

# Special term

## 3 seeking a 2-year council term

**N**ANCY 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 on a ballot that's separate from the regular biennial council ballot on which four seats are filled.

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

**BATES, WHO** has served on the local commission on aging and arts

commission, is a personal aide to state Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills.

Liner, a retired department store district supervisor, works for the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Parks and Recreation Division.

Sowerby, former board of zoning appeals chairman and parks and recreation commission member, is an attorney with offices in Birmingham.

one year prior to appointment or election as a public official. I believe that all members of our community should be afforded the opportunity for public service. The motion failed.

**3. How often should the city's major consultants — the planning consultant, the auditor, the city attorney — be reviewed?**

I believe the city's major consultants should be reviewed on an annual basis. I have requested that the planning consultant and attorney contracts be opened for bid and presentation prior to the end of 1989. I believe a continuous review and a competitive environment will lead to a more fruitful and satisfying professional relationship.

**4. Do you feel the city has its finger on the community's pulse as it reviews planning and zoning requests for environmental impact, commercial encroachment on residential areas and compliance with the master land use plan?**

I know that I try very hard to recognize and evaluate the needs of the community concerning planning and zoning. It is a very difficult issue.

which is influenced by many personal biases. Most all citizens recognize the needs for the more unpleasant facilities society requires to function, but virtually no one wants them in their back yard. This is an unrealistic zoning and planning approach. While I am very sensitive to my fellow residents' perspectives, difficult decisions must be made, and it is my responsibility to make them.

**5. At what cost should city council meetings be cablecast, given the projected startup cost of \$80,000?**

My position on cablecasting of council meetings is very clear. These meetings must be broadcast to our residents. I believe it will result in shorter meetings, and in more professional and meaningful dialogue.

Lastly, I believe it will result in more responsible government. I can assure you that, should I be re-elected, one of my priorities in 1990 will be cablecasting of these meetings. There is a broad spectrum of our community that cannot attend council meetings (the elderly, the infirm, the young). These residents have a right to be informed by their city government.

### Nancy Bates

#### special term

challenger

**1. Is the city wisely spending the \$7 million bond issue for road improvements that voters approved in 1986?**

The city has completed, or is in the process of completing, all roads outlined in the bond issue. In addition to the \$7 million funded, an additional \$5 million was leveraged from grants. The improved roads will save money by requiring less maintenance. Still, more needs to be done in regard to traffic flow and safety. Each year, we must improve our roads as responsible funding permits.

**2. Should the number of terms a**

council member may serve be limited by charter?

I believe the citizens are the best judge of how long council members should serve. Voters, by awareness and participation, can determine length of terms of office without charter amendment.

**3. How often should the city's major consultants — the planning consultant, the auditor, the city attorney — be reviewed?**

Our consultants are invaluable to the efficient operation of this city. An annual review of expectations and performance should be standard operating procedure. A total contract review should occur every three years.

**4. Do you feel the city has its finger on the community's pulse as it reviews planning and zoning requests for environmental impact, commercial encroachment on residential areas and compliance with the master land use plan?**

Farmington Hills has been dedi-

cated to the master plan for the most part. Still we have grown too fast. Being sensitive to esthetic and environmental issues, we now have a tree ordinance, a committee to address the toxic problem and our planning commission and zoning board, which have responsibility to monitor commercial encroachment in residential areas. For the most part, the lowest density serves the community best.

**5. At what cost should city council meetings be cablecast, given the projected startup cost of \$80,000?**

We must balance the expense against available funds. In regard to the cost of \$80,000, my personal research indicates a good part of that money involves an improved audio system for council chambers. This needs to be done anyhow. By permanently mounting cameras controlled by one unit, I believe the cost of \$80,000 can be trimmed considerably, making cablecast affordable.

### Paul Sowerby

#### special term

incumbent

**1. Is the city wisely spending the \$7 million bond issue for road improvements that voters approved in 1986?**

In my opinion, the city has prudently applied the revenues of the bond issue for road improvements. While the roads are in need of significant attention in the coming years due to the tremendous growth of our city, one need only look around to appreciate the many improvements already completed.

**2. Should the number of terms a council member may serve be limited by charter?**

I recently made a motion at city council that all terms of elected and appointed officials (council, commission and board members) be limited to two terms. My program then required that an individual sit out for

### Herbert Liner

#### special term

challenger

**1. Is the city wisely spending the \$7 million bond issue for road improvements that voters approved in 1986?**

It is evident that the city is wisely spending the \$7 million bond issue for road improvements that voters approved in 1986. There is room for much further road improvement in order to relieve the heavy traffic congestion on most major roads, but continued progress should eventually reach the desired results if the funds are properly allocated.

**2. Should the number of terms a council member may serve be limited by charter?**

I believe that a council member's term should be limited by charter to

two terms as is provided in the U.S. Constitution for president. I believe I could accomplish my personal goals of reducing traffic congestion, reducing crime, drastically suppressing drug activity, maintaining a fair and affordable tax rate and offering our residents the necessary services, if I am privileged with the opportunity of serving at least one and at the most two terms as council member.

**3. How often should the city's major consultants — the planning consultant, the auditor, the city attorney — be reviewed?**

The city's major consultants — the planning consultant, the auditor, the city attorney — should be reviewed on an annual basis. Since these three officials are the heart and soul of our city's existence and performance, an annual review would benefit all concerned, particularly Farmington Hills residents.

**4. Do you feel the city has its finger on the community's pulse as it reviews planning and zoning requests for environmental impact,**

commercial encroachment on residential areas and compliance with the master land use plan?

I believe that the city absolutely has its finger on the community's pulse as it reviews planning and zoning requests for environmental impact, commercial encroachment on residential areas and compliances with the master use plan. One need only to look around our city for proof of absolute discretion and planning in these areas.

**5. At what cost should city council meetings be cablecast, given the projected startup cost of \$80,000?**

I do not believe that city council meetings should be cablecast at all. The projected start up cost of \$80,000 and subsequent costs could much better be allocated to pay for two more police officers or two firefighters, or to appoint a special crime and drug czar, or a traffic consultant. Anybody interested in viewing city council meetings is more than welcome to attend these meetings.

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