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In last 30 years

Quarter of council picked by colleagues

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

When someone is appointed Monday night to fill the vacancy on the Farmington City Council, it will mean that one-fourth of all council members who've served since the charter was changed in 1951 got there by being appointed instead of being elected.

Four city councilmen are expected to pick a fifth member Monday night from a list of six persons, all but one nominated by a councilman, to serve the remaining 3 1/2 years of Richard Tupper's term. He resigned for business reasons.

It will be the sixth appointee out of 24 persons who have served on the

Farmington City Council in 31 years. The appointment means that 24 percent of all city council members since 1951 were first appointed to the job and given the advantage of being an incumbent in subsequent elections without first winning election to the position.

Of the six persons appointed to council, only James Nourjian, who was appointed in 1952 to replace Ray Miller, who resigned, failed to win re-election after the appointment expired.

"I never thought of it that way," said Councilman Ralph Yoder, who was elected to the council in 1965 following a 1963 defeat at the polls.

"I don't know if I'd call it a circumvention (of the election process) because people have to quit for one reason

or the other for a vacancy to occur," Yoder said.

WHILE HE ADMITS appointees are often friends of council members, Yoder says that is because persons appointed usually have served on advisory boards such as the planning commission or zoning board where they meet council members.

A potential for abuse, Yoder says, would be present if outgoing council members were able to handpick their successors. But the system the city uses requires three votes on the council to confirm appointment.

"He'd have to be a friend of all four (councilmen) or the majority of the four to gain appointment," Yoder said.

Persons appointed to the Farmington City Council since 1951 include:

• James Nourjian appointed in 1952 to replace Ray Miller.

• Sandy Brotherton appointed in 1956 to replace John Lapham.

• Fred Siebert appointed in 1968 to replace Hugo "Pete" Peterson.

• Richard Tupper appointed in 1973 to replace Brotherton, and

• Current Councilman William Mitchell appointed in 1981 to replace Warren Buckler.

A HALF DOZEN nominations for the latest council opening have been announced by Mayor Alton Bennett. Candidates for appointment on the five-member council include former councilman Tupper's father, Bayard Tupper, who is a member of the Tax Board of Review; Del Cornwell, manager of commercial buildings and condominiums; Rita Moshammer, member of the Farmington Historical Commission, John Washburn, former school board member, and Roger Walker, president of Farmington Realty.

No names have been added to the list, Bennett said Tuesday, and he predicts the appointee will be one of the above named six.

The method of selecting a councilman has differed in the past with some

being appointed in a written ballot and others being appointed by being nominated in a motion by a councilman that passes by at least a 3-1 majority.

"There's no set procedure on how a person is selected," Bennett said. "You could have somebody make a motion and a second and you'd have to vote on

their nomination."

If council members are asked to write a name on a slip of paper in the ballot approach of selecting a council member, Bennett said, the appointee must receive at least three votes to be

Please turn to Page 4A

Voters grant second terms

Incumbent Farmington School Board Trustee Jack Inch won his second-four year term this week by outdistancing all other candidates and winning the top spot.

The Oakland Community College professor tallied 740 votes in the four-precinct district which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield's south end.

Coming in a strong second was incumbent Janice Rolnick with 676 votes. She also won a second-four year term.

Placing a distant third was challenger Jean Moran who garnered 359 votes. Challenger Richard Corey came in fourth with 311 votes. He also lost his bid for a seat on the Oakland Community College board of trustees, losing out to Earl Anderson for a six-year term.

Hein Ditzhazy, who withdrew from the race after her name had been placed on the ballot, won 65 votes.

In what was essentially a non-issue campaign, the challengers were unable to spur voter interest as was demonstrated in voting results where neither Corey nor Moran came even close to winning any of the precincts.

Inch was strongest in the 1st precinct (Farmington Training Center) where he drew 254 votes. Located in the district's southwest side, the precinct is where Inch lives. Rolnick tallied 182 votes, with Moran taking 106 and Corey 66.

ROLNICK EDGED out Inch in the 2nd precinct (Dunkel Middle School), her home ground, by a 287-285 vote. Corey, who also lives in that voting precinct, made his strongest showing with 170 votes. Moran took 147 votes in that precinct which encompasses the northwest side.

In the 3rd precinct (Warner Middle School) Rolnick led the way with 92 votes, with Inch taking second with 57. Corey took third with 22 and Moran fourth with 16. Rolnick also led in the 4th precinct (East Middle School) with 120 votes. Inch had 114, Moran 69 and Corey 46.

Inch led in the absentee balloting (generally senior citizens) with 30 votes. Rolnick came in second with 25, Moran third with 12 and Corey fourth with seven.

C'ville vets tie

By Judy Ceimer
staff writer

Incumbents Lorene Erickson and Daniel Morrison were re-elected to the Clarenceville Board of Education Monday — each with 261 votes.

Clarenceville voters also approved a 3-mill renewal for school operating funds, to be levied over a five-year period. Clarenceville reportedly expects to levy 38.25 mills for school operation in the 1982-83 school year.

According to Clarenceville Superintendent David McDowell, "Just about 10 percent of over 4,000 active voters" in the Clarenceville school district turned out for Monday's election.

The district includes part of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

"That seems to be typical (for voting percentages) of the last 10 to 15 years," he said.

The millage will bring in \$1.9 million over the next five years, McDowell said, but with rising costs and inflation, that figure becomes almost "irrelevant."

"We are an in-formula school district," McDowell said, "and as a consequence, we will probably have less total revenue for the coming year — because of a reduction of state aid — than we had operated on this year."

McDowell, superintendent for 16 years, also noted that two candidates receiving the same number of votes is "coincidental," saying that, in his recollection, it is a first.

Erickson is currently serving as president of the Clarenceville board of education. This will be her second term on the board. She is an instructor at Washtenaw Community College.

Morrison won his third term on the board in Monday's election. He is a claims manager for Great American Insurance Co. in Birmingham.

Linda Abnerst and Charles Goodwin who polled 177 and 79 votes respectively — both sought their first terms on the board.

Suspect nabbed in Viet deaths

By Sylvia O'Neill
staff writer

A Vietnamese man arrested in connection with the shooting deaths of two Keego Harbor women told Georgia authorities he attempted suicide last Thursday.

When arrested in Georgia, Ba Van Nguyen, 27, had an injury to the right side of his head he said was a self-inflicted gun shot wound.

Sheriff Ray Wilkes said the injury appeared to be a graze wound.

The injury was not serious. The suspect was treated at a hospital before he was taken to the Bibb County Jail where he is being held awaiting his return to Michigan.

Nguyen was arrested Sunday in Macon, Ga., when a deputy sheriff stopped to investigate a car parked on the side of the road with its emergency flashers on. A computer license check revealed the driver was wanted in connection with the Keego Harbor murder investigation.

A preliminary search revealed what looked like blood stains on the suspect's clothes and top of the car trunk. Police found \$726 on Nguyen.

No attempt was made to question the suspect after he indicated he did not understand English when his Miranda rights were read to him.

NGUYEN was named in the warrants for the murders of Man Le Thin Nguyen, 30, (no relation to the suspect) and Mai Ngo, 40. The victims, both Vietnamese, were murdered June 10 in a Keego Harbor trailer.

Sen Nguyen, husband of one of the slain women, had reportedly befriended the suspect and taken him into his Keego Harbor trailer to help him, a common custom in the Indochinese refugee community. Ngo was also a guest of the family.

Keego Harbor Police Chief Holloway said the suspect refused to waive extradition through the Oakland County prosecutor's office. After the papers are executed, which may take 10 days to two weeks, the suspect will be arraigned in 48th District Court.

Ba Van Nguyen faces charges of two counts of murder, each carrying a life sentence, and one felony firearm count that carries a two-year mandatory prison term upon conviction of one or both of the murder charges.

Keego Harbor police have a search warrant for the suspect's car and were bringing the vehicle and all of its contents to Michigan Wednesday.

MEMORIAL SERVICES for Man Le Thin Nguyen were Sunday morning at the West Bloomfield Church of Our Savior. The church congregation had

NGUYEN was named in the war-

Please turn to Page 10A

New skipper runs jazz house

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Baker's Keyboard Lounge, the world's oldest jazz club, has a distinct Farmington flavor.

Harold Pukoff recently purchased the hallowed house of jazz from longtime owner Clarence Baker. Performing through June 27 at Baker's is the Larry Nozoro Quartet. Both Pukoff, owner of Southfield's Carpet Shack, and Nozoro are Farmington-area residents.

The ownership is all that's likely to change at Baker's, which since its opening in 1934 has attracted such jazz artists as Ramsey Lewis, Dizzy Gillespie, George Shearing, Les McCann, Oscar Peterson and Robert Flack.

"I don't want to change it at all," said Pukoff, 44.

"Changing the name would be like

changing the name Detroit to something else overnight. It would take all the historical value away.

"We'd never have something like country western in here. The sound's too good."

The Italian tiles that line the ceiling, together with the cinderblock and brick that cushion the room from outside noise, make it acoustically flawless.

"A burglar alarm could go off outside, and you're not going to hear it. You can hear a pin drop in here," said Pukoff.

Pukoff, a new convert to jazz, said Baker sold the lounge at Eight Mile and Livernois "because he's been in business long enough and would like to retire and relax."

"He wants to do some boating. He's always bought boats, sold boats — he loves boats."

The new owner bought Baker's

because "I was here years ago when I was looking for bars to buy, and this was on the list. I came in a few times."

"Like the atmosphere of the club, and the idea of it being so old. I'd like to see it go another 50 years," added the former owner of Detroit's Brass Rail and Squire's Pub, a rock-and-roll bar.

Baker, whose father, Chris, opened the Detroit institution 48 years ago to attract the race-track crowd from the nearby State Fairgrounds, sold Baker's once before.

In 1963, Soly Hartstein bought the bar when Baker left to open the ill-fated Act IV supper club. Baker bought "his home" back in 1974 when Hartstein had been enough.

Please turn to Page 4A

Illuminating experience

Grand River will get light touch

Grand River Ave. and the city parking lot behind the Civic Theater will be brighter this year in Farmington with the proposed installation of new street lights.

Under a negotiated agreement with Detroit Edison officials, 41 old incandescent light fixtures will be replaced by new 250-watt high pressure sodium lights. In addition, the city council unanimously approved a recommendation by City Manager Robert Deadman to add two more fixtures on Grand River — one of the south side of the

street at Grove and the other on the north side at Violet.

The program also calls for the removal of five old fixtures in the North Parking Lot to be replaced with seven 250-watt fixtures.

"It's a good buy to nearly double lighting on Grand River for \$1,800 (more) a year and the one-time conversion cost of \$1,100," Deadman told council members at the June 7 meeting.

Total additional cost for three areas where improvements are planned is es-

timated to be \$1,833 per year by the city manager, and a total conversion cost of \$1,160.

"FOR THIS relatively small increase in rate we can improve the luminous output (a measure of light intensity) of the fixtures by 144 percent," Deadman said. "The present fixtures put out approximately 817,000 lumens (while) the proposed fixtures will put out 1,990,000 lumens."

The lights are an amber color and will tend a more uniform look to the thoroughfare, Deadman says.

To complete the project, Farmington officials hope to persuade Farmington Hills officials to pay for five new light fixtures on the south side of Grand River to Hawthorne St. If this is done, twice as bright at night as it is presently.

"Without agreement from Farmington Hills, the east end of our city (Farmington) will not be as well lighted, compared to the remainder of Grand River," he notes. Farmington Hills officials have indicated they are looking into the matter.

what's inside

Community Calendar . . . 3B
Editorial 20A
Exhibitions 12C
Inside Angles 3A
Obituaries 8A
Recreation News . . . 16A
Sports Section C
Suburban Life Section D
YMCA Highlights . . . 9A

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