

# School board hopefuls hit campaign trail

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Eight of nine candidates for the Farmington Board of Education appear to be campaigning actively for two four-year terms on the non-partisan board.

Two of these nine candidates will be chosen during the regular school election on Monday, June 11.

Challengers Richard DeVries, Kim Jaske, Laura Myers, Sharon Rands, Robert Ranney, Allen Warner, Cathleen Webb and incumbent R. Jack Inch are busy attending meetings, doing mailings, putting out lawn signs or going door-to-door to get their message across.

A ninth candidate whose name will appear on the ballot, James Barnes, told the Observer he is not actively campaigning this year, but missed the deadline to remove his name from the ballot.

Beginning next week and until the election, the Observer will run candidates' views on various issues through information obtained by questionnaire or at various candidate forums.

FOLLOWING ARE biographical

sketches of each active candidate in alphabetical order:

• **Richard DeVries**, 40, Chesapeake Court, Farmington Hills — A Ford Motor engineer with bachelor and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Michigan, DeVries has lived in the district 10 years. He is married, has an infant daughter, a son at Highmearow Campus and another son who will enter kindergarten at Hillside Elementary in the fall. He served on the 1987-88 Boundary Study Committee for Farmington Schools and is a member of Farmington Friends of the Library. He and his family attend Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

• **R. Jack Inch**, 59, Meadowlark, Farmington — Inch is the only incumbent running for the board this year. A professor of economics at Oakland Community College, Inch has served on the Farmington school board since 1978 and has been its treasurer since 1985. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Wayne State, a master's in education from Wayne State and a master's in economics from the University of Illinois. He is married and has four

## election '90

children, one a senior at Farmington High. A 30-year resident of the community, he has served on a number of school-related committees.

• **Kim Jaske**, 38, Larkspur, Farmington — Jaske is a tax accountant for Electronic Data Systems and holds a degree from Eastern Michigan University. A resident of the district for 30 years, he attended Ten Mile Elementary, Flanders Elementary, Farmington Junior High and Farmington High School. He is active in the Farmington Area Lions Club, and is working for several Republican candidates in the 1990 elections. He is running for Republican precinct delegate in August.

• **Laura Myers**, 38, Shiawassee, Farmington — Myers is active in the PTA, booster clubs and School/Community Forum. A bookkeeper with Jimco Realty, she is married, has three sons in the school system and has lived in the district for 8 1/2

years. She serves on the Facilities Task Force studying building uses, and has been a delegate to the Michigan PTA Convention since 1983. She is a member of several gifted parent groups, has been active in scouting, has been a member of the Farmington Historical Society since 1981 and is a trustee with the Farmington Old Village Association.

• **Sharon Rands**, 41, Fredericksburg, Farmington Hills — A 10-year resident of the area, Rands is employed by Redford Union Schools where she serves as assistant director for adult and community education. She holds bachelor and master's degrees in educational fields, is married and has children at Dunekel Middle School and Wood Creek Elementary. In her position at Redford Union, she has been involved in alternative education at the high school level. Her community involvement ranges from neighbor-

hood swimming and tennis clubs to her activities at St. Fabian Catholic Church, where she is a member.

• **Robert Ranney**, 37, Greening, Farmington Hills — This is Ranney's second run at a board seat, after going up against two incumbents and another challenger in 1989. He is a consulting engineer for Michigan Consolidated Gas, holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and has lived in the district for just over two years. He is married and has three children, one in elementary school. A regular school board watcher for the past year, Ranney serves on the School/Community Forum as an elementary level representative.

• **Allen Warner**, 40, Perrys Crossing, Farmington Hills — A CPA, Warner is on the faculty at Wayne State University where he teaches accounting and information systems courses. He has lived in the district since October 1988 and holds a bachelor degree from U-M and a master's degree from Michigan State University, both in computer science areas. He served on the finance committee for the Farmington Hills Year 2000 Strategic Plan-

ning Task Force and is a board member for the Rolling Oaks Homeowners Association.

• **Cathleen Webb**, 38, Rutgers Drive, Farmington Hills — A freelance retail hardwares artist in business for herself, Webb is a steering committee member for the Facilities Study task Force. She also co-chairs a Community Education Advisory Council, co-chairs the Elementary Attendance Area Study Committee in 1989 and has been active in parent groups at Gill Elementary. She holds an associates degree from Daytona Beach Community College. Webb is married, with two sons and has lived in the district 10 years.

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# School board cuts property taxes early

By Marie Chestney  
staff writer

Due to rising property values in the Clarenceville School District, taxpayers will get a property tax reduction one year earlier than expected.

The board of trustees recently voted to cut the debt retirement tax rate from 2.25 mills to .75 mills. This cut had been scheduled to take place in 1991.

The reduction, which will show up for the first time on the district's summer tax bills, means that taxes on a \$75,000 house will drop by \$60 this year, or \$30 on the summer tax bill.

"If we kept the 2.25 mills, it would bring the district more money than it needs because of the rising SEV," said finance director Ralph Skrocki.

"In this day and age, with costs up,

## Clarenceville

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

any little bit anyone can do for anyone is appreciated," said superintendent Jerry Montecillo.

THE DISTRICT still is pursuing its quest for a Headlee waiver in the June school election.

If approved, the waiver allows the district to collect taxes beyond the rate of inflation, which now is about 4.5 percent.

Money from the two funds — debt retirement and operations — are separate, Skrocki said.

The debt tax rate, approved years ago by voters to pay for the district's school buildings, expires in 1997.

The district's state equalized valuation, or SEV, has been rising for the last four years and is estimated to rise to \$308 million by 1997, the year the debt expires.

In 1988, the SEV was estimated at \$158 million; in 1989, \$173 million; in 1990, \$191 million; and in 1991, \$207 million.

THE TAX, which could be com-

pared to payments on a home mortgage, has been used to pay off debts incurred by the district as far back as 1971.

Over the years, it has been used to pay for additions to the district's school buildings.

The estimated value of all the district's assets is now \$25 million, Skrocki said.

Due to rising property values, the district also expects to cut its current 0.75-mill debt-retirement tax to 0.50 mills in 1992.

Montecillo cited several reasons why the district is seeking a waiver for the section of the state constitution that limits unvoted tax increases to the rate of inflation.

"We don't know if the state will reduce its categorical funding, or if it makes districts pay its own share of the FICA tax. We're fairly certain

there'll be no increases, only decreases, and if we're faced with potential losses, we need to absorb these losses."

If voters don't approve the waiver, school officials have said they will have to dip into the district's surplus for 1990-1991.

The district's preliminary budget assumes that voters will approve a Headlee waiver allowing taxes to rise beyond the rate of inflation, up to the present tax rate of 41.4 mills.

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