

City candidates outline their backgrounds

election '85

See Page 8A for candidate profiles.

BELOW ARE biographies of the six candidates vying for three seats on the Farmington City Council. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Alton Bennett and Roger Walker Jr. are incumbents. Arnold Campbell, Gerald Lynch, Elizabeth Mihelich and Richard Tupper are challengers.

The top two vote-getters will earn four-year terms. The next highest finisher will serve a two-year term.

The upcoming election is non-partisan.

Alton Bennett Alta Loma

Age: 55.
Education: Hastings High School, 1948. Bachelor of arts, Houghton College, N.Y., 1952. Master of arts, University of Michigan, 1965. Education Specialist, Wayne State University, 1974. Majored in history and English.
Employer: Farmington Public Schools, 20 years position, East Middle School principal.
Government involvement: Member, Zoning Board of Appeals, 1971-75. Member, City Council, 1975 to present; mayor pro-tem, 1979-81, mayor, 1981-83.
Community involvement: Member, North Farmington Kiwanis Club, 1972 to 1980; president, 1978. Member, Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia; deacon, six years, older, nine years.
Length of residence in city: 18 years. Native of Nashville, Mich.
Family: Wife, Mae; daughter, Deborah Butler; two grandchildren.

Arnold Campbell Birchwood Lane

Age: 35.
Education: Bentley High School, Livonia, 1968. Bachelor of science in industrial management, Lawrence In-

stitute of Technology, Southfield, 1972. Master of arts in business management, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, 1981.

Employer: Ford Motor Co., Dearborn, 15 years; position, product problem analyst, Warranty and Reliability Engineering Department.

Community involvement: President, Farmington Meadows Homeowners Association (elected 1983) — instrumental in coordinating residents and businesses to replace a quarter mile of fence along Chesley Drive and remove a local eyesore, instrumental in coordinating efforts of officers and residents to achieve goals for the betterment of the subdivision and to create a subdivision that is a community asset; has helped organize social outings and events; has worked as a liaison between residents and the city; has assisted with Neighborhood Watch and subdivision certification. Member, Farmington Central Business District Committee (formed 1983) — on the communication subcommittee and actively pursuing the goals and objectives of creating a viable downtown that functions harmoniously with the residents and the area; working to develop a close working relationship between city officials, residents, and business and civic leaders. Supporter, Farmington Community Center.

Government involvement: Assistant secretary, Farmington Economic Development Corporation (appointed by the city council in 1983). Governmental affairs chairman, Farmington Meadows Homeowners Association (elected in 1982); in this capacity, I have attended virtually every city council meeting for the past three years.

Length of residence in city: Seven years. Native of Detroit.
Family: Wife, Elizabeth; sons, Andrew, 5, Farmington Public Schools; Flanders Elementary School student, and Bryan, 2.

Government involvement: Candidate, Farmington Board of Education, 1983. Candidate, Oakland County Board of Commissioners, 1984. Executive

Gerald Lynch Marblehead Lane

Age: 43.
Education: Bay City Handy High School, 1960. Bachelor of science in bookkeeping, accounting and foreign languages, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 1971.
Employer: Farmington Hills, 13 years; position, police officer.
Community involvement: Baseball

coach and manager, South Farmington Little League, 1975-78. Church officer, church clerk, Christian Reformed Church, Farmington Hills, 1980-82. Member, American Legion, Farmington Post 348. Scout coordinator, Troop 162. Music patron, Farmington High School, 1982-84. Member, Oakland/MSU Alumni Association.

Government involvement: Candidate, Farmington City Council, 1983. Received 381 out of 1,178 votes cast (although not elected).

Length of residence in city: 13 years. Native of Bay City.
Family: Wife, Annie; son, Philip, 18, 1984 graduate of Farmington High School, now a sophomore at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Elizabeth Mihelich Freedom Road

Age: 38.
Education: Bachelor of arts in English, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., 1969.

Employer: "What Can I Say," a public relations firm in Farmington Hills; position, owner, writer, photographer, editor. Other employment includes direct sales, retail sales, magazine work, public information specialist in the Army Reserve, book reviewer, news stringer.

Community involvement: T-Ball coach, Farmington Area YMCA, 1985. Soccer coach, Farmington Department of Parks & Recreation, 1982. Conferment of Christian Doctrine Instruction, Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington, 1983 and 1984; chairwoman, Christian Service Commission, Our Lady of Sorrows, 1983. Member, executive committee of Oakland County Democratic Party, 1984 to present. Pastoral care volunteer, Oakwood Hospital, Detroit, 1985. Have served as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist/lector, Our Lady of Sorrows and Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak; chaplain assistant, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak; polo coach, Troy Department of Parks & Recreation. Active, American Cancer Society, Michigan Diabetes Association. Active, Common Ground, Birmingham; board member, Friends of Common Ground. Formerly active, AMICUS, Minneapolis, one-to-one visiting of inmates in the Minnesota State Prison for Women.

Government involvement: Candidate, Farmington Board of Education, 1983. Candidate, Oakland County Board of Commissioners, 1984. Executive

committee, Oakland County Democratic Party, 1984 to present. Member, Metropolitan Committee on Parks & Recreation (while in Minnesota), 1975. Length of residence in city: Three years. Native of Duluth, Minn.

Richard Tupper Cass Avenue

Age: 52.
Education: Farmington High School, 1950. Certificate for light construction and lumber, merchandising, Michigan State College, East Lansing, 1951-53.

Employer: Tupper Associates, Farmington Hills, 21 years; position, owner. Community involvement: Member, Farmington Area Goodwill, 1965 to 1985; current executive director. Past president, Farmington Exchange Club. Member, Farmington Area Jaycees, 1959 to 1969. Usher, St. John American Lutheran Church, Farmington. Member, Freeway Industrial Park Association, Farmington Hills, 1985.

Government involvement: Member, Planning Commission, 1968. City councilman, 1971 to 1983; mayor, 1977-79. Member, Downtown Redevelopment Commission, 1973. Member, Industrial Development Commission, 1983.

Length of residence in city: 49 years (minus seven years in Farmington Township). Native of Redford, Mich.

Family: Wife, Donna; sons, Brian, 28, graduate of Albion College, David, 21, senior at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio; daughter, Barbara, 26, graduate of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.

Roger Walker Manning Road

Age: 64.
Education: Graduate of Farmington High School. Studied liberal arts for one year, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Studied business administration for two years, City College of New York. Attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for one year, graduating from its real estate program.
Employer: Thompson Brown Co., Farmington Hills; position, associate

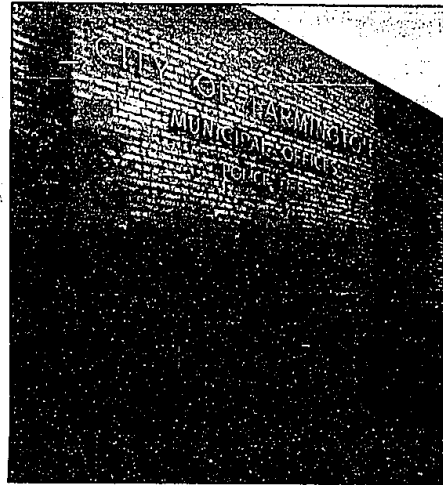
broker. Formerly owned Farmington Realty Co., 10 years. Retired as executive assistant, Michigan Bell Telephone Co. and AT&T, in 1973 after 21 years.

Community involvement: Past president, Farmington Exchange Club, 1979. Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 1978. Farmington Kiwanis Club, 1956. Board member, Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 1975 to 1982. Past chairman, Public Affairs Committee, Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, 1967 to 1970. Received Distinguished Service Award, Farmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, 1949. Honored

by Michigan Legislature (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36), Feb. 7, 1978. Served as Captain, U.S. Army Signal Corps, World War II.

Government involvement: Member, Farmington City Council, since 1983. Member, Economic Development Corporation, 1964-65. Member, Farmington Board of Review, 1977 to 1983. Length of residence in city: 51 years. Native of Toronto.

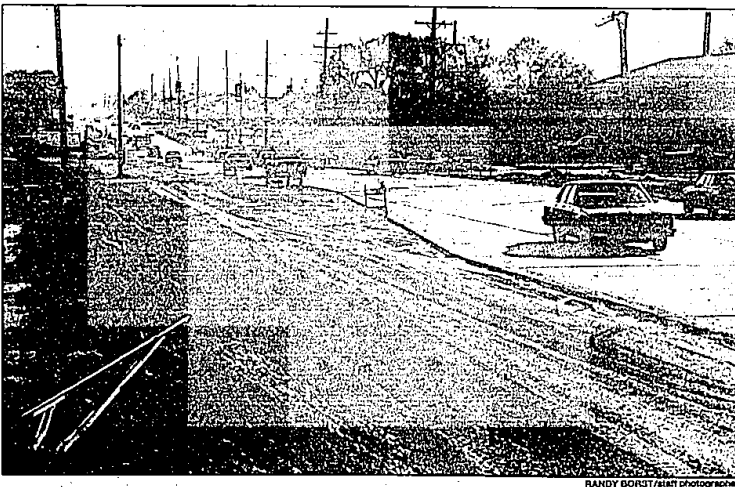
Family: Elizabeth, 25, graduate of Mercy College, Detroit, now a registered nurse; Leslie, 20, a second-year student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Nerve center

The Farmington Municipal Office, 23800 Liberty, opened in the early 1980s. Several city boards and commissions operate from the municipal building. They include the Beautification Committee, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Economic Development Corporation, the Planning Commission, the Historical Commission and the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. City Hall hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The telephone number is 474-5500. Robert Dondman is the city manager. Ralph Yoder is mayor.



Looking east on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

A new look

12 Mile Road undergoes widening

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The widening of 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, is expected to be completed by mid-November.

"We expect all the asphalt work to be done by Nov. 15, with the final cleanup and grading done in the spring," said City Manager William Costick.

The \$2-million project includes widening the north side of 12 Mile to five lanes from east of Orchard Lake Road at Bramwell to west of Farmington Road at Peppercorn.

When the project is completed, motorists will have two through lanes to travel in each direction for about two miles from Farmington to Middlebelt roads, Costick said.

Gaps in existing sidewalks along the thoroughfare in this area will also be completed, said Tom Blasek, city public services director.

Another major improvement will be addition of a road that will provide access to both the Farmington Hills Post Office and the Farmington Community Library on the south side of 12 Mile.

The new boulevard will run down to an office being built between the rear of the library and post office and I-496. The office site is owned by developer Ron Lord, who is paying for the boulevard road.

"This will really eliminate the left turns (to the library and post office)," Costick said.

WIDENING PLANS began more than two years ago as a result of concern and complaints from residents and city officials about growing traffic delays and congestion along 12 Mile.

Through a cooperative venture between the city and the Oakland County Road Commission, the federal government agreed to finance 75 percent of the project's cost if the remaining 25 percent was picked up by the city and county.

"Normally, the city and county would share this amount," Costick said. "But the county didn't have the money."

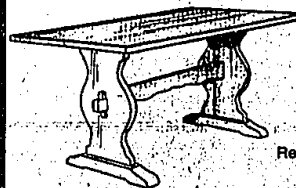
As a result, city officials decided to foot the entire \$500,000 local share, Costick said.

Southfield's section of 12 Mile, between Telegraph and Northwestern Highway, is also being widened.

Guess
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Coming
to
Dinner
and
to
The

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