

Farmington candidates vie for school seats

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Public Schools for 13 years. He lives on Meadowlark in Farmington and is a 26-year resident. Inch is also a member of the Farmington High School Booster Club.

Reinhart, 43, a nine-year Farmington Hills resident, is owner of Credential Check Inc., a Farmington Hills private investigation firm for verification of corporate personnel information. Rohnick taught grades 2-6 in the Detroit Public Schools for five years and also taught consumer advocacy courses at OCC and Oakland University. She lives on Applewood in Farmington Hills. She is a member of the North Farmington Booster Club, the North Farmington Parent Teacher Association, the Farmington Families in Action. She has several other memberships as a school board trustee.

THE CANDIDATES have concerns — about the school district and the areas they would address if elected this June. Changes and enhancements in the district's gifted and special education programs were stressed, plus curriculum changes in other areas.

The school board considers recommendations from the salaried administration and sets all policies for the district. For Blizman, a recent lawsuit filed by the school board against the city of Farmington Hills to stop a tax increment financing plan strongly influenced his decision to run.

"I'm not happy with the lawsuit started by the school board," he said. "It was provocative for me. I'm not sure that's the best use of tax dollars.

"Somehow, I agree with Mr. Abernethy there should have been a way to work out the dispute without litigation." (Trustee James Abernethy cast the only absentee vote for a motion calling for discussion with the city in lieu of legal action).

BLIZMAN ALSO voiced concern with the district's special education program, called for a review of the physical fitness program. He plans to keep a close eye on district spending and enrollment growth.

"If there's a theme, I guess it would be "we can do better," he said.

Rohnick said board stability is the main thrust for her campaign. "There are a lot of things that haven't been finished," she said. She mentioned elementary- and

high school-level science programs, watersheding the recently implemented foreign language program, and a concern with the overall, traditional curriculum. "There's a lack of psychology in the traditional curriculum," Rohnick said. "With the world situation today, that seems to be a big gap." She stressed people skills and learning to live with other cultures as important areas the district must face.

ONE CHALLENGE faced by the new board is working with a superintendent who will be hired by July 1. Public interviews are being conducted this week to narrow the field to a few. A final decision is expected in mid-Aug.

Board stability is key, Inch said, especially with a new superintendent beginning in July.

"There's more of a need for stability," he said. "We have had four changes in three years; it might be some time for stability again."

He also remains concerned about special education students. "There are some students that may be slipping between the cracks," he added.

But he attributes many good things in the district — including the evenly distributed curriculum throughout the schools — to "consistency in the leadership that has developed over the years."

THE LAST day to register to vote

in the June 3 election is Monday, May 12. Absentee ballots will be available after May 20 at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington. Farmington Public Schools encompasses most of Farmington, Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township, a half mile north of 14 Mile between Inker and Middlebelt roads. The school board meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of

each month, and plans to eventually use the administrative center as a regular meeting place. Special meetings are currently held more often, because of the search for a new superintendent.

Other board members continuing in staggered, four-year terms are president Susan Renne; vice president and former president Helen Prutow; and trustees James Abernethy, John (Jack) Cotton and Helen Ditzhary.

hard as we try, I don't think we could write a law definitive enough," Dudley said.

With new building renovations, "they're going to have to come through with missiles," he added.

They are in combat arms. The two-year option provides us with a young, physically fit soldier. One who is also smart and enthusiastic.

The short-term enlistment is especially attractive to women. The Army is a place where they can do something different, such as driving a truck, or working in communications or chemical warfare.

Interested high school students or those out of high school can obtain complete information about the program at the Army Recruiting Station in Lathrup Village, 28800 Southfield Road, or by calling Hollen at 443-5575.

Why does the Army look for short-termers? Hollen said the two-year soldier is essential to the Army's mission. "They fill many of the jobs we call adventure specialties," he said. "Although a number of skills are administrative, many of them are in combat arms. The two-year option provides us with a young, physically fit soldier. One who is also smart and enthusiastic."

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FOR MANY two-year enlistees, completion is scheduled

Baseball diamonds in Farmington's Shawwassee Park should be ready for use by April 15, depending on weather, according to information presented to city council Monday, April 7.

Installation is complete on two diamond backstops. Picnic shelter construction is slated for completion May 15, and the facility's parking lot is scheduled to be completed by May 30, according to an administrative report.

The contractor has attempted to resume his work; however, soil ground conditions in the park have prohibited them from proceeding," the report said.

Residents relate their water woes

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In many cases, the lack of adequate drainage and other outlets for storm water is the immediate cause of backed-up water. The city has never really had a major storm sewer program, Costek said.

BUT SOME council members demanded to know why drainage problems are occurring if developers' building plans, including grading requirements, are approved with assurances that potential drainage problems won't occur.

"Every time we have development come in here we are told the runoff won't be worse than if it remained undeveloped," Councilwoman Jan Dolan said. "And yet it is not happening. Why? Something is not working."

After hearing residents' stories about flooding, Dolan suggested putting a stop to further development until drainage problems in the city are solved. "Until we can solve the problem, stop everything. I know it's simplistic. I know it's illegal. But it's illegal to dump the water on someone else."

Defending city staff's work, Costek reminded council that some drainage problems are the result of years of development in the area. "We are the beneficiaries of these problems. We can't stop building because we would be in court. But we can stop the bleeding," said Ben Marks, mayor pro tempore.

Marks also talked of the city's need for money to fix the problems. Marks reminded residents of the city's unsuccessful bid almost two years ago for a \$15-million special levy to pay for capital improvements.

"We have to find where these dollars are going to come from," he said.

DOLAN TOLD residents it would be a help if they — knowing what draining problems exist — would attend budget hearings later this spring.

Because city staff maintains many flooding problems are due to development over the years, Councilman Terry Sever suggested holding developers responsible.

In one case, Marks said, a developer's building permits last year were stopped until a grading and flooding problem was solved. But it's a question of monitoring the projects, he added.

One resident asked why homeowners can be held responsible, according to city code, for causing drainage problems while developers of commercial projects are not.

"No answer," Marks replied. On the other hand, many of the flooding problems are also caused by homeowners' landscaping, city engineer Dave Gall said.

Although inspections to ensure that grading is completed accurately are conducted prior to issuing a certificate of occu-

pancy, grading of land is changed when homeowners landscape their property, he added.

Councilwoman Jody Soronen suggested homeowners could obtain a permit when they plan to landscape.

But Dudley opposed the suggestion, saying it would never work. "People aren't going to do it. As

darn fast," Al said.

With new building renovations, "they're going to have to come through with missiles," he added.

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Thieves drive cars into store

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owners and law enforcement officials. None of the stolen items were recovered, Goss said.

A car was also used to gain entry to the store Sunday, March 30, according to public safety reports. During that heist, \$5,000 to \$10,000 in jewelry was taken from display cases. Thieves also tried to break into Steve Butcher's Furs, 31705 Grand River, about the same time.

Investigators believe the two jewelry hefts and attempted fur theft are related, according to Goss.

Al DuQuet, who owns the jewelry store with brother Chuck, said the damage — which he estimates at about \$20,000 — was far worse than the amount stolen in the two break-ins. "They'd be lucky to fetch the whole thing for two grand (\$2,000)," he added.

SEVERAL THOUSAND dollars worth of beveled mirrors lining the entire storefront interior were shattered. The front of the store is being rebuilt with additional steel beams supported with concrete and a new

steel door. Decorative concrete barriers will be placed in front of the business, so driving through the store won't be quite as easy.

"Our place has always been solid," Al said. "We've always felt pretty comfortable." Following the first break-in, when the door frame was ruined, the owners reinforced the door. When thieves broke into the store a second time using the car, "the steering wheel crumpled, and there was a lot of blood," he said.

As an added precaution, all jewelry will now be taken from the showcases at night, the DuQuets said. Previously, customer jewelry and easy-to-move items were locked away at night, leaving some items out in showcases.

The business has received calls from customers concerned about jewelry in the shop for repair and cleaning. "The customers' stuff is always locked up," Chuck said. "In any break-ins, we've never lost a customer's (jewelry)." Both brothers are pleased with the work of both the Farmington De-

partment of Public Safety and the three separate alarm company systems they use to protect their business. "They (the thieves) just did it so

darn fast," Al said.

With new building renovations, "they're going to have to come through with missiles," he added.

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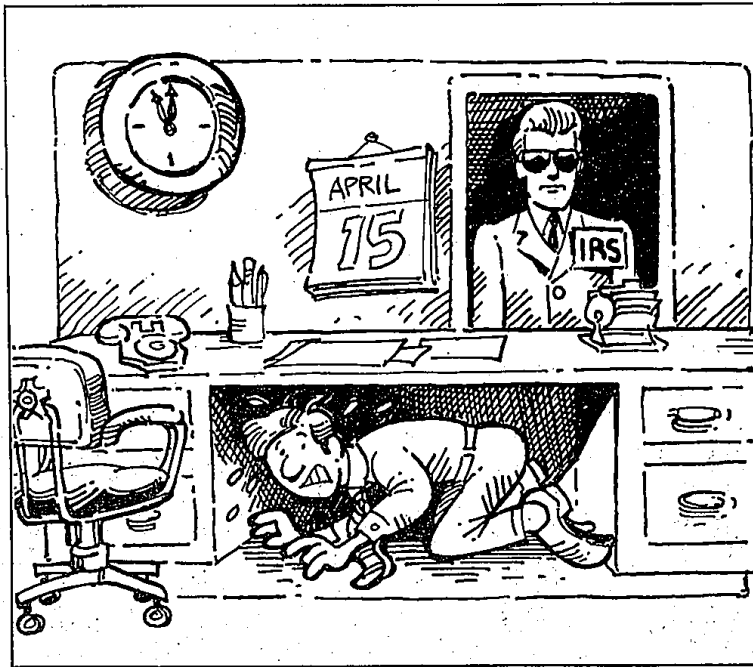
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