

# Council

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someone with longevity in the city and one who has served on a board and/or commission.

He's not sure what fellow council members are looking for in a candidate.

"Most of the candidates have had some background or experience serving on boards and commissions," Mitchell said. "Any one who is a resident is an eligible candidate."

At least a half dozen people have either expressed interest or made a phone call to a council member for an exploratory discussion, he said.

Some may no longer retain interest in pursuing the position after that discussion, he said.

## The ideal candidate

Councilwoman Mary Bush is looking for someone committed to the community with involvement serving on a board or commission or a person with some type of community involvement.

"I'm looking for someone with a true desire and commitment to make a difference in the City of Farmington," Bush said. "The city council is the greatest involvement you can have. It's



Picture perfect: Former mayor Bill Hartsock accepts the Mayoral Photograph from Miss Farmington, Tracey Finlayson. Farmington council members formally accepted his resignation Monday night.

community service all day long." Bush directed all specific questions with regard to the procedure and manner in which the council will use to select its new council person to Mitchell.

"Talk to the Mayor, he can explain it," Bush said. "We are following the charter. Everyone agreed on this. A similar manner was used with the last appoint-

ment." Councilwoman JoAnne McShane is looking for an analytical thinker who can make independent decisions, a person who cares for and loves the city, its historical components and its citizens. She wants someone who can create fair and just ordinances and policies.

As for the manner being used, McShane said, "It's working for

now."

"I'm always in favor of an open appointment," McShane said. "It needs to be as open as it can possibly be. This isn't an elected position."

McShane said she didn't know how people could find out the names of the candidates in the pool, but suggested a call to City Manager Frank Lauff, who is providing council members with phone numbers of people who want to be interviewed.

It will be up to each applicant to contact each council member, Mitchell said. "I have spoken to five candidates," Mitchell said. "Others have spoken to a similar number."

Though the new council member might have a perceived edge in next year's election, an appointment doesn't necessarily mean the person would decide to run.

"There would be name recognition," Mitchell acknowledged.

He said a name will be floated for nomination at the April 15 meeting. If the first person doesn't receive support then the council will move on to a second name. However the hope is that a strong candidate will emerge and be agreed upon immediately, Mitchell said.

"Each council member will come to the council meeting prepared to make a decision," Mitchell said.

Appointing a new council member April 15, in a timely fashion, makes sense because the council will soon review the city budget, Mitchell said.

"Basically this is a job interview," Mitchell said.

## Richardson was council's last appointment in '86

Shirley Richardson was the last Farmington City Council member appointed on July 21, 1986.

She filled Alton Bennett's unexpired, four-year term.

At that time, Councilman Dick Tupper said, he reviewed the qualifications of the candidates that were discussed by the members of council for several weeks. He felt that all were qualified, but nominated the one he felt more qualified than others, having served on numerous boards, committees and commissions serving the city's interests, according to the meeting minutes.

A motion by Councilman Ralph Yoder, supported by Arnold Campbell, closed nominations, and a unanimous vote was

cast for Richardson.

She was later elected to a four-year term in 1989 and ultimately served almost two complete four-year terms.

"The Council will be sole judge of the election and qualifications of its own members," according to the City Charter Section 5.1 General Provisions Regarding Officers and Personnel of the City, Eligibility for Office.

The charter doesn't lay out a specific procedure for filling a vacant term, but only requires officials to act within 60 days.

"Council sets procedure," said Farmington City Clerk/Treasurer Patsy Cantrell. "There's no mandated procedure and no previous council policy on how to do it."

## Three-time champ wins Power Geography Bee

Joel Knight, an 8th grader at Power Middle School, has won his school's Geography Bee for the third straight year.

Knight was ranked among the top 100 contestants in the state. He will compete for the state title on April 5 at Central Michigan University. Winning there would put him in the National Geographic National Geography Bee, held in Washington, D.C.

The National Geographic Bee occurs in three stages, beginning at the school level. Each school winner takes a written test, and the top hundred scorers in each state and territory compete at the state level.

The 55 state and territory winners meet at National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C., for the national competition. The number of contestants is narrowed to ten finalists, who compete for a \$25,000 college scholarship.

The second- and third-place winners receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 scholarships, respectively. Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek moderates the final competition.

Knight also has a chance to meet up with Alex when he tries out to be a Jeopardy! contestant at the end of April, in Chicago. He is the son of William and Marilou Knight.

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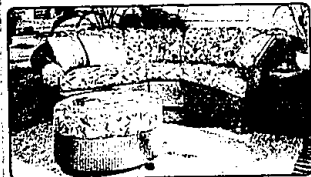
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