

County board candidates talk roads

Continued from Page 1

nen continued, are perhaps a local sales tax or a license and title transfer fee. But both need the approval of the state Legislature.

"The alternative is then to schedule needed road improvements as money becomes available . . .," Soronen said, referring to Act 51

and weight taxes, state appropriations and the new state Transportation Economic Development Fund.

Referring to the magnitude of the road financing problems, Wolf maintained, "the answer is not to throw another tax at the people."

"If the registration fee falls as Wolf predicts, county commissioners must approach the state again and

insist on other options that would keep Oakland County road monies in Oakland County," he said.

Wolf's alternatives for road financing include a more equitable return to Oakland County of state gas and weight taxes, impact fees charged to developers and a gasoline tax increase.

their presence, necessitate new or expanded road construction," Wolf said.

Wolf favors letting voters decide whether they wish to pay a 2 cents per gallon gasoline tax increase, with the additional revenue generated to remain in Oakland County for road use.

While Wolf also favors abolishing the Oakland County Road Commission as a separate entity, Soronen is uncertain.

"As far as I know, the road commission has done a credible job. I would have to know more about the possible increases in efficiency and savings in money before making a decision," Soronen said.

administrative services and costs. "In 1975, it was estimated that the county could save over \$500,000 by eliminating this duplicity. Savings would probably be double that amount today," Wolf said, referring to the road commission's own buying, personnel and computer operations.

Incorporating the road commission under the county executive also would provide "unified policies in regard to county development," Wolf added.

Information sharing — on contenders' minds

Continued from Page 1

Wolf, who works for Detroit Edison in Ann Arbor, would schedule regular times to set up shop for the public at the Farmington Hills city hall. . . . I will be available to residents to meet on a personal one-to-one basis to discuss any of their particular concerns relating to county government," Wolf said.

AS EXECUTIVE director of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, Soronen believes she's in touch and well-known by many in the Farmington and Farmington Hills community. "People trot through my office all the time," said the member of the Farmington Exchange Club. "I anticipate being available personally to respond to inquiries about the county."

Soronen also plans to print a newsletter discussing county issues that would be distributed periodically throughout the 27th district.

Meetings with community and civic organizations, as well as home-owners organizations is also a key in Soronen's plan to keep her constituents in the know.

"The Council of Homeowners Associations (in Farmington Hills) is one place to get feedback, answers, complaints," she said.

Wolf's communications plan offers a similar newsletter, as well as mailings to, and meetings with, city officials and community leaders about specific county issues. Wolf said he also would solicit opportunities to meet with community groups and home-owner associations. He also would plan to make regularly scheduled appearances at both the Farmington and Farmington Hills city council meetings.

"I will make every effort to bring county government closer to the people so that their ideas and opinions can be a part of my decision-making process," Wolf said.

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