bates took the oath of office holding 15-year-old grandson Joshua.

"This will not be the same kind of term of office as the first two years," she said from the council dais.

Bates said she is seeking guidelines for local governments from the Federal Homeland Security Office, and is appointing a committee to review local preparedness, for which 47th District Judge Fred Harris has

already volunteered.

"Our goal is not to frighten anyone, but to calm them, with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that all rational steps are being taken," Bates said.

"Let Farmington Hills be known to all as a community of kindness, a community of character. Nothing can prevail over good people doing good things. This will be our home town victory," she said.

Council members were elected to four-year terms. Grant, the top vote getter, said the council will focus on the Eleven Pines project, the "Triangle" development at 14 Mile and Northwestern, and budget issues.

He nominated Councilman Chris McRae for mayor pro tem. "He has demonstrated a strong ability to be an independent thinker, bringing new ideas and a new perspective to council," Grant said. McRae was unani-

mously elected to the post.

Oliverio thanked her children and campaign supporters. "If we all work together we can make Farmington Hills the number one city in America," she said.

Ellis said the state is facing a billion dollar deficit and will reduce money to municipalities. State revenue sharing represented 19 percent of the city's general fund in 2000, he said.

Ellis said he would encourage re-development and seek federal money to rebuild sewers and other infrastructure.

Among those gathered to celebrate the swearing in was Grant's wife Debbie: "I'm very proud of him. He lives to serve his community."

Randy Bruce, the top vote-getter among challengers, congratulated the winners, adding the "tough, issue-driven race" could be an example to other communities.

POLICE CALLS

PREGNANT AT 12
Hills police are investigating a criminal sexual conduct charge against a 17-year-old youth, whom a 12-year-old Hills girl said was responsible for her being pregnant.

The girl's mother told police Nov. 10 the girl was in a doctor's office having stitches removed when her urine was tested. The doctor reported back that the

girl was pregnant.

The girl told police she had walked to a home in Southfield to see the 17-year-old and had sexual relations with him, according to the incident report.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT
Farmington Hills police are seeking to charge a man, 55, with domestic felonious assault for striking his wife, 50, on the

head with a cement figurine.

Police were called to their residence at 8:41 a.m. Nov. 9. Upon entering the home, they found the victim lying on the floor bleeding from her head, according to the incident report. The man told police he didn't like the way she was speaking to him. The woman was taken by ambulance to Botsford Hospital for treatment.

Knol from page A1

mittee and a Blue Circle Member has given her insights about local residents' concerns.

"I've been involved in local organizations, had the chance to meet many within the community and learned about the issues that are important to our residents," said Knol. "In a time when leadership is needed most, it is important for individuals who have a vested interest in our next generation to step up and make things happen and not just 'talk' about it."

Her priority will be legislation good for families and business. She said two important issues for today's families are time and

money and feels the legislature can promote an environment that could help people manage those two resources.

"A strong community is a good mix of businesses and residents," she said.

Knol cites her experience with Johnson Controls, which supplies automotive interiors, as a valuable asset. The company's stock price has continued to increase even in tough economic times, thanks in part to a new operating system implemented several years ago.

"I've had valuable experience in leading and managing," Knol said. "These are some of the

same characteristics needed by someone in government."

Knol is currently completing her second master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and sees her education along with her extensive local involvement to be an essential part of her properly representing the district.

"I've never met anyone who learned anything by just talking," she said. "I believe it's critical to be actively involved in the community and to listen to people's wants and needs."

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