

# Mayor to lead city's preparedness group

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Farmington Hills police and fire departments have disaster recovery plans in place.

But what about people and families who will have to help themselves if disaster strikes the entire city?

Hills Mayor Nancy Bates is spearheading a local preparedness committee that aims to help residents know what resources are available to them if the need arises. If something major happens, she pointed out, emergency personnel can't do everything for all 85,000 residents.

"We're not trying to strike fear into people," she said. "We just want them to know their responsibilities, like do you know CPR and first aid or do you know where to go if you need help."

The mayor said the committee, which is still forming, will likely have its first meeting in March. Fire, EMS and police officials are already signed up.

"We plan to interface with the police and fire departments' disaster plans," she said of the committee.

The mayor plans to get more information on hometown disaster preparedness when she travels to Washington, D.C., next month.

"Our first few meetings will tell us what we're doing," she said. "We'll assess the community to find out what our strengths are."

She said pooling the efforts of emergency personnel, the schools and community groups is a goal.

Bates said several residents have expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

"I think the committee will take shape as it goes along," she said. "We will find out what we need to have and what directions to take."

"We have a lot of resources," she said of the city. "We need to get them organized."

# Sever announces House candidacy

BY JONI HUBBARD  
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Add one more name to the list of people interested in filling Andrew Raczowski's shoes.

Oakland County Commissioner Terry Sever has announced his intent to seek the Republican nomination for the newly formed 14th District, which includes the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Sever has served as county commissioner since 1997.

Raczowski, a Republican, holds the seat in the current 37th district, but is term limited.

Sever will give up that seat to run for the House, but has no regrets.

The big motivation is the fact so many people are concerned about the lack of experience in Lansing with local and govern-



Terry Sever

ment experience," he said. "Enough people have encouraged me to run that I've decided to do it."

Sever said county commissioners aren't as directly involved with serving local constituents, which did for 13 years as a Farmington Hills city councilman. He served one year as mayor and one year as mayor pro-tem.

**Base of support**

Sever said his base of support includes current Mayor Nancy Bates and council members Jon Grant and Cheryl Oliverio, along with County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, County Clerk William Caddell and Board Chair Thomas Law.

The issues he plans to address will include the city and county's home rule authority, quality education, restricting the size of government and continuing the Republican agenda to reduce taxes, improving Michigan's business climate and addressing the needs of both large and small businesses.

"As Oakland County continues to be successful in many areas of growth, we must insist that we use that wealth to meet our needs and not be a source of review for the rest of the state," Sever said. "We must seek alternative methods of funding to clean up our environment while

fulfilling our water and sewer obligations. We must pursue new revenue sources becoming less dependent on the taxpayer."

Sever's county commission district currently covers the southern portion of Farmington and Farmington Hills. After redistricting lines are drawn, he said, the new alignment will be more east-west, and will include all of Farmington and Farmington Hills west of Farmington Road.

He encouraged anyone interested to consider running in the new district. His focus, however, is quite clear - he's already thinking past the primary race that will include Republican challengers Valerie Knol and John Akouri.

"I look forward to running against Aldo Vagnozzi," Sever said of the race's announced Democratic candidate.

# City hall exhibits African-American artists

The "Art in the Corridor" exhibit series that brings fine art to the public at the Farmington Hills and Farmington city halls, will feature an exhibit showcasing artwork from African American artists through March 15.

The exhibit includes a variety of artists in several media, including both two- and three-dimensional pieces.

Artists at the Farmington Hills City Hall are Alex Cor-

brey, Joe Dobbins Jr., David Haygood Jr., Annie Lee, Lavarne Ross and Ivan Stewart. Works by Lazarus Bain and Brenda Joy Smith are on display at the downtown Farmington City Hall.

On display in the Farmington Hills City Hall is a series of limited edition small sculptures by internationally acclaimed artist Annie Lee. The sculptures offer "slice of life" images that take

the viewer into a bit of daily life in both a touching and comedic way.

In "Blue Monday," for example, a tiny resin woman flopped on a bed brings to mind everyone's occasional difficult day.

Other works include a portrait by Ivan Stewart Jr. of the U.S. Marshall Boss Reeves, the former slave credited with more than 3,000 criminal arrests in the 1800s, who was inducted

into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1992.

The exhibit is on loan from Umoja Fine Arts Inc. located in Southfield. Umoja Fine Arts is an art publishing company and gallery devoted to depicting African American historical accounts as well as modern art images.

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# Provost from page A1

Science and Mathematics Division. Previously, she was acting chairwoman for Humanities and Social Sciences Division.

John F. "Jack" McGrath of Beverly Hills, who continues as chairman of Professional Studies Division, adding responsibility for the accelerated degree program in business administration

with emphasis on information technology.

Jenni Knowles of White Lake Township, chairwoman of the Social Studies Division. Previously, she was chairwoman of the Christian Studies Division.

Donna Marcella of Rochester Hills, chairwoman of the Language, Literature Communications and Modern Languages Division. Previously, she was communication services director.

Karen Mulligan of Farmington Hills, chairwoman of the Continuing Education Division. She was community relations director.

# Phone from page A1

telecommunications services and increased competition, Michigan is running out of telephone prefixes in the 248 area code.

The phone company said the new 947 prefix may be assigned to customers who request new local, cellular, paging and alarm services starting in July. The 947 code will be assigned in areas where prefixes in the 248 area code have been exhausted.

Ann Topousian, director of programs and events at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, said while the process of having to punch in so many numbers will apparently be the way of the future, the fact so many numbers are needed proves business is good in the area.

"It means business is expanding," he said. "It's sort of an indication that a better economy is on the way."

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