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B1

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High voter turnout expected Tuesday

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM AND SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITERS

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters tend to like making their votes count - and the upcoming election Tuesday, Nov. 5, is expected to draw an estimated 55-60 percent of registered voters to the polls.

Attracting the voters will be

the governor's race and several ballot proposals, both of which traditionally entice more voters on election day, said Kathy Dorman, Hills city clerk.

"Generally, it's going to be a higher turnout across the board," she said. "It's not a dull election."

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Locally, some spirited races are expected to make polling places all the busier.

The 37th state House race involving Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi and Republican Valerie Knol has turned into a verbal showdown. The local district judge race between James Brady and Annette Raczowski is another heated contest.

An estimated 57 percent of Farmington Hills' 58,000 registered voters are expected to cast their ballots, including about 9,500 absentee voters.

In Farmington, City Clerk Patsy Cantrell said, "We sent out 958 absentee ballots. Generally, we get all but a couple per precinct back. Based on the absentees, I think it will be a

heavier than normal turnout."

There are 7,173 registered voters in the city of Farmington. Dorman said Hills elections typically draw a larger turnout than other municipalities.

"Farmington Hills voters just tend to vote," she said.

PLEASE SEE TURNOUT, A5

Granholm, Democrats listen to concerns

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholm visited the Farmington Hills Weight Watchers building on Orchard Lake for a round table discussion that was proposed to be a

"women's issues" event. "But look at all the men here," she said with a laugh as local Democrats, male and female, took advantage of Granholm's visit Thursday and joined her in listening to what residents had to say about changes they would like to see in government.

Granholm said she was traveling the state, asking people, "if your state government could do something for you, what would that No. 1 thing be?"

The responses ranged from doubling teachers' salaries to keeping prescription drug costs in check to keeping up the fight special education programs.

Granholm walked about the room, easily taking charge of the gathering where other Democrats sat and spoke when an issue related to them. Among them including Aldo Vagnozzi, running in a heated race the 37th District House seat.

In Granholm's hand was a legal pad where she scribbled notes. She said jobs and drug costs appear to be the hot topics among voters.

PLEASE SEE GRANHOLM, A8



BILL BREMER/Observer

Democrats Aldo Vagnozzi, running for the 37th District state House, and gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholm share a laugh during Granholm's visit to Farmington Hills Thursday where she held a roundtable.

Harrison, N. Farmington both favor Granholm

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Students who voted in mock elections at both Harrison and North Farmington high schools in Farmington Hills say Democrat Jennifer Granholm should be the next Michigan governor.

Both schools held mock elections Oct. 28 and forwarded the results to the Farmington City Hills Clerk's office. Farmington High School did not participate this year.

At Harrison, Granholm received 63 votes, Republican Dick Posthumus, 37 and Green Party candidate Douglas Campbell, 5. Granholm received 101 votes at North Farmington, Posthumus, 39 and Campbell, 12.

There were 106 voters at Harrison and 153 at North Farmington High.

Students at both schools also chose Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi for state representative in the 37th District over Republican Valerie Knol. At Harrison, Vagnozzi received 65 votes, Knol, 38. At North Farmington, it was Vagnozzi, 87, and Knol, 48.

Preparing students to vote intelligently meant meeting local candidates in person at Harrison High School.

Harrison Teachers Angela Leach and Pete Lamercato organized the visits of political candidates to speak to classes during the last six weeks.

They included Vagnozzi, Knol,

PLEASE SEE MOCK, A8

New DDA director ready to go to work

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

New Farmington Downtown Development Director Brent Morgan starts work Monday.

Morgan, a community development director for the city of Davison, was recently hired to replace Judy Downey, who is scheduled to formally retire Jan. 2.

The DDA board officially approved the signed offer of employment at an Oct. 25 meeting. The meeting was called with an 18-hour notice in order to both expedite Morgan's starting date, which the DDA wanted next week and to give his present employer

enough notice, according to DDA President Ron Oglesby.

Morgan will be an at will employee with a salary of \$50,000 a year. "He's already looking at apartments here," Oglesby said. Farmington City Manager Frank Lathoff is lending a hand to Morgan in the apartment search, Oglesby said.

During his employment interviews Morgan said he intended to move to the City of Farmington though residency isn't a requirement for the position.

Board Member Bob Heinrich also made a motion supported by Mark Ziegler to grant Downey an administrative leave with pay from Dec. 9 to Jan. 2 because there could be too much time when responsibilities

are overlapping between Downey and Morgan. The vote was unanimous with DDA board members Craig Grace, Frank Clappison and Joyce Cornwell absent.

Downey will help to ease the transition when Morgan takes over but, beyond perhaps a 30-day period, she might feel that she's a "fifth wheel" or a "lame duck," Oglesby said.

Downey didn't know the leave would be offered at the meeting and was appreciative, Oglesby said. "I will absolutely take it," Downey said. "I was most appreciative." She added that she has been caring for her aged parents.

PLEASE SEE DIRECTOR, A5

Hills hosts beautification awards

The city of Farmington Hills and the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission will hold its annual beautification awards reception 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

The annual event will recognize more than 200 business, offices, industries, and organizations, along with subdivision, condominium and apartment entrances that make Farmington Hills a more beautiful place to live and work.

The winning landscapes were selected for their outstanding design, originality, maintenance, and appropriateness to location and purpose. Winners will be recognized by Mayor Nancy Bates, City Council members, City Manager Steve Brock, City staff, and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. The Beautification Commission will also present a Commissioner's Award to one outstanding local award honoring a Chamber member.

For more information, contact Marie Donigan of the Farmington Hills Planning Office at (248) 473-9543.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Set with style
Coming Thursday in the At Home section: Cranbrook Holiday Tables serve up distinctive decorating ideas.



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