

Volunteer service to city prompts Christy to run



BERNARD CHRISTY

Bernard Christy has logged more than 10,000 hours in volunteer community service and wants to use that experience for an official post.

One of six candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council election on Nov. 4, Christy said that because of that experience he is "very knowledgeable with the feeling and desires of the majority of the community."

A retired manager from the Chevrolet Motor Division he said he now has the "almost unlimited time" to put that experience to work with the city council.

Christy, 44, grew up in northwest Detroit and moved to Farmington Township 19 years ago. He was educated in Detroit public schools, at Michigan State and Wayne State universities and served three years in the U.S. Air Force.

He has served with the police department, fire department, as township constable, in the baseball for youth program and with two subdivision associations.

"THE FACT THAT I have served and demonstrated my interest in the community by the many thousands of

volunteer hours and wish to continue serving the community in another capacity" is the most important factor in his quest for public office, he said.

"Hand in hand with prior community service is the vast amount of public, personal contact I have expe-

rienced, which has kept me very knowledgeable about the feelings of the total city."

Zoning, taxes, roads, public safety,

the Northwestern highway extension, recreational facilities and senior citizen housing are all priority items with Christy.

Not as immediate of an issue is the consolidation of Farmington and Farmington Hills, although Christy said consolidation would be desirable.

"Consolidation of two municipalities is a sound principle of good business. Simply, it eliminates duplication of personnel and services. Farmington and the Hills are already integrated in areas such as schools, library, recreation and youth services. Further consolidation, I feel, would be desirable."

But including the advisory referendum in this year's election was not a good idea, according to Christy.

"I do not feel the voters or the administration have the necessary facts to give each other an intelligent answer to questions regarding either one of the referendums, especially the parks question."

BOTH ISSUES DESERVE more time for investigation, he said, and an advisory opinion right now would not be indicative of the majority opinion.

"I would appreciate more citizen input. During the last year I have found that the citizens who know anything about the ballot think the referendums were pushed in at the last minute."

Christy admitted, "I cannot truthfully say what type of park system I favor without more information from experts."

"The road paving timetable should be ambitious and well planned, taking into consideration federal funding, developer participation, and everyday man power and resources. Get the most done for the least amount of money, when the time is right."

Overriding all other aspects, though, he said is his personal experience.

"I can represent citizens from every section of this city and be able to say, I understand," he said, "because I have been in your homes and on your streets."

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