

Susan Rennels wins seat on Farmington board

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People were dropping off their kids for school and saying, 'Gee, what's the vote about?'

A community activist with service in Common Cause and the League of

Women Voters, Rennels whipped her closest competitor, attorney Clarence M. Gabel, by 557 votes.

GABEL'S TOTAL — 127 votes — represented 11.9 percent of the ballots cast.

Michael J. Barnard, a 25-year-old ac-

count executive for American Bell, followed with 92 votes. Todd S. Bates, 22, a student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, drew 74 votes.

Public relations specialist Elizabeth A. Moberg and oboeist Leonard M. Stein each had 45 votes.

Rennels credited a group of "between 30 and 50" volunteer workers for making her palatable to the voters.

"I'd say we had 30 (volunteers) easily," she said, adding that two of the most enthusiastic were son Chris, 21, and daughter Abbey, 15.

"It was a matter of friends calling friends. We had a lot of people making phone calls and others were going door-to-door with campaign literature."

Some of her strongest support, she said, came from her co-workers at the downtown Farmington branch of First Federal of Michigan where she works.

"The people in my office have been very supportive," she said. "Some of them even distributed leaflets. Some of our customers were excited about it, too."

AT A VICTORY celebration Monday night, Rennels was asked what she intended to do with her new post.

"I hope to put it to good use," she said. "I will give it my all. Everything else I've been involved in I've done wholeheartedly."

Rennels graduated "with distinction" from Wayne State University in 1977 — 16 years after graduating from Royal Oak Densford High School.

She holds a bachelor of science degree with a major in political science.

Rennels, who has attended board meetings for years, will be sworn in as a trustee on June 21. Her first meeting will be July 11, a Monday. She will serve a four-year term.

Rennels lives on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills.

The turnout of 1,099 was the smallest since June, 1980, when only 805 turned out. A year later, an election with a special education millage question on the ballot drew 2,730.

Housing plan runs into trouble

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HUD engineers, Costick said, told city administrators that if the housing project was to be served entirely by unimproved roads, the corporation's application probably would be rejected.

By making a "contingent commitment" city council provided the corporation with evidence to show HUD that Tuck would be improved.

In May, the corporation also asked the city council for an additional \$10,000 as a capital investment. But in

his report, Costick said that reviewing the capital investment requirement with HUD, the corporation must demonstrate that their financial statement includes \$10,000 which would be given to HUD if the project is approved.

But Costick said that "the source of his money need not come from the city and it would appear that what the corporation is really asking the city to do is to provide the funds up front."

"If provided by the city, the proponents of the project would not have any cash into the project but in this in-

stance would be working off the city's money."

CITY ADMINISTRATORS also learned that they could not use CDBG money to provide the corporation with

the \$10,000 capital investment. So, city council members also rejected that financial request.

But how that decision affects the corporation is unknown. Peck could not be reached for comment.

According to Peck's proposal, however, he would lease the 9.7-acre site to

the non-profit corporation which would designate either Peck or a specialized firm to manage the development.

In May, Peck had accumulated more than 300 names of people wanting to live in the proposed housing complex. About 20 percent of all the units will be subsidized housing, according to Peck's plans.

The corporation, however, is legally unable to give anyone an application.

In-house stores and shops, walking paths, a duck pond, courtyards and greenbelts would make the housing development a departure from the typical senior citizen complex, Peck said.

Neighbors object to smaller houses

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ordinances. Blassel said. "The fact that we have had them (minimum-size ordinances) unchal-

lenged in the past is due to the fact that builders were not approaching this minimum criteria with the homes they were building."

Now that houses are becoming

smaller, however, city administrators have to determine "a legally defensible position that would permit the adjustment of the minimum size requirements," Blassel said.

BUT FIRST, THE city's assessing department will study whether the smaller houses are really harmful to the existing houses' value. City attorney Paul Bibeau, meanwhile, is studying the legality of establishing aesthetic or architectural standards in housing.

City officials also are watching what is happening in Novi, where ordinances were changed to regulate house size and to control the appearance of houses within subdivisions. One of the ordinances tries to ensure that a new house is similar to existing houses in a subdivision, but that not all houses within a neighborhood look alike.

But in reviewing these ordinances,

Farmington Hills officials point to the questionable legality of Novi's requirements as well as the difficulty in enforcing controls on housing because of subjective decisions in architectural aesthetics.

Chaplain returns from training

Chaplain Col. Jay Harold Ellens of Farmington Hills recently returned from an orientation and training conference at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Court date is set

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Whether the traffic light was red at the time of the accident is the main factual issue on which a jury will have to make a decision, Chopp said.

Jones has been free on a \$10,000 per-

sonal recognizance bond since March.

Because Farmington Hills police failed to subpoena Chopp's witnesses in time for Jones' originally scheduled preliminary examination on April 27, Schaefer dismissed the charge against Jones. He was arrested a second time in May, and prosecutors and police were forced to start the case over.

Conviction of manslaughter carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

Scholarships are awarded

Albion College has awarded academic scholarships to several students from the Farmington Hills.

Those from the Farmington Hills are: Mary C. Bonner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bonner, Wildwood Trail; Kimberly Bracken, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bracken, Turtle Creek; Sara Cline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cline, Hearstone; Barbara Dahl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dahl, Skye Drive; Karen Fulton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fulton, Springdale Drive; Kenneth Kish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kish, Barwell; Lisa Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Mitchell, Greythorne; Karen Oswald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oswald, Village Lane; Denis Sonbay, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Omer Sonbay, Braebury Ridge; and Kristen Witte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Witte, Hemlock.

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