

Smith cites growth as challenge to Hills

Joanne Smith was working for the city even before its consolidation, but was unsuccessful two years ago in winning a seat on the new city's council.

This year she is back, with experience on the zoning board of appeals, to win a council seat to fight further changes in the city's master plan.

"I believe that serving on the zoning board of appeals has made me

aware of the dangers of permitting the master plan to be changed by pressures from land developers and if elected I would fight to prevent their abuses."

The major issues of the next five to 10 years are already here, she said. They are the problems connected with growth.

"Growth inherently brings prob-

lems," she said, "and planners environmental growth of our city to exceed 100,000. We must plan now to save open spaces, set the needs of our citizens, including adequate transportation facilities, so they are not homebound; and provide for parks and recreation, zoning, police and fire protection, and an emergency medical service."

The emergency medical service was mandated by the charter, she said, but has still not been implemented. The city is lagging in this area, she said, but has put the questions of road improvement and a city parks and recreation program to a referendum prematurely.

"I HAVE ALWAYS been taught never to buy a pig in a poke. That is exactly what the voters are being asked to do. We all want good roads but before approving the idea of a bond issue one should know the cost, including interest, . . . and the feasibility of bonds, in view of what is happening now in New York City.

"For that reason I am opposed to the referendum asking us to approve the acceleration of our paving of major roads without even naming what is meant by major roads."

The Parks and Recreation question "is premature to say the least," she said, "in light of the fact that a de-

tailed study has been called for, spelling out the recreational needs of the residents.

The neighborhood park has meaning and application to each person, and in my survey I have found that most parents prefer their young children use swings and playground equipment in their own yards or commons area.

"The need most often expressed is for a park/recreation facility,

owned by the city of Farmington Hills, with programs, facilities, rooms

and proper supervision for teenagers and all age groups and organizations.

To ensure the city has the land for such parks, Smith said she would like to see land set aside for this purpose and some set aside for open space.

"Land is a resource that is constantly being recycled."

Rather than approving consolidation of Farmington and Farmington Hills outright, she said, "I think consolidation is inevitable in the future and the two cities would benefit from an economic stand from joint fire and police departments."

"For that reason alone it is well that the two cities keep communication open. As a council member, I would come with an open mind and without prejudice to any ideas or opinions previously expressed."

Deacon is running on budget issues

One of four incumbents running for re-election to the Farmington Hills City Council, Keith Deacon is seeking re-election after 20 years of financial experience and his involvement in civic and community affairs to win another council term.

Deacon gained his experience working in Canadian and Detroit banks. A graduate of the American Institute of Banking and the University of Michigan graduate school of banking, he is now an officer at the Livernois-Lyndon branch of Manufacturer's National Bank.

"In the years to come," Deacon said, "in the past two years, budget and financial concerns will be of major importance to our citizens to accomplish needed services while maintaining lowest possible local tax burdens."

BUILDING THE commercial tax base, however, while maintaining the semi-rural atmosphere in the city will be one of several important issues facing the council in the next several years, he said.

Other important issues will be "implementation of our human resource service. I believe this issue to be the most important in service to our citizens."

"Completion of paving of our section roads and widening and upgrading of our major arterials. To maintain a fine balance in the growth of our city . . . and continued development of our master storm water drainage system."

A compromise between large and small parks would be the best use of recreational land in the city, he said.

"Our parks system should be developed using the consolidation of our large park to allow the construction of new recreational facilities and a series of neighborhood parks to be easily accessible to our younger children without crossing major streets."

A road system should be developed on a "pay as you go basis" he said, without major bonding, except for large projects.

The consolidation of Farmington and Farmington Hills is inevitable he said.



KEITH DEACON

"The cities are sharing services through cooperation now: FAAC, Farmington Founders Festival, Farmington District Library, Farmington School District and others."

"However, I do not believe that actual consolidation will be practical until there is more parity in services. At present there is a gap in the level of services and millage rate, and until that gap is closed somehow, consolidation is not possible."

Basketball league being organized

The Youth Commission of Congregational Beth Abraham-Hillel of West Bloomfield is spearheading the formation of an Inter-Congregational Basketball League to function under the auspices of Youth Commissions of the Greater Detroit Synagogues.

Mike Peres of Beth Abraham-Hillel Commission has invited all Detroit and Suburban synagogues to an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3, in the library of Beth Abraham-Hillel synagogue at 5075 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield.



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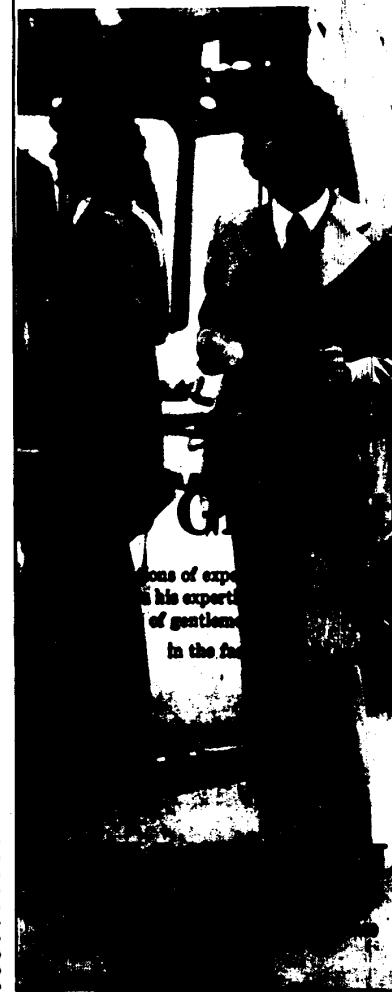
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