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Council hopefuls debate city renovation, police

By SUSAN AVERILL

A lively group of nearly 30 persons turned out Thursday evening at the Farmington Community Center to hear candidates for Farmington City Council speak on consolidation, business district renovation, police protection and parks.

Four of the five candidates, including incumbents Mayor Ralph Yoder and William Hartsock, attended the candidates' night sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club. Challengers Al Holm and Alton Bennett were also present, but candidate James A. Morawski was out of town on business.

When questions were opened to the audience after five-minute statements by each candidate, consolidation and police protection emerged as prominent issues along with business district renovation.

Steve MacGregor, the host for the evening, asked the candidates to talk about consolidation.

"I suppose it will be an issue after coming out in the Observer & Eccentric," Yoder responded first. "I don't think I have the freedom to say that every house more than 50 years old should remain the same far over. The houses bordering the downtown district are very vulnerable. I think we'd better have that area downtown or we're going to be another Hamtramck."

Attention turned to the police department, when one woman angrily said her complaints on motorcycles and barking dogs had been ignored.

"I find it difficult to believe you're having the problem you say you are," Yoder said. The discussion cropped up again later when one man questioned whether he was getting his money's worth of service from the police department, saying that consolidation would bring savings and increase efficiency.

"You are getting what you pay for. Bring your concern to the city council and the chief of police will be there and your concern will be aired, there and not here," Yoder said.

Holm said the apparent advantage of consolidating police departments was deceiving.

"If you don't have a successful business area, you don't have a city. It behooves us to make an atmosphere where these businesses can be successful," he said.

That answer wasn't enough for one resident who intently asked for more specific solutions.

"You're telling us there is a problem doesn't tell us anything. I think all of us would like specifics. Please don't tell us you're going to wait for another study."

Yoder rose quickly to speak after the applause quieted.

"I don't have a solution. You can't develop the north side of Grand River without using the south side of Oakland for parking." And many people, he said, have objected to the possible destruction of that portion of the historic district.

"There isn't any simple answer," Holm said. "Some of these houses are going to have to be sacrificed. I think it will be a shame to see some of it go."

He suggested a multiple parking facility as one possible solution.

To a question about the preservation of the historic district, he replied, "I don't think I have the freedom to say that every house more than 50 years old should remain the same far over. The houses bordering the downtown district are very vulnerable. I think we'd better have that area downtown or we're going to be another Hamtramck."

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"One thing I've learned about being in management position is that for about every 13 people you need a supervisor. We have a 23-man police force and the Hills has 60 some officers. I don't think there would be any great amount of savings. I'm afraid of this, that if we consolidate, we would keep the two chiefs and get a new one. The apparent savings isn't there."

Steve Guertner, a member of the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) board of directors, asked the candidates to say what they thought of the service's role, and whether it was worth saving. FAAC, he said, may have to shut down before the calendar year is out.

"FAAC has been around for a number of years and the city, to the extent it could, has helped FAAC," Yoder said.

Bennett, principal of Farmington's Warner Junior High School, said he is familiar with FAAC's role through the school.

"The emphasis on regular reports has sharpened the program as well as kept us informed. Their track record before was not as good as it could have been, but we must have this kind of service, although it may change into a different form," he said.

Both Holm and Hartsock were sympathetic.

"We've always supported them, at least in the monetary sense. I'd be all in favor of helping you any other way, too," Hartsock said.

A CANDIDATE FOR the Farmington Hills City Council, Joanne Smith, asked whether those elected would favor cooperating with Farmington Hills on providing parks and recreation.

"I assume from the things I heard the very thing you're suggesting is un-

derway," Bennett said.

"I see no reason why we couldn't work toward that goal," Yoder replied.

Bennett, 45, has been married for 25 years and has two children. Born in Hastings, he earned his undergraduate degree from Houghton College in New York, has masters from the University of Michigan, and a specialist's certification from Wayne State University.

Vice president of the North Farmington Kiwanis, he is an elder of the Ward United Methodist Church and has been a junior high school principal for 15 years.

Hartsock, 25, has been married for three years and works for Touche Ross, certified public accountants. Elected to Farmington City Council two years ago, he has served on the subcommittee on master planning and the committee on capital expenditures.

Holm, 50, has spent the last 23 years finishing his engineering degree. He was an instructor in Wayne State University's night school and has worked in five manufacturing companies during the past 20 years. Eighteen of those years were spent in management, he said. He now works for Beach Engineering in Walked Lake.

HE HAS LIVED in Farmington for 11 years. During that time, he was affiliated with Kappa and the beautification committee and was president of his subdivision.

Yoder has lived in Farmington 23 years and in Farmington Township for 12 years before that. Married with two children, he is the secretary and general manager of Tri-City Truck and Tri-City Enterprise.

He has been on the city council since 1965 and has served on all boards and commissions.



Karen Kennedy, a Harrison High School cheerleader, led fans in cheering on the Hawks in their homecoming game against Northville this weekend. (Staff photo)

School principal stays in contact with students

By SUSAN AVERILL

Gerald Morawski's track record is rather impressive. In 11 years he has walked through seven school buildings in Farmington, teaching and administering along the way. Those who didn't understand might raise an eyebrow.

"It might look bad," said Morawski, now principal of Alameda Elementary School. "But you know, I'm counting the three different schools I had to go in as an administrative intern."

Tall and personable, Morawski gives the impression that he would relate well to children. Although often busy with administrative work, he takes time to keep in close contact with the students.

"Every once in awhile I have a strong desire to go back into teaching. That's why I'll be teaching an independent math group in November."

He makes a point of getting to know each student by name, something which has taken more than one parent by surprise.

"During one of the open houses, I saw Mr. and Mrs. well Smith, let's say—walking down the hall with their two boys. I said, 'Hi Jimmy, Hi John.' How ya doing? The parents were shocked. The father turned to the boys and asked what they had been doing when the principal knew their names."

MORAWSKI IS TAKEN back at that kind of reaction.

"The only time some people feel the

principal knows their child is when they're in trouble. But I like to know the names of all my students, which is why I think a school this size is good."

Alameda has 300 students, which he says is just right.

"There's so much more personal involvement. To me, the key is involvement with students and parents, whether it be personal or on the phone."

But not all contacts with him will be positive, he admits.

"You can't always be positive. Sometimes you have to discipline. But every student should see the building principal in a different light, rather than just a disciplinarian."

After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1964, Mo-

rawski came to work in Farmington as a sixth grade teacher at Longacre School. He left Farmington after two years and went to work at a River Rouge elementary.

After two years in that district, he said he realized his chances for advancement were almost nil.

"It really opened my eyes about how good Farmington really was because two years (after leaving) the prodigal son returns. Dedication goes a long way, but it doesn't put bread on the table."

He was rehired into Eagle school and taught sixth grade there a year before becoming an administrative intern. As an intern, he divided his time between Gill, Forest and Lakeside elementary schools.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, he

hoped there would be an opening for a principal. There wasn't. So he began a team-teaching program at Woodcreek Elementary with another person who is now a principal—Mildred Bennett.

"There were 71 kids and two teachers. We thought it would be a good year to try some things we hadn't done before."

They experimented with having an open classroom, but decided after several weeks that they'd made a mistake.

"You've got to establish discipline

You have to have structure before you can have a structure. That may be ambiguous, but it's true. Kids need to know where to go, what to do. Discipline is important."

"The teacher still has to call the shots. You can't always have an open classroom; it depends on the class," he said.

Morawski thinks his school-to-school travels have been beneficial and recommends teacher transfers through-out the district.

Choral workshop makes debut

While band workshops are fairly common, until this week, there hasn't been a choral workshop.

For the first time last Friday morning members of junior and senior choirs in Farmington met at Harrison High for a choir workshop. If the applause for the demonstrators, Madrigal Club of Detroit, and director, Ted Still, was an indicator, then the workshop was a resounding success.

The project was another example of the kind of inter-community cooperation that has begun to characterize the Farmington area.

The organizing group, the Farmington Area Arts Council under president Mario Belanger, picked up the tab for bus transportation for the 23 singers who came from all parts of the metropolitan area.

Farmington High has other positions in the community.

He is director of the Dearborn Choral Arts Society which sang in Carnegie Hall, newly appointed director of the Music Youth International choir which will tour Scotland and the British Isles next summer, recently appointed director of the Michigan State Honors Choir and Madrigal Club director.

Much of the program was designed to involve the students in the audience. Still had copied a piece of music for his Madrigal singers to sight read. When the music was shown for the audience on slides, everyone in the auditorium was invited to sing along in four part harmony.

Still said he felt he had good audience response in the exercises in rhythm, hearing and tone.

"I really believe you can learn to sight read rather quickly once you understand tones. You don't even need to know the notes by name."

Later in the program the Madrigal Club singers demonstrated unusual

types of choral singing. Although, because of job commitments, only about two-thirds of the total club made it to the program. Still managed to

Farmington O&E conducts seminar

The Farmington Observer & Eccentric is conducting a public seminar on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Holiday Inn, Ten Mile and Grand River.

The seminar will explain the basic guidelines needed to get word of your club or organization out to the public by using your community newspaper.

The seminar is free and open to public. Interested individuals from all groups. Each participant will receive a pamphlet of general information on how to prepare stories and pictures for a newspaper or other publication.

During the seminar participants will be able to join three informal discussions.

One discussion will cover how local news editors work and the type of articles they will consider for publication. The second is handled by the editor of the Farmington suburban life section.

The third is devoted to photography—how to work with a photographer and what makes a good photograph.

If you wish to attend the seminar, fill out the registration form and mail it to the Farmington Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 69, Southfield, Mich. 48075.

FARMINGTON PUBLICITY-PRESS RELATIONS SEMINAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 - 7:30 p.m.

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Flavor and flair

It was fashions with a flair at the All Israel Fashion Show at Southfield's Sherry Zedak. For more details—from the tense opening moments until the poised, calm professional performances, turn to Page 1B.