

Vote Nov. 3

6 hopefuls are challenging 3

Nine candidates will vie for four Farmington Hills City Council seats in the Tuesday, Nov. 3, general election.

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

The Observer today continues a 3-part installment featuring responses to the newspaper's candidate questionnaire. Part 1 ran Oct. 15.

All voters who registered by Oct. 5 may vote in the nonpartisan election. Absentee ballots are available through the city clerk's office.



Joe Alkateeb

Name: Joe Alkateeb.
Address: Arden Park Drive.
Age: 48.
Length of residency: 18 years.
Employer: design division director, I&M Electric Co. Ferndale.
Family: wife, Nadia, son, Sumner, 23, daughter, Naji, 19.
Education: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, bachelor of science in electrical engineering, 1960. Wayne State University, postgraduate work, business administration. State of Michigan registered professional engineer.
Government involvement: member, Farmington Hills City Council, 1978-82; 84-present, mayor pro tem, 1981, 1985, mayor, 1986, chairman, Farmington Hills County of Appeals Board, 1978-79.

Community involvement: member, Churchill Commons Homeowners Association, 24 years; member, Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners board, four terms, chairman, two terms; member, 12 Mile Road Task Force.

1. What proven qualities and skills would you bring to the council?
"As a council member, I do my homework. I analyze the issues care-

fully. I listen to my constituents and then act. My engineering training helps me make logical and sound judgments. My greatest asset is leadership. I believe in planning and looking ahead. At the end of my term as mayor, the city had established a five-year plan for every major department. Planning is the key to efficient city government."

2. What do you consider to be the top priorities, problems, facing the city in the next four years?

"Traffic is a countywide problem. We need the cooperation of the state and county governments for an adequate solution. 12 Mile Road and Orchard Lake Road are county roads. Northwestern Highway belongs to the state. Pressure at both the county and state level must be exerted to move ahead with the widening of these two major arteries. On local roads, the situation is improving due to the implementation of our master roads plan prepared during my term as mayor.

"Solid waste disposal can soar up to 600 percent. As a council member, I have been urging serious attention to this problem. Note recent cost increases: August, 1986, disposal costs up 91 percent; October, 1987, another 15 percent increase. This is a good cause for alarm. I propose that we cooperate with other communities to buy a common disposal site. The Oakland County incinerator proposal is out of the question. Current estimates are \$50-\$55 per ton compared to our present \$11. Preliminary figures on my proposal are very promising.

3. What steps should the city take to prevent suburban decay in Farmington Hills?

"We should continually work to improve the quality and appearance of our community. I have supported the reactivation of the beautification commission and they have done a marvelous job in the past two years. I propose to continue our tough enforcement of our zoning laws and bright laws.

"I know Farmington Hills resi-

dents are very proud of their community and I am, too. I will always work to promote pride in our city and to protect the special character that sets it apart from other suburban communities. Farmington Hills is a special place to live in and do business in. We will keep it special."

4. New interchanges are expected off I-696 into Farmington Hills by the 1990s. How should the city prepare for the changes. What changes do you expect?

"The city has prepared for these interchanges and that is what good planning is all about. Our master plan calls for offices on the south side of 12 Mile, north of I-696. Also our plans call for a seven-lane, boulevard-type of pavement from Farmington Road to Hagerty. The idea of a boulevard is to have a heavily landscaped median and an attractive roadway. The trees will also cut down some of the traffic noise.

"As to the interchange on Hagerty and I-275, it will cut down our drive-through traffic in our city. The major task in this equation is to get county officials off their duff and get 12 Mile Road widened per the master plan."

5. How would you rate the city's relationship with neighboring communities? Do relations need improvement? How?

"Farmington Hills is a very friendly city and we enjoy tremendous relationships with our neighbors. We certainly have a close relationship with the city of Farmington.

"I do rate our relationship with our neighboring communities as excellent because in the past 10 years, I cannot recall a common problem that we were not able to work out together."

6. On the average, how many city council or planning commission meetings do you attend in any given month?

"As a council member, I attend at least three meetings a month and sometimes four. When time permits, I attend other boards and commis-

sion meetings. During budget preparation, the meetings per month do increase.

"When I served as mayor in 1986, I attended as many as 10 meetings per month, sometimes more, and that in addition to meetings with the city manager weekly. Ceremonial activities were too many to keep track of."

7. Should the city council have a code of ethics? What specific items would you include?

"No. The city charter is quite adequate in that regard. Anything above and beyond the charter provisions is superfluous and not in the best interest of either the city or those who would serve as council members."

8. How would you rate the current city council's performance? On which issues do you believe it has faltered? Why? On which issues has it succeeded? Why?

"I think the council performance has been very good. The majority of the council has worked well together and has kept the interest of the city uppermost in its mind. During my year as mayor, we had many accomplishments to be proud of. We held public hearings and adopted a master storm and drainage plan. We adopted a master parks and recreation plan.

"We surveyed our residents and developed a local roads plan. We adopted a five-year capital improvement plan and we developed five-year plans for fire, police and library service. The response to our citizens has been excellent in terms of roads, youth programs, senior citizens programs, home rehabilitation and, last but not least, in 1987, we reduced taxes almost 15 percent.

"In my estimation, the council faltered in approving the congregated housing at 11 Mile and Middlebelt for 294 units. I felt that was too large, and they should insist on a lesser density."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' con-

cerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?

"I believe our best approach is to join forces with Southfield, Farmington, Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, and maybe other communities, and purchase our own dumpsite. This study is under way."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.

"By constantly raising our taxes, they should have enough. But since the current council doesn't look ahead and save, they spend now and will pay later, taking away from schools or the revenue they get from the state. I feel our current council is blind."

"We must save some of the money for a surplus so just in case a problem arises, we will be able to handle it."

11. Do you agree with the city's new policy limiting board and commission members to one post? How would you generate publicity to attract more applicants?

"I do not agree with the city's policy limiting to one post. At least a person should be able to obtain another post before resigning an old post."

12. With continuing increased costs and services, should the Farmington Community Library continue to be financed by the general fund? Is the time right for an independent library authority with the ability to levy its own millage? How do you propose the planned library expansion on 12 Mile should be financed?

"Again, I would need far more information and facts before declaring a decision in this area. I believe a good library system is essential to our city."



The council chambers are in the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile, at Orchard Lake Road, in the center of the city.

cerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?

"A tough stand on zoning issues is paramount. The master plan must be upheld. The recent rulings by the Supreme Court have had its effect on certain council members, especially those of the legal inclination. I do not agree that these rulings have watered down our ability to uphold master plan. Our most important charge is to protect the character of this special community."

"Our growth in the past three years has been unprecedented. This growth is due to a good economic climate and because Farmington Hills is a very desirable community. Our job is to contain this growth and to make sure the master plan is followed. Our growth should be our challenge to protect and not our license to destroy."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.

"I have answered this question partially in No. 2. I have researched this issue thoroughly and I am opposed to joining Oakland County solid waste consortium. We are paying \$11 per ton and they are estimating an initial cost of \$50-\$55 per ton. My guess is that when the consortium goes into operation, their cost will be closer to \$80 per ton."

"I am an engineer and I have been involved in the design of similar facilities, and I can speak from experience. I also can refer to other consortiums throughout the country that turned out to be total disaster from an economic point of view."

"I believe our best approach is to join forces with Southfield, Farmington, Novi, Wixom, Walled Lake, and maybe other communities, and purchase our own dumpsite. This study is under way."

11. Do you agree with the city's new policy limiting board and commission members to one post? How would you generate publicity to attract more applicants?

"I feel the master plan should be burned against the Bill of Rights. I would not accept any proposal that would hurt a resident. I feel the taking of another person's home is unethical and ungodly."

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"My answer for this is the same one I used for question 10."

"Note: Our schools are currently reporting a surplus. This is great. We must keep an ear open to the talk in Lansing in regards to our current formula for schools."

"The actions here could further hurt our budget here and force an increase in taxes. We must again blame our current council for any shortage of funds."

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Vernon C. Kielipinski

Name: Vernon C. Kielipinski.
Address: Dundalk.
Age: 33.
Length of residency: 14 years.
Employer: Janitor, Great Scott Shopping Center, 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

Education: Farmington Hills Harrison High School graduate, 1973. Attended Oakland Community College.

Government involvement: none.
Community involvement: grassroots efforts to help people in need.

1. What proven qualities and skills would you bring to the council?

"I'm just a hard worker trying to earn a dollar yet while I may never have run for an office before, I believe in the USA."

"It is time to bridge the gap between worker and management. Our voices must be heard. The other side of the fence."

2. What do you consider to be the top priorities and problems facing the city in the next four years?

• Schools and our children.
• The constant growth of commercial industry will, in turn, create a homeless poverty.

• The power and the greed, which our current city council is using to build on, has, in turn, made morals and ethics a thing of the past.

• The constant rise in taxes. The

Length of residency: eight years.
Employer: self-employed, private investigator.

Family: wife, Sandra; sons, John, 28, Michael, 19, daughters, Carrie, 30, Colleen, 27, Christine, 24; stepchildren, Tricia Baden, 19, Tracy Baden, 17.

Education: Detroit Cooley High School graduate, 1955; attended University of Detroit, 1959, English major (two years), did not graduate.

Government involvement: U.S. Navy, 1954-62, honorable discharge.

Community involvement: none.

1. What proven qualities and skills would you bring to the council?

"I have spent many years as a private investigator, solving problems for business and individuals. This is accomplished by obtaining all the facts relating to a particular problem, then using those facts to make an intelligent decision. My years in investigating have trained me how to accomplish this."

constant quick spending could create a money problem."

3. What steps should the city take to prevent suburban decay in Farmington Hills?

"Stop the quick growth. Our current council is not concerned about our families, just growth. The sacrifice of homes and a rise in taxes will put a burden on the families."

4. New interchanges are expected off I-696 into Farmington Hills by the 1990s. How should the city prepare for the changes. What changes do you expect?

"None! They already have. I hope some of the changes will be challenged."

5. How would you rate the city's relationship with neighboring communities? Do relations need improvement? How?

"Bad. They don't see that far. Yes, they should open their eyes and ears, shut their mouths and listen and see."

6. On the average, how many city council or planning commission meetings do you attend in any given month?

"Suburban decay is most directly related to commercial/office build-up as far as I'm concerned."

4. New interchanges are expected off I-696 into Farmington Hills by the 1990s. How should the city prepare for the changes. What changes do you expect?

"I expect new interchanges to bring with them all the problems we see with the one we have at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. I would try to prevent his happening."

5. How would you rate the city's relationship with neighboring communities? Do relations need improvement? How?

"I believe Farmington Hills enjoys good relations with other communities."

6. On the average, how many city council or planning commission meetings do you attend in any given month?

"I have in the past attended very few city council meetings."

7. Should the city council have a code of ethics? What specific items would you include?

"I don't believe the city council needs a code of ethics at this time."

8. How would you rate the current city council's performance? On which issues do you believe it has faltered? Why? On which issues has it succeeded? Why?

"Very bad except for Joan Dudley. The men shunned her when she spoke of campaign practices. I wonder if it's because they have something to hide or because she's a woman. They only have their minds on the master plan."

"Greed and power is its tool."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' con-

cerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?

growing too fast and the present council doesn't seem to be able to stop it or slow it down."

9. With an obligation to uphold the city's master land use plan, how would you address residents' concerns that residential areas are losing out to commercial/industrial areas?

"I feel no obligation to the current master plan and would investigate means of changing it to reflect the current needs of our city."

10. Farmington Hills, Farmington and other southwestern Oakland County communities are facing a challenge with significantly increased costs for solid waste disposal. How should the city respond? Do you advocate joining the Oakland County solid waste consortium? Explain.

"I do not possess the necessary facts to be able to make an intelligent statement in this area."