



# Farmington Observer

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## Despite polls, Dems are urged to keep faith

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Democratic activist Aldo Vagnozzi cautioned local party members to maintain a positive attitude despite polls that show President Ronald Reagan is ahead of Walter Mondale.

"If we are not convinced we are going to win then we're not going to win. We've got to take a positive attitude," Vagnozzi said. "The election is not over. In fact, the election campaign has just begun."

Vagnozzi and club president Mike Breshgold discussed campaign strategies and issues with about 30 people who attended the Farmington Democratic Club meeting at Boisford Inn recently.

Following pep talks from both Vagnozzi and Breshgold, Democratic candidates running for Oakland County, congressional and state offices introduced themselves and asked for the club's support.

Discussing the strategies and problems of this year's campaign topped the evening's agenda.

BECAUSE THE Farmington-Farmington Hills area is strongly Republican, Breshgold told members that meetings, coffee-klatch-type functions, door-to-door campaigning and canvassing, as well as other volunteer work, should be the priority in order to gather support for Democratic candidates.

At a recent meeting in one of the area's subdivisions, Breshgold said, he found about seven "closet Democrats."

"We will not concede one vote to a Republican candidate in this district," Breshgold said.

But one of the major problems in this election year, Breshgold said, is that Democrats have failed to educate the voters on exactly what the party's position is on the issues.

For example, the party's position on the nation's defense is often categorized as "giving away the country," Breshgold said.

"I don't like my patriotism questioned," Breshgold said, referring to

the Republican response to Democrats who prefer a smaller defense budget.

Discussing reasons why Reagan should not be re-elected, Breshgold said that Reagan could have the opportunity to appoint five Supreme Court justices within the next four years, setting the tone of legal decisions for years to come.

"It's not just a pocket-book campaign," Breshgold warned.

VAGNOZZI POINTED to the "big question of war and peace" as a major campaign issue.

"That issue relates to all of us in a local community," Vagnozzi said.

But other Democrats referred to other issues they felt were of more immediate concern.

"We've got religion back into a campaign," said Vivian Smargon of Franklin, who is running against U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Increasingly, Smargon said, Reagan is referring to himself as a candidate who follows religion as a way of life.

But, she added, when it comes to religion, Reagan implies to the public that "his way is the way."

Arguing against voluntary prayer in schools, Smargon said, "there is no such thing as voluntary. It's similar to separate but equal. There is no such thing."

The federal deficit and its impact is another big issue, Smargon said.

"It's still money in your pocket. That's the issue," she said.

As far as defense and the nation's foreign policy, Smargon said the country is "caught up" in a pro-war attitude, with Reagan leading the parade.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Southfield, said the "issue in this campaign is clearly taxes." That issue, she added, is not something candidates have chosen to campaign on, but one that concerns the public.

Comments were also made by candidates and club members about what they consider to be Reagan's pro-war attitude.

The whole nation, Smargon said, "is caught up" in a pro-war attitude.



### A show full of color

Mixing yellow mums, red geraniums and blue iris is typical of the splash of colors Hill and Dale Garden members put together for their "Country Fair in Farmington." Gladys King is the gar-

dener who arranged the entry shown above. Other pictures and the story of the club's standard flower show are on Page 3-A.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Rec area council focus

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Developers' yearly requests for extensions to complete the open recreational areas in some Farmington Hills subdivisions have been raising concern among city officials.

The concern is whether the amount of money provided by developers for open space completion is enough to cover current costs. The money is provided through a bank letter of credit.

Council recently adopted a policy to make sure amounts in an escrow account or in a bank letter of credit are sufficient to keep up with increasing costs.

The policy requires that for new subdivisions with a planned open space, the developer must put the cash amount needed to complete the area into an interest-bearing account in the developer's and city's name.

THE NEW GUIDELINES also require that when an extension is requested the developer must:

- Update his bank letter of credit to an amount city officials believe will cover current costs of completing an open space; or

- Provide a landscaper's official estimate of the work which will be supported by a tri-party agreement between city officials, the developer and the landscaper.

The most recent request for an open space extension came a couple of weeks ago from Frank Winton, developer of Bridge Hills Subdivision, near Inkster Road.

Winton's request for another year-long extension plus city officials' concern whether the \$17,000 in a letter of credit would cover current costs, opened the door for council's adoption of the new policy.

"The point is that we have the guarantee that the money is there (for completion of an open space)," said City Manager William Costick.

AN OPEN SPACE is a common area in a subdivision, generally behind a group of homes. Whether an open space is required depends on zoning and where in the city the subdivision is located, Costick said. In some cases, a water retention area also is located in an open space.

In planning for an open space, a developer is required to provide a bank letter of credit of the amount of money it will take to landscape a subdivision's area.

The developer must complete the open space when about 60-80 percent of the subdivision has been developed. When the majority of the neighborhood is developed a neighborhood association is formed, Costick said.

Each property owner then pays a certain assessment to maintain the completed open space.

But the housing recession several years ago slowed down the completion of many of the subdivisions' open spaces, Costick said. Consequently, the developers have asked council for extensions on an annual basis until the neighborhoods are at least 60-80 percent developed.

## Brigaders help make learning easier

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

Slow learners in the Farmington schools? Good, old Florence "Dinghy" Sharp and her crew will have them shooting dice, playing cards and, hopefully, doing better.



Helping out Michelle Racine, 7, is Bucket Brigade volunteer Nancy Davis.

Cards and dice are just two of the devices Sharp, the Farmington School District's Learning Consultant, uses in her renowned Bucket Brigade, a one-on-one tutoring program which makes heavy use of volunteer teachers.

Volunteers, including many parents, play games with elementary-school

children during school hours. The games are designed to help students in math, reading, handwriting — "any need that the teachers see," said Sharp, a 22-year veteran of the Farmington system.

Playing cards, dominos and spotted cubes are used as an "alternative approach, something that wouldn't be taught in the classroom," Sharp said.

"The children have to count the spots on one cube and the spots on the other and make an add fact out of them," she said, adding that the same exercise could be used with the face value of cards.

A spelling device makes use of a piece of window screen, which is placed under the students' papers. When a youngster writes a word on paper, the pressure makes an indentation in the underlying screen. The student can then trace the word with his fingers.

## Training center gets helping hand

By Tom Baer  
staff writer

The poly hockey program at the Farmington Training Center has been a huge success the past couple of years, but now the team uniforms have worn a bit thin.

"Things are beginning to wear out," said Fred Parker, principal at the Farmington Training Center, which has 180 "trainable" developmentally disabled students ages 13 to 26.

But replacements are on the way thanks to a gift of \$1,300 to the FTC

"They get a feeling, literally, for how the words are spelled," Sharp said. A Monopoly-like game is used to address reading and vocabulary problems, Sharp added.

ANOTHER METHOD: "We do a lot of listening to good stories and then the kids re-tell the stories in their own words," Sharp said. "The volunteer takes that dictation down, and the children read their versions of the classic."

"Then they can handle the real book better. The vocabulary will be more meaningful," Sharp believes that the Bucket Brigade has helped a lot of students "feel better about themselves" in the 15 years it's been used in the Farmington District.

"They have a lot of success with the one-on-one, and they carry it back to the classroom," she said.

Parents, grandparents and volun-

teers are used to do the instructing. The district will use 119 this fall, all trained by Sharp.

The volunteers — "loving people who want to spend some time with the little people," according to Sharp — work on an individual basis.

"They might stay all morning and see only four or five children," Sharp said.

Sharp and the district recently honored four longtime volunteers — Helene Siegel of Forrest Elementary, Lena Lee of Longacre, Nancy Davis of Kenbrook and Ruby Martin of Eagle and Fairview — in the Bucket Brigade.

"We're going to give books in their names to the Farmington Public Library," Sharp said. "The books are inscribed with their names and the sentence, 'This book is given in honor of

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