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Twenty-five cents

Cotton takes top spot; second is a squeaker

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

In an annual school board election that drew a record number of candidates and voters, Jack Cotton and Helen Ditzhazy captured the two four-year terms on the Farmington School Board, beating out 13 other contenders, including one write-in candidate.

In the unofficial tally, Cotton outdistanced all candidates by capturing 21.2 percent (78) of the total 3,691 votes. Ditzhazy followed with 10.3 percent (425) of the vote. Candidate Jean Moran trailed Ditzhazy by 17 votes to come in third place.

"It's more than the last school board election," said Scott Bacon, district administrative assistant, about the record 1,792 voters who turned out to the polls Monday. The Farmington School District has approximately 46,000 registered voters, Bacon added.

This year's number of voters outdistances the 1,531 who turned out to the polls in the 1984 annual school board election. It also far outstrips the 901

voters who went to the polls in a special millage election last September, Bacon said.

"We also had some more absentee voters," Bacon continued. Absentee voters represented 148 of the total voters, he said. That's compared to 109 last June and 42 in the previous year.

COTTON AND DITZHAZY are filling the seats held by veteran board members Emma Makinen and Richard Wallace who did not seek re-election.

The new board members will be sworn in at the next Farmington Board of Education meeting June 18. They will take office at the following meeting July 8 when the board's officers will be elected.

Following third-place Moran was Roxanne Fitzpatrick (351 votes); Zolton Bach (165); Joan Brown (123); Maxine Harwin (94); Michael King (89); Don Allen (82); Marty Krohn (50); Sara Lee Wollard, who unofficially withdrew from the race (18); and write-in candidate Susan Cutler (1).

"Of course, I am elated," said Cotton, former district athletic director. "Who could predict what would happen out there with 13 candidates (14 originally but one withdrew two weeks before the election)."

Although many in the area told Cotton he was a "shoo-in" because of name recognition, he says he still worked a little bit about the election's outcome.

Calling the race for the two seats a "nice and friendly campaign," Cotton said, "I really feel I picked up 12 additional friends."

Ditzhazy was equally happy about her victory.

"I am just delighted. It was a real family, friends and neighbors campaign," said Ditzhazy.

Besides support from friends and neighbors, Ditzhazy attributes her success to a change in strategy.

THE LAST TIME Ditzhazy ran for election in 1981 (she withdrew from the 1982 race), she went door-to-door but just dropped off campaign literature.

"This time we rang door bells and talked to people," she said.



Jack Cotton



Helen Ditzhazy

Another part of her strategy was the first piece of literature she handed to people which included a small map of voting precincts.

"I think that helped a lot of people," she said, adding many voters didn't realize the election was coming up or at which precinct they had to vote.

"I think that what we did was helpful and pulled in a few voters that might not have come to the polls," Ditzhazy said.

Receiving the highest number of votes, Cotton also captured all but one of the district's four precincts. Only

Precinct 3 (Warner Middle School) which was taken by candidate Al Zolton, was out of Cotton's grasp. Cotton, however, placed second in Precinct 3.

Coming in with the second highest number of votes, Ditzhazy did not win the top vote in any of the district's precincts. She placed second in Precincts 1 and 4.

Buck, who tied with Knauer for sixth place with 488 votes, captured the most absentee votes. Of the total 148 absentee votes, Buck took 55, followed by Cotton with 45.

Illness halts career

By Julie Brown staff writer

Citing health problems, Farmington Hills councilman Charles Williams said he will not seek re-election in the fall.

Williams, formerly mayor of Farmington Hills, made the announcement at Monday's council meeting.

"As you all are aware, I've been hospitalized six times in the last 13 months. I don't intend to be a lame-duck councilman, although I may have a lame foot," said Williams, a diabetic.

Williams was elected to a four-year council term in November 1981. He served as the city's mayor in 1984.

"I don't want to run a campaign that's half a campaign," he said Monday.

"I'm going to miss you, Charlie, I really am," councilwoman Joan Dudley told Williams. "You've been stimulating to the discussion many times."

Dudley and Williams have disagreed on council issues. Williams has generally taken a more conservative position on those issues.

Mayor Jan Dolan told Williams, an accountant, that his financial expertise has been helpful to the council.

"He was able to ask questions of our finance director that only someone in the field could ask," the mayor said Tuesday.

Dolan said she was sorry to hear of Williams' decision.

"I really was. As usual, we didn't always agree, but he had much to contribute."

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Voters support school millage renewal

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington School District voters approved the renewal of a four-mill tax levy by a 3-1 margin in Monday's school election.

The vote total, unofficial until approved by canvassers, shows 1,241 in

favor and 439 against the 10-year renewal.

The margin pleased school officials.

"I'm just thrilled with the support from the community," Superintendent Lewis Schulman said.

EVEN BEFORE the election, school officials had little doubt their renewal request would receive voter support.

"Our renewals have been two-and-a-half and three-to-one in favor of the renewal," Schulman said.

Schulman believes voter support indicates faith in the school board's handling of finances, he said.

The board is very restrained in what they levy. They are quite careful," he said.

The district now has authority to

levy any part of the four mills over the next 10 years.

THE FOUR mills are part of a 37.29-mill-total levy approved by voters. The district is not levying the total, however.

The district's current \$49.7-million budget is based on a levy of 34 mills — 32.5 mills for operations and 1.5 mills for debt retirement.

The greatest voter support Monday came in Precinct 2 (Dunckel Middle School) where the most votes were cast. Of the 845 total, 489 were in favor and 356 against.

Precinct 1 (Farmington Training Center) followed in support with 374 of 476 in favor.

Of 142 absentee ballots, 76 were in favor and 66 against.

Female rabbi is a 'first' in Conservative Judaism



Amy Ellberg is the first woman rabbi in Conservative Judaism.

By Julie Brown staff writer

Amy Ellberg has become accustomed by now to answering questions about her role as a "first."

"It's really been an extraordinary experience," said Ellberg, Conservative Judaism's first woman rabbi. "I feel lucky to have stepped into a special moment in history" and to have contributed to the advancement of women in the Jewish community.

Ellberg, 50, was in Farmington Hills Monday as the keynote speaker for the Sisterhood of Adat Shalom Synagogue. In an interview before her speech, she discussed her role as a "first."

"The pace of press attention was a bit overwhelming," she said. "I had a little too much to handle at one time, but it was exhilarating, too."

"A lot of people have been willing to share things with me, and that's been a lovely thing. People would approach me and would share with me some behavior feelings they had, particularly women."

Ellberg graduated from the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary in May. The rabbinical program was opened to women in 1983; members of Conservative Judaism's Rabbinical Assembly voted earlier this year to ordain women as rabbis.

The new rabbi also holds a master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary, in addition to a master's degree in social work from Smith College. Her undergraduate degree is from

Brandeis University in Judaic studies.

In August, Ellberg will begin work as a chaplain for the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

"I'll be working as a hospital chaplain," she said. "It's a very exciting hospital. I think it's going to be a good place to work."

In her work at the hospital, Ellberg will be part of an ecumenical team of chaplains, working to meet the spiritual and psychological needs of patients and their families.

"Each of us is assigned to a different area of the hospital." She will also work as community rabbi for the Jewish Welfare Federation in Indianapolis.

"Some educational roles, some consulting with local Jewish social service agencies, and assisting the rabbinical leadership of the community in any way I can," she said of the Jewish Welfare Federation job.

Women have much to offer Judaism, she said, including their participation as rabbis.

"The nicest thing that's happened is that women now have that option."

The decision to ordain women as rabbis is relevant not only to the relatively small number of women who choose that role, she told members of the synagogue's sisterhood.

"This was a decision that spoke to women in communities throughout the country and everywhere."

"As I look back now, seeing what we've been able to accomplish so far, it seems the progress has been very rapid," she said. Progress remains to be made, however, both for women rabbis and for women members of the laity.

WOMEN WHO felt deprived of a sense of equality in Judaism responded in a variety of ways, she said. Some found it virtually impossible to recon-

cile their belief in Judaism with their feelings of inequality.

"And for them, they could not go in the absence of that equality."

Other women took a more passive, wait-and-see stance.

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Festival set for July 16-20

By Jean Adamczak staff writer

All systems are go for this year's Farmington Founders' Festival, says festival administrator Jodi Soronen.

Scheduled for July 16-20, the festival is back under the control of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, formerly headed by the Founders' Festival Committee.

In a special meeting last fall, the chamber board voted to take control of the 1985 festival.

"Because we were running into the problem of getting volunteers to donate their time and since a lot of the festival business is handled through the chamber's office, the chamber board decided

to take control of this year's festival," says Soronen.

Although the reins of control have changed, the festival will basically stay the same, offering a myriad of events and activities, says Soronen.

"We're not cutting anything out," she says of this year's festival, "although there will be more of a variety of ethnic foods available."

An increase in the number of arts and crafts exhibitors will also be seen this year, says Soronen.

Last year about 42 artists displayed their wares at the festival, she says. This year there will be 64 to 65 crafters in attendance at the gala event, according to Soronen.

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SPECIAL SECTION
IN TODAY'S ISSUE

Vagnozzi tapped for library seat

By Julie Brown staff writer

Farmingington Hills City Council members Monday appointed Democratic activist Aldo Vagnozzi to the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees.

The Farmington Hills resident was unanimously appointed as a replacement member of the Library Board. He will serve out the remainder of Lois Carey's term, which was scheduled to expire in March of 1986.

Carey resigned from the Library Board on May 16. She has said that

other demands on her time required that she resign from the board.

Vagnozzi is corresponding secretary for the Farmington Area Democratic Club and has been involved with the Friends of the Library, a volunteer support group. He is also a veteran city council member in Farmington Hills and served on Farmington's school board from 1969 to 1973.

"The fact that I applied for it indicates that I'm willing to serve and hope that I can make a contribution, along

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oral quarrel

Allow patients the right to die?

Karen Ann Quinlan, the New Jersey resident who had been comatose for the past 10 years, died Tuesday.

Quinlan fell into a coma in 1975 after taking what authorities believe to be a combination of tranquilizers and alcohol. Her parents won a landmark battle in 1976 to have her removed from life support systems so she could "die with dignity."

After being removed from her respirator, Quinlan remained coma-

toed but alive for nine years.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

How do you feel about laws allowing patients and their families to make the decision to withdraw life support systems?

To answer this question, call 477-5458 before 1 p.m. Friday. To see how your neighbors respond to this question, see Monday's Observer.