

3 eyeing special 2-year council seat

2 hopefuls trying to unseat incumbent

In this race, voters may vote for one candidate, who will serve a special two-year term, until the November 1991 council election.

Nancy Bates, 56, and Herbert Liner, 69, are challenging incumbent Paul Sowerby, 45, for the right to fill the remaining two years of an unexpired term on the Farmington Hills City Council.

Sowerby was appointed in March to replace Joe Alkateeb, who resigned from the council in February. Sowerby's appointment was effective until the next regular council election Nov. 7.

Voters will fill Alkateeb's old seat

in a ballot that's separate from the regular biennial council election in which four seats are filled.

In this race, voters may vote for one candidate, who will serve a special two-year term, until the November 1991 council election.

Bates is a personal aide to state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills. Liner works for the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Parks and Recreation Division. Sowerby is an attorney with offices in Birmingham.

Nancy Bates special term challenger

1. How would you rate the quality of life in Farmington Hills in general and for retirees in particular?

Farmington Hills is a lovely place to live and raise a family. We offer the Farmington Players, artist groups, community band, community chorus, community center, golf course, several parks and many other opportunities to enjoy. We also have park and recreation programs. For our senior citizens, the programs at Mercy Center are outstanding. The home care program is very important. Some transportation is available. Much has been done, but there are still challenges to be faced.

2. Do you feel the city has adequately responded to youth recreation needs?

City support is now increasing. New ball fields are being prepared

and storage provided. We do some good programming. The youth recreation needs of our 12-17 age group are not being adequately met. So many parents work, this age group has a great deal of unsupervised time. Statistics indicate most teenage problem pregnancies occur at 12 in the afternoon. Sidewalks so that children could safely get to our available parks and programs are needed.

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

The city received another enormous increase in disposal costs. The proposed county plan appears to be very costly. The six-city consortium offers a responsible alternative. Their first report in June 1988 provided findings associated with different disposal alternatives. The second report, May 1989, examines costs of a Materials Recovery and Transfer Facility (MRF) and a waste

to energy (WTE) facility. In the interest of ecology, environment and cost, I strongly urge further study by the consortium.

4. Why are you running for city council?

For a council to accomplish its goals, more is required than intelligence. It requires cooperation, respect for fellow council members and staff, willingness to listen to the citizens, and a commitment to study the issues. I have served this city on boards and commissions. I have owned two businesses. I am a wife and a mother. I know how to work cooperatively to get a job done. We need that attitude on council now.

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)?

One need to look beyond an arbitrary figure to the community's perception in regard to safety. Is there timely response? Can they walk the streets safely?

Herbert Liner special term challenger

1. How would you rate the quality of life in Farmington Hills in general and for retirees in particular?

Generally very pleasant and acceptable, and certainly extremely so for residents of retirement age.

2. Do you feel the city has adequately responded to youth recreation needs?

I haven't noticed any particular or adequate response by the city to youth needs. However, I am certain that a response will soon be implemented if plans are not already being formulated. Our school system

appears to be very adequate and this is the best response for youth needs.

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

Participating in the consortium is very likely the wisest way for the city to skim escalating solid waste disposal costs. Cooperation with neighboring cities, and towns in this project will naturally produce better results and reduced costs.

4. Why are you running for the city council?

I am running to stimulate a "Kinder and Gentler Farmington Hills," and to improve the quality of life in Farmington Hills.

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 city should absolutely 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. The Farmington Hills current ratio of 1.3 is inadequate for a rapidly expanding and growing city. The best assurance of addressing the obvious traffic congestion in all parts of the city and to continue to adequately protect the lives and property of our citizens is addition of officers to our very efficient police department.

Paul Sowerby special term incumbent

1. How would you rate the quality of life in Farmington Hills in general and for retirees in particular?

As a resident of Farmington Hills for the past 16 years, I count my blessings for the privilege God has given me to live in this beautiful community. It is not without its problems, but in my opinion, there is none finer. Our city has accepted its responsibility to its retirees. I do not believe their needs have been completely identified, but I can assure you that city staff and council are working together to achieve the proper and loving care of our senior citizens.

2. Do you feel the city has adequately responded to youth recreation needs?

I believe that in the year 1989 great strides have been made to identify and respond to the needs of our youth. I am personally instilled with an abiding faith that the vast majority of our youth have every intention of becoming contributing members of society. I believe that as their recreation needs are determined, the city will continue to respond.

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

I am not sure the Southwest Oakland County Solid Waste Consortium is the wisest way for the city to attempt to control its future solid waste disposal costs, but it appears to be the only way at this time. I am not aware of any other game in town, but when they appear, I will certainly be there to evaluate them.

4. Why are you running for city council?

I was appointed in April 1989 to fill the vacancy created by Joe Alkateeb's resignation. I was disappointed with the conduct of our elected officials, and felt that I could bring the necessary integrity, maturity and responsibility to city council. I believe my record indicates that I have done exactly that in the past six months. It is my hope to complete the next two years of my term with the continuing high standard of behavior which my fellow residents have come to expect and demand of me.

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)?

Absolutely. In fact, I believe achieving our desired ratio must be a priority in the 1990-91 budget.

His parents felt it was time he had a place of his own. After all, he was 15.



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