

Disappointing night: Candidate Gerald Surowiec poses with his son, Jim, during his election party at O'Sheehan's restaurant in Farmington Hills.



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LA MONT

Hugs for Marla: Marla Parker, who survived the primary test in her quest for a judgeship, gets a big hug from campaign worker David Garosh.

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Thinking about the upcoming campaign, McDonald said, "We have to get a little more sophisticated. The (primary effort) was a grass-roots, door-to-door thing."

"Now I'm going to have to talk to people... a lot of good people who've helped me out in the past. I have to listen to them... hear their ideas."

Apparently, Parker thinks that's good advice for herself. She hired political consultant Alan Feuer of Southfield to design her primary campaign. Feuer contacted Brian MacKenzie's successful judicial campaign in Novi.

"He gave us the plan that our volunteers had to follow," said Parker Wednesday morning.

Feuer also designed Parker's outside signs — mini-billboards, really — that dotted lawns and roadsides in the community. The red, white and black signs emphasize Parker's position as magistrate in the 47th District Court.

"The whole campaign was a very positive experience," Parker said at her party. "Our volunteers were wonderful. We had so much support from friends, family, clients, neighbors. The voters were very educated. They asked good questions. I hope I gave good answers."

About the large signs, which were noticed by many

and criticized by some, Parker said, "Overall, I've had a very good response to the signs. They helped with name recognition somewhat. I promise all the signs will be down by the end of the week, win or lose."

Gerald Surowiec, who had been expected to challenge Parker for second place, finished a distant third with 2,005 votes.

"I'm one tired puppy," said Surowiec at an election-night party at O'Sheehan's in the Muirwood Center.

"It looks like I lost it in the absentee," he added. "I guess I didn't hit them (senior citizens who often use absentee ballots) hard enough."

"But I have no regrets. We ran the kind of campaign we wanted. We got great grass-roots support."

Surowiec indicated that he might run again if the Farmington court gets a third judgeship.

Shirley Saltzman finished fourth with 704 votes, Richard Poehlman had 564, Kenneth Knoppow 474 and Steven Gabel 139.

As predicted, there was a light voter turnout. About 26 percent of the electorate voted in Farmington Hills, and 27 percent went to the polls in Farmington.

Many voters cast absentee ballots in Farmington Hills, officials said.



Hand them over: Marilyn Oldani (left), elections official chairman from Precinct 10 at O.E. Duncel Middle School, gives election results to Mary Jane Aloe, Farmington Hills employee.

Warren Report blasted

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield resident Colvin Taylor said he remembers how quickly and decidedly the media blamed Lee Harvey Oswald for the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He also remembers how the public seemed to accept what they were being told on TV and in the newspapers about Oswald's alleged guilt.

"It did (seem Oswald was guilty) because the things that were brought out in the media were stacked against him and that's all we got," Taylor said following Thursday's presentation by JFK assassination researcher and Birmingham resident Craig Ciccone at Holy Spirit Church in West Bloomfield.

But nearly 29 years later, Taylor increasingly doubts the "official" assassination version. Ciccone's 90-minute lecture — which focused on how the Warren Commission was a farce and how government played a key role in Kennedy's murder — did nothing to stall such skepticism.

That people such as Taylor might be rethinking their opinions about the topic, and are not so quick to accept the so-called "official" version of the murder, is Ciccone's objective in making some 70 presentations since November 1990 in Michigan.

During his talk, and in an interview later, the 24-year-old Ciccone criticized the Warren Commission. He said it wasn't assembled to prove or disprove the crime, but to support the single assassin theory fed by the FBI and Dallas police. Ciccone said the Warren Commission does not include Tippett's

autopsy report (which wasn't made available to researchers until 1987) or testimony from 326 witnesses interviewed by the commission. But it does contain 17 pages about the dental charts of Jack Ruby's mother dating back to 1939.

"That (information) would have mattered if Ruby bit Oswald to death..." Ciccone told the audience.

Ciccone also said the Warren Commission report was put together in such a manner that the public would not take the time or effort to read it. He pointed to one of the authors, Allen Dulles, the former CIA director fired in 1961 by JFK.

"He was counting on you guys (public)," Ciccone said. "He said nobody reads in this country. (And) he was counting on you not reading the record. That's why there are 28 volumes with no index, no order." Many well-known aspects of the assassination cover up were touched on by Ciccone, including the "Magic Bullet" theory and how JFK's throat wound was tampered with during the autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington, D.C.

When a tracheotomy was performed at Parkland Hospital in Dallas during futile attempts to save Kennedy's life, the wound was about one-inch wide. Autopsy photographs show the wound at about 3/4 inches wide, the researcher said.

Other evidence

According to Ciccone, there is plenty of other evidence that Oswald was framed, that the Dealey Plaza tragedy was not the work of a crazed gunman.

Oswald was interrogated for 12 hours by Dallas police and other authorities between his arrest and death Nov. 24, 1963, but no notes were taken.

The boxes that formed the alleged "gunman's nest" near a sixth-floor window of the book depository building were moved before crime technicians arrived. They were covered with handprints from police officers, not Oswald's.

Oswald was fingerprinted Nov. 25, while inside his coffin. The FBI received that information from Dallas police the following day.

The FBI had "an extensive file" on Oswald dating back to before the assassination, based on five interviews.

Several members of the Secret Service were spotted drinking until 4:30 a.m. the morning of the Kennedy assassination at the bar of one of Ruby's associates.

"The Warren Commission never intended to prove anything but Oswald's guilt," Ciccone said, noting that meetings were held in January 1964 to discuss FBI conclusions "before any witnesses were called, before any evidence was made into exhibits."

He also said: The Warren Commission called only 95 witnesses to the stand, ignoring 328; about 200 of those since have been murdered.

And the truth about Kennedy's death has been covered up by the presidents who followed him into office.

"The way I feel about it, the administrations of Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush should all be held as accessories after the fact... I'm not saying they were involved (in the murder). I'm saying they have ignored this."

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