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Hills wavers in decision on 'Choice'

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills council members who are opposed to Proposal C failed to muster enough support from their colleagues last week to take an official stand on the much-debated Voter's Choice Amendment.

Councilwomen Jan Dolan, Jodi Soronen and Joan Dudley lost their bid last Monday to put council on record opposing the constitutional amendment on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

The councilwomen's bid was lost when Mayor Charles Williams and councilmen Joe Alkateeb and Robert Anzlovvar refused to take a public stand on the issue.

Councilman Donn Wolf stood alone in his support of Proposal C.

"I would be very much against the city taking a stand on Proposal C, either pro or con," Alkateeb said. "I don't think it's any of our business. . . . I tell people how to vote."

Williams and Anzlovvar expressed similar feelings.

"It is amazing how close you are to what I am about to say," Williams said.

Williams said that because he is having a hard time deciding how he stands on Proposal C, he finds it difficult to urge voters to vote one way or another on the issue.

"While I think this would be bad for Farmington Hills, if approved, I think we will be able to live with it," Williams said, about Proposal C.

PROPOSAL C is an issue between voters and the state government, Anzlovvar said.

But Dolan, who suggested taking a stand on the issue, said that regardless of what level of government Proposal C is directed at, its passage would financially affect Farmington Hills.

"Looking at it money-wise, I'm not scared of it," Wolf said.

'I would be very much against the city taking a stand on Proposal C, either pro or con.'

— Joe Alkateeb
Hills council

Wolf applauded the idea that if Proposal C passes, the public would decide how much money government would spend and on what. For a long time, he said, school district officials have had to go to the public asking for money for specific reasons.

The passage of Proposal C, Wolf said, would give city officials the opportunity to do the same.

"I feel compelled to respond to Mr. Wolf's remarks regarding this proposal," Dudley said.

Referring to Wolf's comments about school districts, Dudley said so few voters turn out at the polls that it cannot necessarily be counted as consensus of what the public wants.

SHE ALSO referred to a meeting in which 75 Farmington Hills subdivisions were invited to discuss the six-year capital improvements plan and charter amendment proposal.

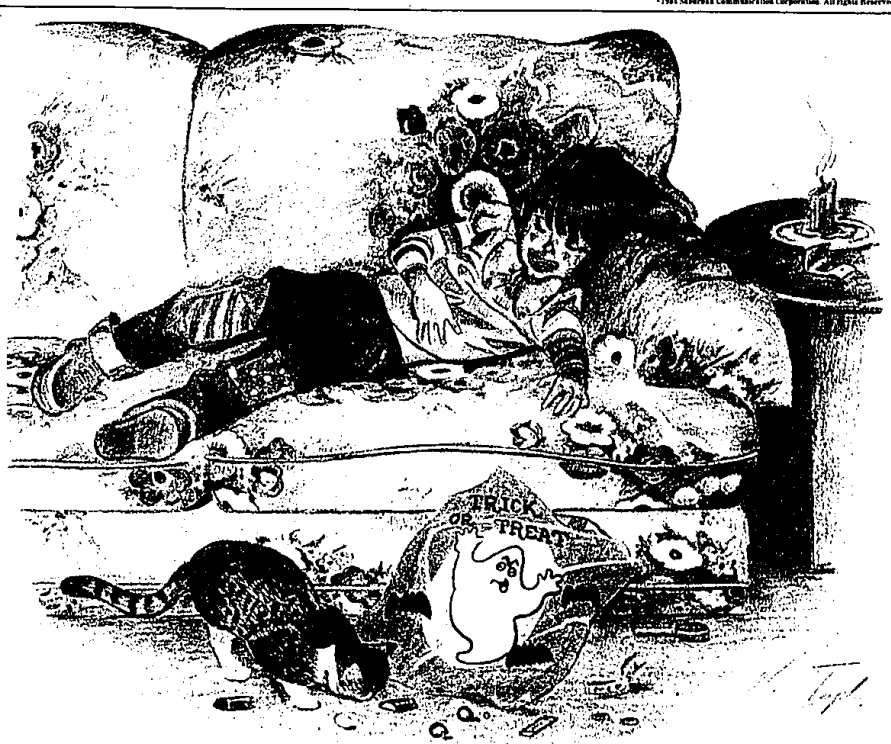
Only 20 people attended the meeting, she said.

"Proposal C to me means government by the minority," Dudley said.

Later when councilmembers who refused to take a stand made their feelings known, Dudley called their inaction "a cop-out."

"I don't agree with Mr. Wolf. But I respect that he put his opinion on the line," Dudley said.

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MARVIN TEEPLES/illustrator

A weary beggar

The annual celebration of ghosts and goblins will fill the streets and homes with the young and the young at heart who love to celebrate the Halloween holiday. And like the youngster above,

many will find themselves weary to the bones after a full night of costumes, games and trick or treating.

Family fights back after fire hits home



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

By Tom Beer
staff writer

They saved Ivy Adams' family Bible, and Ivy Adams is thankful for that.

A Farmington Hills firefighter managed to toss it out a second-story window of Adams' Newell Circle East house while it blazed highly last Thursday afternoon.

"The Bible's cover is gone. . . . burnt. . . . but the insides are still there," said Adams, standing on the lawn in front of the charred remains of her colonial bungalow in the Old Farm Colony subdivision.

"And that's great. All our family's records from Ireland are in that Bible. How could we ever replace them?"

No one was injured in the fire, which caused an estimated \$85,000 damage. Adams managed to escape with her two hunkie dogs.

Her husband, Robert, a construction contractor, was at work at the time of the fire, which drew 22 Hills fire-



Ivy Adams

fighters from two stations.

Ivy Adams told the following story. She returned home from grocery shopping about 3:30 p.m. Thursday,

parking her 1980 Lincoln Continental Mark VI in the attached garage and entering the house.

"I heard a cracking noise when I was putting the groceries away," she said. "I looked in the garage and saw that the place was on fire. I thought about starting the car and trying to back it out of the garage, but then I thought it might explode."

"So I thought, call the fire department and get out of there."

The car — almost certainly the cause of the fire, according to fire officials — was completely gutted. Pulled out of the garage by the fire department, it rested on its rims in the Adams driveway, looking like it had been rusting away in a junkyard for the past 10 years.

"The rubber tires just melted off right before our eyes," Adams said.

ANOTHER VICTIM of the blaze was a room full of precious antiques, including many family heirlooms, located directly above the garage.

"How do you replace something like that?" Adams asked. "There were things given to me by my grandparents. I couldn't even begin to write them all down right now. . . . I'm just so upset."

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of today's paper.

Voter's guide is corrected

The League of Women Voter's Guide published in the last issue of the Farmington Observer incorrectly listed the candidates for the 47th District Court race.

The challenger in the race is Ronald Goldstein, a Farmington Hills lawyer, who is challenging incumbent Michael Hand.

Goldstein's candidate's statements appears on page 6A of this issue.