

# New library, library tax in voters' hands

By Casey Hana  
staff writer

Besides filling seats in city council races in both Farmington and Farmington Hills, local voters will decide two issues involving the 17-year-old, two-branch Farmington Community Library system.

Voters will consider spending \$14.5 million to build, furnish and equip a new main library on property on the north side of 12 Mile, just east of Halsted, and to renovate

Library director Beverly Papal, who estimates she has spoken personally to "between 900 and 1,000" people during the weeks before the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election, said she is "very guardedly positive" about the outcome. She believes the higher the turnout, the better it will fare for the library.

Approval is sought for \$14.5 million to raise money to build, furnish and equip a new main library on property on the north side of 12 Mile, just east of Halsted, and to renovate

the branch in downtown Farmington.

WITH VOTER approval, the library would issue general obligation tax bonds to raise the money. The new library would cost the owner of a house with a market value of \$150,000, and an assessment of half that, about \$37.50 per year in taxes.

Papal said the library board reviewed 13 sites throughout Farmington Hills trying to find the one most

suitable for a new building.

The old library on 12 Mile, between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, would either be deeded to the two cities for their use, or sold to reduce the dollar amount of the new library building.

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman said last week that "no firm commitment" has been made on behalf of the cities, which continue to study possible uses for the building. He said possible uses could

include a senior center.

A SECOND ballot question asks for 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 assessed value) for 20 years to operate the library system independently. Local libraries were recently given permission to seek their own operating millage.

In the case of the Farmington system, taxes for the library are paid through the general funds of both cities; both councils have agreed to roll back their operating millages ac-

cordingly, if the measure passes.

The library board does not intend to levy the full millage initially, causing only a tax shift, but would likely levy the millage maximum within a few years to operate the new, larger library.

Papal said she hopes both issues pass, but if not, "the problems we had on the seventh (of November), we'll still have on the eighth." She said the library board would likely return to voters again if the measures fail.

# Council candidates debate need for teen center

By Noreen Flack  
staff writer

Farmington Hills City Council must take vigorous steps to promote community teen programs in the fight against drugs, candidates said last week, but some stopped short of outright support for a teen center.

The 13 candidates met Oct. 25 to share views for the last time before the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election. The forum was a candidates night sponsored by the Council of Homeowner Associations of Farmington Hills in the city council chambers.

Questions were asked by a panel consisting of Betty Nicolay, Farmington Families in Action chairman; Bob Sklar, Farmington Observer editor, and Barry Stulberg, COHA board member.

Ten candidates are seeking four regular terms; three are vying to fill the remaining two years of former councilman Joe Alkateb's four-year term.

Nicolay asked the candidates if they would favor a community teen center and if they intended to promote drug prevention programs.

CANDIDATES FOR the four regular council terms responded this way:

• Incumbent Ben Marks — "The teen center is a marvelous idea but we have to find out how the kids feel, will they use it and will we be able to provide what they want."

• Incumbent Philip Arnold — "The issue I think is one that needs to be addressed through many citizens' involvement with the youth. The job of a council member is to draw upon people we have involved with our youths and use the resources we have to address these issues."

• Incumbent Aldo Vagnozzi — "We have a number of potential centers in the community. Those are the school buildings. I think we ought to make use of them. And I think we

should appoint young people to the parks and recreation programs."

• Challenger George Sarkisian — "We have to give the young people of this community somewhere to go other than a home. They need a place where they can use the great minds that they have to benefit society."

• Challenger Lawrence Lichtman — "I think the city has to try to do more for active parks and recreation facilities. I believe the library on 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads, may be converted for some city use. I would support converting that facility into a teen or senior center."

• Challenger Vernon Klempinski — "We talk about drugs and we can build a nice building and a fancy place, but that's not going to stop the drugs that are brought into the schools and the community. We have to deal with drugs head-on. Why not use the money to buy a couple of dogs and sniff out school lockers."

• Challenger Ronald Oliverio — "We're an affluent community and our kids have money to spend. Drugs are a temptation. I am for strict drug laws. I believe in the maximum penalty for drug offenders."

• Challenger Albert Rosen — "Every time I hear the word drugs, it chills my heart because I had two students in my classroom OD (overdose). The drug problem should be a top priority because our children are our future."

• Challenger Betty Stines — "I feel that the schools should consolidate with the city and make use of the schools' facilities, the gymnasium and the playground, for the use until we can come up with some type of teen center."

• Challenger Jonathan Grant — "I support a youth community facility provided it is not going to compromise the position of a possible senior facility."

CANDIDATES FOR the special

two-year term responded:

• Incumbent Paul Sowerby — "I'm not sure a teen center is going to resolve the drug problem in our community. We are a victim of our own affluence. We have created a two-income necessity in our homes. All of the parents love their children but unfortunately, they are prioritizing their lives and the time for children does not always come out on top. I don't know that the city can pick up that vacuum. I'm not prepared to say that we will build a teen

center or a senior citizen center."

• Challenger Nancy Bates — "I support the development of a teen and senior center. A recent survey indicated that most problem pregnancies occur around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We need to do more for our young people."

• Challenger Herbert Liner — "Drugs is a mortal enemy of the United States of America. The worst enemy we have. I support any program that will assist in eliminating drug addictions."

Special  
term  
hopefuls



Bates

Liner

Sowerby



Arnold

Grant

Klempinski

Lichtman

Marks

Oliverio

Rosen

Sarkisian

Stines

Vagnozzi

Regular  
term  
hopefuls

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Arnold

Grant

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Vagnozzi

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ten effort. "It was a decision based on a lot of additional information we have," she said, adding that the change made a complete, total downtown area. It does tie in the area and was part of the master plan."

Campbell also supported the new building and said the third phase of the downtown rejuvenation program, planned for 1989-90, would help. "As the plan comes together, I think you'll see a complete softening of the area," he said.

BUT OTHERS spoke against the swap, including current mayor Tupper, who said, although it did not cost the city anything, "if I had to do it again, I would put up more opposition to it."

Council challengers were much more vehement in their responses. Walker said the downtown area had "enough empty buildings al-

ready," and Kenney said the new building's "architectural design really isn't compatible with anything else. There doesn't seem to be a coherent foresight."

McShane believes the move took away more open space in the city and "is an example of overdevelopment" and "not the best use of the land."

Having residents separate some, or all, of their garbage before pickup is being considered as part of the changing picture of trash disposal for Farmington and other cities.

Commonly known as curbside recycling, it is already being done in some communities in southeast Michigan.

Candidates were asked about this

issue last Thursday during a candidate forum at Masonic Temple: • John Kenney, challenger — "It's much cheaper to separate it before I get to the separation station. The biggest problem is whether you're going to have a voluntary or ordinance-enforced system. I don't think it will be a problem."

• Shirley Richardson, incumbent

thing of the future. We'll be saving money for our cities, and you, as well."

• Richard Tupper, incumbent — Curbside recycling is one of several things, including incineration, that would be used to help the problem of solid waste disposal, he said. "Curbside will depend on cost effective-

ness, time effectiveness and acceptance by the community."

• Robert Walker, challenger — "It gets down to the willingness of the citizens to participate in a program. This is a problem we're faced with and we have no choice." Inform residents of the options and "select one the citizens will buy into."

• JoAnne McShane, challenger — She envisions different colored bags

and containers and a sticker system as part of such a program. "There's probably going to end up with different trucks and staggered days of pickup."

• Arnold Campbell, incumbent — A full curbside program could be "a big inconvenience to our residents." He sees residents separating garbage into one bag of disposable and another of recyclable items.

# Hills council hopeful Lichtman outspends opponents

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than \$100 were: himself, \$550; his wife, Lois Vagnozzi, \$400; William Elman, Farmington Hills, \$100; Michael Spheeris, Farmington Hills, \$250; Kris and Pamela Shawney, Farmington Hills, \$150; Michael Bresnigh, Farmington Hills, \$115; Gerald Freedman, Farmington Hills, \$120.

Arnold spent \$2,571, raised \$5,200 and listed \$3,500 in debts or obligations, representing a personal loan. Contributors of more than \$100 were his mother, Kathleen Arnold, of Feeding Hills, Mass., \$500; Gordon and Dorothy Wolf, Farmington Hills,

\$100; Bruce Etkin, Farmington Hills, \$125; James and Dorothy Ranswell, Farmington Hills, \$140.

Lichtman spent \$4,151, raised \$7,174 and listed \$1,748 in debts and obligations, \$248 of which he said were personal loans forgiven. Contributors of more than \$100 were his father, Frederick Lichtman, West Bloomfield, \$1,000; Larry Griffin, Birmingham, \$101; Ralph Margulis, Farmington Hills, \$100; Herbert and Lorraine Schmidt, Farmington Hills, \$100; John Butler, Birmingham, \$100; Paul Blizman, Farmington Hills, \$100; JoAnn Cos, Farmington Hills-Orchard Lake, \$128; Floyd

Cairns, Farmington Hills, \$100; Douglas Etkin, Southfield, \$125; Thomas Duke, Farmington Hills, \$500; Ronald Leonetti, Farmington Hills, \$100.

Grant spent \$780, raised \$2,655 and listed \$1,822 in debts or obligations. Contributors of more than \$100 were Beverly Papal, Birmingham, \$100; Kent Nickol, Farmington Hills, \$125.

AMONG THE three special term hopefuls Sowerby spent \$3,151, raised \$3,695 and listed no debts or obligations. Contributors of more

than \$100 were: James and Mary Ann Mitchell, Farmington Hills, \$100; Snelz and Bondy, Union Lake, \$200; Dwain Whimney, Farmington Hills, \$100; Jean Fox, Farmington Hills, \$100; Samuel Valenti, Farmington Hills, \$100; Robert Byrum, Farmington Hills, \$100; Andy's Country Market, Farmington Hills, \$100; Village Oaks Apartments, Southfield, \$100; Covington Club Apartments, Southfield, \$100; John Anhalt, \$100; and Giropolis Restaurant, Farmington Hills, \$470 in-kind.

Bates spent \$2,485, raised \$2,905 and listed \$700 in debts or obligations. Contributors of more than

\$100 were Gary Joona, Farmington Hills, \$100; Paul Blizman, Farmington Hills, \$100; Jonathan Grant, Farmington Hills, \$100; James Joona, Farmington Hills, \$250; the Rev. Dr. J. Harold Ellens, Farmington Hills, \$100.

When he last ran in 1985, Marks raised \$2,625, spent \$1,248 and listed no debts or obligations for the pre-election campaign finance reporting period up to Oct. 20. Contributors of more than \$100 then were Stuart Frankel, Troy, \$500; Melvin Kaftan, Southfield, \$500; Vince Valvona, Farmington Hills, \$200; Joseph Sinicola, Howell, \$100; Leslie Rebby, Farmington Hills, \$100; Stanley M.

and Robert L. Rosen, Southfield, \$100; Nat Korash, Detroit, \$200; Mike Horowitz, Birmingham, \$100; Steven Friedman, Birmingham, \$100; Brooks and Layne Development Co., Farmington Hills, \$500; and Barton M. Berman, Southfield, \$200.

When he last ran in 1987, Vagnozzi raised \$2,530, spent \$2,008 and listed no debts or obligations for the pre-election campaign finance reporting period up to Oct. 20. Contributors of more than \$100 were Gerald Surewick, Farmington Hills, \$100; Allen Sipher, Farmington Hills, \$100; Gerald Freedman, Farmington Hills, \$100; his wife, Lois Vagnozzi, \$150.

# IRO foes throw support to 5 candidates

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ple-family zones but not single-family."

Up to 100 businesses could be within an IRO district if the city council rezones 14.5 acres in the Drake-Grand River area from office service district (OS-1) to industrial research office district (IRO).

Developer Melvin Kaftan owns the rolling land, immediately south of Hillside Estates Condominiums, north Indoplex Circle. He contends the city has sufficient controls to regulate the kinds of businesses that might locate there. Some neighbors fear a toxic threat to the neighborhood.

KANDT, WHO said she holds a

bachelor of science degree from Wayne State University with a major in psychology and a minor in biology, lives with her husband, David, and their four children in the Independence Hills subdivision.

She said that she is joined in the IRO district by Independence Hills residents Greg Halberstadt, Gerry Wendling, Michael Stahl, Tom Ryan, Bob Haberstroh, Dick Conka, Susan Maas, Denise Fenelli, Kim Dennis, Larry Marney, Chuck Leonard, Linda Suika and Paula and Jerry Spagnolo as well as Independence Commons subdivision board member Greg Kocak. Another 24 Farmington Hills citizens will help, she said.

Campaign endorsements were ar-

rived at by mutual decision by telephone. No formal meetings were held. "I surrounded myself with extremely intelligent people," Kandt said. "Believe me, this is the last thing I want to be doing. If (an IRO) doesn't have to be in your back yard to cause a problem," Kandt said.

Arnold pondered the group's action, then spoke. "My only reaction is that it is unfortunate that they would present such a complex issue in such a simplistic and negative manner," Arnold said. "But, everyone has a right to say what they want to say."

SOWERBY SAID he was distressed to learn of the filer campaign. "I listen, I evaluate and I make a decision," Sowerby said.

"I'm not a politician, I'm a public servant. It was reviewed by the planning commission. It is still under study pending two things — the legal opinion of whether it is spot zoning and a report back from the toxic committee."

He added that four of the people the group endorses have never voted on the IRO issue, so it is impossible to know how they'll vote.

"The council will be revisiting the issue to take out the objectionable things that have been brought to light," said Marks, who cited lower traffic in IRO districts. "It's a shame that they have to take that action. But this is America. However the chips will fall, they fall. I'm not angry, I'm not mad."

# Election coverage to be live on cable

For live election night coverage, tune to local-access cable Channel 12 Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 8:30 p.m.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission and Metro-Vision of Oakland County will present live election night coverage for Farmington, Novi and Farmington Hills. The host and moderator, state Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills, will team with her co-host, state Rep., Willis Dillard, Jr. of Milford, to guide you from city to

city for up-to-the-minute coverage of precinct by precinct election results.

Interviewing the candidates will be: • Farmington Hills — councilwoman Jody Scorsone and Year 2000 Steering Committee chairman Jack McDonald.

• Novi — public relations director Cindy Stewart and councilman Ronald Watson.