

10 vying for 4 regular council terms

3 incumbents, 7 challengers in race

CANDIDATES for the Farmington Hills City Council have accelerated campaigning as election day — Tuesday, Nov. 7 — approaches.

Mallings, door-to-door visits, telephone solicitations, hand-drawn signs are among the sources of campaigning for the 13 candidates.

Ten candidates are seeking regular terms and three are vying for remaining two years of a vacancy on the city council.

Five of the seven non-partisan council seats are up for grabs this fall. Incumbent Jody Soronen is not seeking re-election.

In the regular race are incumbents Ben Marks, Aldo Vagnozzi and Philip Arnold. Challenging them are Jonathan Grant, Vernon Kielpinski, Lawrence Lichtman, Ronald Oliverio, Albert Rosen, Betty Stines and George Sarkisian.

Among these 10, voters may vote for up to four. The top three vote-getters in the Nov. 7 election will earn four-year terms, the next highest finisher will serve a two-year term.

NANCY BATES and Herbert Liner are challenging incumbent Paul Soronen in the race to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkateeb's four-year term. Soronen was appointed in March to replace Alkateeb until the next city election (see facing page).

The next candidate night is 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, in the Farmington Hills City Hall council chambers, 31555 11 Mile. The Council of Homeowners of Farmington Hills is hosting the night.

Council members are paid \$1,800 per year. They meet the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month, and have many special meetings.

Thirteen candidates is the largest field in the city's 16-year history.

• Grant, 37, owns Reliance Forms & Supplies, Farmington Hills.

• Kielpinski, 35, is a janitor at the Mid-Eleven Shopping Center, Farmington Hills.

• Rosen, 48, is English department head at Chasidex High, Detroit.

• Lichtman, 31, is an attorney with offices in Bloomfield Hills.

• Vagnozzi, 63, is an editorial consultant at Aaron Publication, Detroit.

• Arnold, 50, is manager, profit and volume analyst, for Ford Motor Co. casting division.

• Soronen, 66, is general partner in Farmington Hills Office Development Co.

In the past, I believe we did not do as good a job as we have been doing to provide youth activities. However, in the past year with the developing of Pioneer Park, Heritage Park, the land acquisition of the 20 acres at Farmington Road and I-696, and the proposed park in the south end, we have moved us far ahead of where we were five years ago when I first took office. The parks and recreation commission has done a terrific job in aiding the city in all these efforts.

3. Is participation in the Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium the wisest way for the city to skim escalating solid waste disposal costs?

Joining the solid waste consortium is the only economical way we are going to start solving the problem of solid waste, which is a national problem. As a member, we will have an equity involvement in the planning and implementing of the effort to

make our solid waste disposal costs affordable.

4. Why are you running for city council?

If I didn't feel that I could do a good job as a council member, I would not be running. My 23 years of Farmington Hills community service, my five years as councilman and one year as mayor of the city, and my proven record as a diligent, persevering, conscientious member of that body, qualify me to seek re-election. I love this community and serving it is a cherished bond.

5. Should the city continue to add new police officers to its sworn force of 95 to further approach the desired ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents (city's current ratio is 1.3)?

The citizens of this city have told us they want the best in police protection. Yes, I believe we could bring our police force to the ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents.

Success is mandatory to preserve the environment.

4. Why are you running for city council?

To serve my fellow citizens. Since moving to Farmington Hills 16 years ago, I have been contributing to the community. Originally as a subdivision officer, 11 years on the planning commission (three as chairman), and on the city council since January. My contributions have been recognized and I wish to continue working on behalf of our residents.

5. Should the city continue to add new police officers to its sworn force of 95 to further approach the desired ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents (city's current ratio is 1.3)?

Protection of our residents should be our first consideration. Presently, we have not seen any indication of substantially increased crime. To meet a ratio of 1.7 would require additional expenditures of approximately \$15 million annually. I believe that higher priorities exist in other areas such as improvement of sanitary sewers and storm drainage.

Thinking and function, we are only hurting ourselves.

4. Why are you running for city council?

I have been able to see the tremendous growth that has taken place around here. I am not sure that all of it has been desired or needed, but I am sure that the city council feels it is doing what is right for the city at the time of its decision. I don't agree with many of the things it has allowed to happen.

5. Should the city continue to add new police officers to its sworn force of 95 to further approach the desired ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents (city's current ratio is 1.3)?

I am a law-and-order-type person. I believe that law enforcement is a vital part of a democratic society. I am in full support of adding police officers to achieve the desired ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents.

If the police department is given the proper credit and respect, it can be one of the most valuable resources Farmington Hills has.

The desires of a developer over the demands of their residential constituents, it angers me. When I see citizens' safety concerns treated with arrogance and contempt, I know it's time for a change. If I am elected to the city council, the people will know they've elected someone who represents them, period.

5. Should the city continue to add new police officers to its sworn force of 95 to further approach the desired ratio of 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents (city's current ratio is 1.3)?

Yes, at the present time although Browning-Perris Co. are becoming increasingly aware and may require government intervention.

4. Why are you running for city council?

When I see certain incumbents put

quately responded to youth recreation needs?

I would like to see more parks and perhaps a large outdoor public pool in the future.

3. Is participation in the Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium the wisest way for the city to skim escalating solid waste disposal costs?

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