

Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 7

Thursday, November 1, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

66 Pages

Twenty-five cents

©1984 Suburban Communications Corporation. All rights reserved.

Sever, Marks vie for Hills council seat

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents will elect a new city council member Tuesday.

Squaring off for one seat on the Farmington Hills city council are local businessman Terry Sever and former planning commissioner Ben Marks.

The winner in the city council race will serve the remaining year of an unfinished term. Former councilman Fred Hughes left the city last year when he was transferred to another city.

Councilman Robert Anzovar was chosen by council last January to replace Hughes until the election. Anzovar was bumped out of the running by Sever and Marks in the primary election.

A campaign veteran in his third try for a council seat, Sever is opposed to the city's proposed charter amendment for financing capital improvements.

Instead, Sever believes council has other funding options. One of the options includes setting aside surplus revenue in the city budget for capital improvements. Other options are selling the San Marino Golf Course and requiring all new development to help pay for projects such as drains and sewers.

Sever supports allowing the Farmington Community Library system to become independent and levy its own operating millage.

THE OWNER of TL Printing on Grand River in Farmington also would like to see the proposed new police building built in several phases. He prefers the pay-as-you-go method of paying for the building.

Sever would also like to see more citizen input in local government through ad hoc committees and commissions.

Marks believes his greatest asset as a council member would be his 16 years of involvement in the city government.

Besides his tenure on the planning commission, Marks' experience includes the chairmanship of the housing commission, and director of the Future Farmington Association, to help promote consolidation of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

When that failed, Marks joined the drive for Farmington Hills cityhood. He also served as a charter commissioner and on the building authority and builders board of appeals.

Marks also made an unsuccessful attempt for a council seat in 1977.

Before the August primary Marks said he would prefer a special millage to help pay for capital improvements rather than a charter amendment. Now



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Flash fire

A Hugo Street home undergoing remodeling was gutted by fire Wednesday. The blaze began about 1:30 p.m. while workmen were inside. No injuries were reported. Firefighters from Farmington

and Farmington Hills fought the blaze until it was extinguished. The home, a block and a half north of Eight Mile, was completely destroyed. Officials are investigating the cause.

Court battle is set

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters will be choosing between an incumbent and a newcomer as judge in the 47th District Court race.

Squaring off for the six-year term are veteran Judge Michael Hand and attorney Ronald Goldstein.

As the incumbent, 65-year-old Hand offers 16 years of experience in the district court which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills. In seeking reelection Hand said he will stand on his

Please turn to Page 10

Local proposition will ask voters for capital improvement funding

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Voters Tuesday's will be asked to amend the Farmington Hills city charter, to levy the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements.

Voters also will cast ballots for three statewide proposals.

The Farmington Hills charter amendment proposal asks voters to give the city authority to levy up to an additional 1.5 mills for 20 years to be earmarked for needed projects in a six-year capital improvements plan.

If approved, the city's total taxing authority would be increased from the 10-mill charter limit to 11.5 mills.

The proposed additional 1.5 mills would not be levied until July 1985. The city council has the option of levying less than 1.5 mills.

Applied to the city's 1984-85 \$1 billion state equalized value, the full 1.5 mills would provide about \$1.5 million for capital improvements per year.

City taxpayers would contribute approximately 10 percent of the total cost of planned improvements. City officials say that an annual investment of \$1.5 million is needed to finance the improvements.

Unlike a special millage which is separate from a city's charter limit, the proposed amendment would create a new section in the charter.

Without a charter amendment extending the millage limit, future councils would have to ask for a charter amendment when general millage (operating and debt) needs to be increased to pay the bills.

With the city's current eight-mill levy, the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements would bring the total tax levy to 9.5 mills.

That would leave future councils with only a one-half-mill leeway for operations and debt.

On the other hand, the city already has the authority, under the city charter, to levy the additional 1.5 mills for capital improvements.

All revenue garnered from the proposed additional millage would be earmarked specifically for projects in the city's six-year plan.

Required by the state, the improvements program provides city officials with a guideline of needed projects, such as road, sewer and drainage improvements, and new facilities.

Voters will also be asked to cast ballots on the following three statewide proposals:

Proposal A would amend the state constitution so the legislature or joint committee empowered by the legislature could approve or disapprove rules proposed by an administrative agency.

Currently when laws are passed the legislature grants authority to a state agency to write rules to enforce the law. Under the Administrative Procedures Act, a joint committee of members of the state House and Senate has the power to review and approve or disapprove rules or regulations proposed by an administrative agency.

Although passage of Proposal A would not give the legislature any new power, its present statutory power would be written into the state constitution.

Proponents claim the legislature has the obligation to review administrative rules and regulations to determine if these carry out the intent of the legislature.

Opponents claim that since administrative agencies are part of the executive branch of government, Proposal A would violate the separation of powers because it would grant the legislature authority over the executive branch.

Proposal B would establish a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to be financed by certain royalties,

bonuses and rentals collected by the state from the drilling of oil and gas or mining of minerals on state-owned land.

If approved, the Natural Resources Fund would succeed the existing Kammer Land Acquisition Trust Fund and the Heritage Trust Fund.

Unlike the current method of financing the acquisition of recreational land, the proposal would require that the Natural Resources Fund would receive all the money earned from royalties and leases and extraction of minerals and other non-renewable resources from state-owned land.

Under the current system, revenue no longer goes directly to the Kammer Land Trust Fund. Before going into this

fund it is directed to the Heritage Trust Fund which then makes quarterly transfers to other funds. After these transfers, the remaining revenue goes to the Kammer fund to purchase land.

UNDER PROPOSAL B, earnings from the Natural Resources Fund could be used only for:

- Purchasing land or rights in land for public recreation or protection because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty.
- Developing public recreational facilities.
- Administering the Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Please turn to Page 12

Hills youngster clings to life

A 15-month-old Farmington Hills boy continued his struggle for life Wednesday. He was found Sunday floating in a stream behind the family house.

Zachery Werder was unconscious and on a respirator in Children's Hospital, Detroit, according to a hospital spokeswoman. He is the son of Mark and Miriam Werder, 28901 Scotten.

The Werders told police the following story.

Shortly before noon Sunday Miriam Werder went downstairs to the basement where Zachery and his two older brothers were playing and found the walk-out door open and the baby missing.

She alerted her husband who ran outside and found Zachery floating in a stream, an arm of the Rouge River.

Mark Werder pulled his son out of the river and immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Instead of waiting for Farmington Hills emergency personnel, who were on their way, the Werders took Zachery to Botsford General Hospital. Zachery was transferred to Children's Hospital later in the day.

Farmington Hills received the emergency call from the Livonia Police. The Werders called the 911 emergency system which goes through Livonia. Farmington Hills does not have a 911 emergency system.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ready for the big night

That's how 4-year-old Kevin Boroniec was when he showed up at the Jaycees' haunted house on Halloween Day. Like thousands of others around the metropolitan Detroit area, Kevin found that this was one day when anybody could dress any way they felt.

oral quarrel

Should car dealers be open Saturdays?

Recently a Southfield auto dealer attempted what other dealers have tried and failed at — staying open on Saturdays.

The dealership has been vandalized. It has received bomb threats and sales personnel from other dealerships have picketed it. Car salesmen have fought against staying open on Saturdays for years. Many claim most people won't buy a car on Saturdays.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

How do you feel about sales personnel protesting against a dealer staying open on Saturdays?

To answer this question, call 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. Friday. Look in Moody's paper to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

what's inside

Amusements . . . 10C-13C
Business . . . 7C-9C
Cable Connection . . . 6A
Classifieds . . . Sections C,D,E
Club Circuit . . . 4B
Community Calendar . . . 3B
Creative Living . . . Section E
Editorials . . . 18A
Sports . . . Section C
Suburban Life . . . Section B
HOME DELIVERY . . . 591-0500
CLASSIFIED ADS . . . 591-0900
NEWSROOM . . . 477-5450

You're to discover
CREATIVE LIVING
REAL ESTATE SECTION

IN TODAY'S ISSUE