

Party declarations due Feb. 18

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"You must declare your party preference. You can't just call on the phone and say put me down as a Republican or Democrat," said Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman.

If you are a registered voter and have already officially declared your party preference you are all set and ready to go for the March 17 primary. If you are a registered voter but have not declared a party preference, you've got a little bit of work to do. Remember, Feb. 18 is the crucial date if you want to participate in the primary.

The March presidential primary will be held when presidential candidates Michigan delegates will support at the 1992 national Democratic and Republican conventions.

IN THIS closed primary, each voter will be presented with a ballot for only one of the political parties. The party shown on the ballot will correspond to the voter's political party preference.

only (on the ballot)," Dorman said. Right now, 36 percent or 17,148 of Farmington Hills' 47,591 registered voters have declared a party preference, Dorman said. Of Farmington's 7,600 registered voters, approximately 11 percent have declared their party preference, Bushey said.

The state Legislature created the closed presidential primary to prevent those who prefer the Democratic Party from voting the Republican ballot, and vice versa. The courts also have ruled that the closed primary is acceptable.

But the primary process — including declaring by Feb. 18 — can be confusing. Business will also have individual communities. Farmington and Farmington Hills, for example, must keep a list of their expenditures for which they will be reimbursed by the state.

It's expected that across the state the primary will cost about \$5 million. The state Legislature, however, has budgeted only \$3 million. By declaring your party preference by Feb. 18, you are declaring in advance whether you wish to vote

the March 17 ballot listing Democratic, or the ballot listing Republican, candidates.

"People will be turned away if they have not declared their preference by Feb. 18," Dorman said. YOU CAN CALL the city clerk's office and ask for a form to be mailed to you, or you can stop at any city clerk's office or Secretary of State office and declare your preference on the special form.

If you are now just registering to vote, you can declare your party preference at that time, said Dorman and Farmington City Clerk Josephine Bushey.

"To make life a bit easier and less confusing for voters, Dorman will include a party preference form in the February issue of the Farmington Hills newsletter, which will be mailed to homes."

Farmington voters who wish to vote absentee will be asked when they call for an absentee application whether they have declared their party preference. If not, a card will be mailed to them.

As in Farmington Hills, Farming-

ton voters — who don't plan to vote absentee — may stop at the clerk's office and declare their preference or may request the card to be mailed to them, Bushey said.

Farmington Hills voters 60 years and older — who have already declared their party preference — will automatically have absentee ballot applications mailed to them, Dorman said.

Voters outside that age category who want to vote absentee must declare their party preference by Feb. 18 before the city clerk's staff will mail an absentee ballot application, Dorman said.

"We can mail it to them or they can use the one I'll put in the newsletter," Dorman said.

Voters must remember that if they have not declared a party preference by Feb. 18, they will be turned away from the polls March 17, Dorman and Bushey said.

Once the primary is over, Dorman said, voters can say they have no party preference or change their party preference for coming elections.

Big election year ahead for voters

It's going to be a big year for Farmington and Farmington Hills voters.

To start off the election year, voters will be faced with a closed presidential primary March 17. But the crucial date for this primary is Tuesday, Feb. 18, when those who wish to participate must declare their political party preference. Choices are limited to the Democratic and Republican parties.

This is how the rest of the election year shapes up:

- June 8: Farmington Public Schools annual election. The terms of board of education members Helen Frutro and James Abernethy are expiring.
- Aug. 4: Primary election for the offices of state representative (Rep. Jan Dolan's two-year term is expiring); state boards of educa-

tion; Oakland County Commission seats (the two-year terms of commissioners Don Wolf, David Moffitt, and Lillian Jaffe Oaks, are expiring); U.S. Representative.

Farmington Hills officials also are discussing the possibility of asking voters at the August primary election if they prefer to pay for recycling through a tax or a fee. Also under consideration is another shot at asking voters to expand and renovate the 47th District Court for a third judge. May 12 is the deadline for city officials if they wish to have either or both these issues on the Aug. 4 ballot.

• Nov. 3: known as the presidential election, the ballot also will include U.S. Representative, state Representative, state boards of education, Oakland County Commission seats and statewide tax proposals.

'Where's Arthur?' lauds city's founder

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Something to say: "come shop at our store."

"It achieves the objective of reminding people of downtown Farmington."

As in past spring promotions, 20,000 direct mail pieces will be sent out in early February targeted to zip codes in the area surrounding downtown. Each mailer will carry a picture of Arthur Fowler, the city's founder.

Participating businesses will have posters in the window asking "Where's the Founder? Is he here?" and a second poster with a picture of a historical figure inside.

Only one poster will have Power's picture. Business will also have entry blanks and ballot boxes.

Employees will be encouraged to wear buttons promoting the downtown event which is scheduled to run from Feb. 15 through March 15.

The DDA board approved the contest concept at a Jan. 7 board meeting. The promotion is expected to cost about \$2700 for materials, with \$3,000 to \$4,000 for the direct mail.

The February/March 'time is traditionally a slow one for retailers, and it is hoped the contest will encourage customers to visit a variety of businesses downtown.

Hills parent voices concerns over kids' safety on main roads

By Casey Hans, staff writer

A Farmington Hills parent has gained concern over transportation safety issues in the Farmington school district.

Cheryl Oliverio, an Independence Commons subdivision resident and Power Middle School parent said she is concerned about the heavy traffic along Drake Road where her child and others stand to catch the bus on school days.

"It's extremely hazardous for our children to stand at these main roads," she told the school board Jan. 14. "I feel the kids are sitting ducks."

Oliverio also told the school board that children were told to stand in the roadway, a policy which she and several school board members questioned.

She requested that the bus be routed into the subdivision to pick up students, saying it would take little more time for the driver.

Oliverio's comments echoed those of dozens of other parents earlier in the school year when the district changed its policy to pick up secondary students — middle school and high school — on main roads only.

SOME PARENTS were upset because of the dark, and now icy, conditions in the morning and said they were concerned a child would get hit by a car during the morning rush hour.

School officials made the changes, effective last September, because of financial cutbacks in the district. They said the main roads could be considered safer because they are maintained better during winter months.

"What you're proposing, on it's face, makes sense," said trustee James Abernethy. "For one, I think you make a case."

Board vice president Jack Inch suggested the district look at the entire Drake Road corridor. "This road has picked up an awful lot of high speed traffic," he said. "I really think, while there's snow on the ground, we should take a look at it."

Trustee Susan Rennels who heads the board's safety committee asked administrators to study the issue and give her an update for further consideration. "I have a concern with your comments on where the children are told to stand," she told Oliverio. "The maintenance of the roads is also a concern."

RENNELS SAID she thought the bus patterns should remain "for the time being."

She also noted there have been complaints from the other side when bus stops were located in subdivisions. Those complaints ranged from residents upset with children playing on their lawns to people who thought there was too much bus traffic in the subdivisions.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan told the board the district is implementing the plan approved by the board because of budget cuts in 1990.

Craft classes scheduled

The winter months are a great time to learn a new skill or start a new craft or hobby. Join the Rochester Community House for classes in wood carving, quilting, calligraphy, pottery, fresh flower arranging and bridge, watercolor, basket making, guitar and knitting.

Classes are offered in jewelry making, hair braiding and bow making, interior design, valentine and pine cone and herbal wreaths, pottery, fresh flower arranging and porcelain pins.

Arthritis Today

Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
10229 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: 478-7880



ARTHRITIS AND EARLY RETIREMENT

The first consideration in taking an early retirement is to evaluate the status of your arthritis. Are you exhausted at day's end, and never free from aching and discomfort? Have you done what was possible to modify your workplace environment? Does your physician feel that present therapy can not be expected to provide further relief? Are alternative therapies available, or have all reasonable treatments been tried and found wanting or too hazardous? If your mobility is insufficient for your present work, is there alternative employment open to you whose physical requirements are within your capabilities?

Next you need to evaluate if retirement now will bring on a loss of self esteem, cause you to lose a circle of friends, or diminish a social life that you enjoy. In short, can you take on the psychological changes that comes with leaving the workforce?

Finally you must consider your financial status. You need to review if there are funds and income that would permit you to pay your bills and meet the possibility of inflation in the coming years.

You may find after reviewing this check list, that retirement now is out of the question. If so, you should approach your work and shape your attitude in a way that will minimize pain, expense, anger and melancholy.

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