

3 other council incumbents run, too

By Bill Coutant
Staff Writer
Three other Farmington Hills City Council incumbents are joining Aldo Vagnozzi in a re-election bid and at least one potential challenger is thinking about running.

Councilmen Ben Marks, Larry Lichtman and Jon Grant said they will run for the city council again, and attorney Paul Sowerby, who ran unsuccessfully in 1991, said he had not decided whether to run again this fall.

"I think I bring a different perspective to the council," said Lichtman, the current mayor or pro tem. "I'm in my mid-30s (36 later this month), a professional (attorney) with a young family, and I grew up in the community."

Lichtman, who won a second two-year term in 1991, is the son of former mayor and city charter commission member Fred Lichtman. He has been a member of the city's planning commission and chaired the zoning board of appeals before seeking a council seat in 1989.

Lichtman, who is married and has four children, said because Farmington Hills is one of

the state's largest (13th) and most affluent cities, residents will continue to expect good city services.

"We have to keep taxes down and yet deliver good services," he said. "It's a balancing act."

Marks, 69, will be seeking his third term on the council. A businessman, Marks also served on the city's charter commission.

"There is still an awful lot to do," Marks said. "There are infrastructural concerns."

Marks, who is president of the Michigan Municipal League and on the executive board of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, said the city faces a tighter "revenue stream" in part because it has been "built out." But residents will still demand quality city services.

"We have to make sure that we can keep the quality of life that we are enjoying now," said the grandfather of four.

Grant, 40, a businessman and father of three, said he will also run again, despite the demanding time commitment. He said resolv-

ing the library issue and finding a permanent home for senior programs were priorities.

"We're in the middle of a lot of issues right now," Grant said. "I enjoy being on the council and I think we work well together."

Grant will be seeking his second term. Paul Sowerby, 49, served on the council before losing out in 1991.

"I'm considering it," he said of another try. "But I'm pretty active with senior citizens right now and I'm going to be moving my law office to 13 Mills and Orchard Lake by May 1."

Ron Oliverio and Andrew Raczkowski, who both ran in 1991, could not be reached for comment.

Dennis Fitzgerald, 51, chairman of the parks and recreation commission and financial planner with the state, said despite rumors to the contrary, he had no intention of running.

"I'm flattered," he quipped, "but I've got my hands full on parks and rec."

Jack Rajkovich, a planning commission member rumored to be interested in running, could not be reached for comment.

Vagnozzi from page 1A

Education trustee said other issues high on his agenda for the coming term include:
■ Improving Detroit Edison customer services. "When our city was hit with major power outages, I went before the Michigan Public Service Commission to urge that they order a plan to improve ser-

vice, which they did," Vagnozzi said.

■ Lowering rates and improving customer services from Metro-Vision cable company.

■ Working for improvements in the older sections of the city. "We have made substantial

progress in the area of upgrading services, roads, drains, sewers and lighting in the older sections. More needs to be done."

■ Protecting residential zoning against commercial intrusion.

Vagnozzi said he will continue to work for completion of the active sports facilities and land

bank program that will preserve natural areas like Woodland Hills park.

Vagnozzi also plans to work for more citizen involvement in city government, youth programs and citywide flood control programs.

Vagnozzi is married and has four children.

Lions hear talk on small claims

Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court in Farmington spoke to the Lions at their March meeting about how to bring a lawsuit to small claims court.

Harris told about 40 Lions in attendance that individuals who

believe they are owed money by another individual or business can file for as much as \$1,750 in small claims court. Attorneys are not allowed to represent clients.

Harris gave several examples of cases.

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