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FIFTY CENTS

1993 Suburban Communications Corp.

6 seek 4 council seats in Hills



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Six candidates will square off for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council in the Nov. 2 election. An attorney and a stay-at-home mother will challenge four council incumbents. The three candidates who receive the most votes will serve four-

year terms, and the fourth-place finisher will serve a two-year term. The candidates are:
■ Councilman Aldo Vagnoni, 68, was first to announce, first to take out petitions and first to file. The former mayor, who is a publishing consultant, was the top vote getter in 1989. He is a former Farmington school

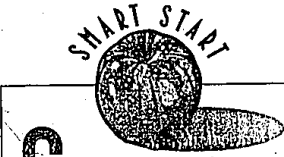
board member and has been active in politics since moving to Farmington Hills in 1960.

■ Councilman Jon Grant, 41, is seeking his second four-year term. The small-business owner is married with two children. He served as mayor last year.

■ Councilman Ben Marks, 70, has been on the council for nine years. The builder-developer served on the city's charter commission and planning commission, and is current president of the Michigan Municipal League.

■ Councilman Larry Lichtman, 35, is seeking his third term. An attorney, Lichtman has won two two-year terms and is mayor pro tem. He is married with four children.

■ Cheryl Oliverio, 39, is one of two challengers. The mother of four is making her first run for council. Her husband Ron, a stockbroker, ran for council twice without success. She has been active in community affairs.
■ Attorney Vincent Lorelli, 28, will also seek a council seat. Lorelli owns a restaurant in Livonia. He moved to Farmington Hills from Dearborn three years ago. He is single.



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For school districts in Oakland County, call 901-4723

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Stylish encounters: Look for our special supplement, "Somewhere in time . . . Fashion Romances the Centuries," with today's newspaper inserts; and a fall fashion sampler on the cover of Suburban Life. /1C

That's the spirit: With government's role decreasing, volunteers are needed more than ever, according to a recent seminar. /2A

Boots of a firefighter: Paul Button, a longtime firefighter from the Farmington area's past, received a firefighter's sendoff at his funeral Tuesday. /3A

COUNTY NEWS

It's the pits: Two area teens spent the summer discovering work's not a bowl of cherries. /7A

OPINION

Why sidewalks?: They're not always popular, but they are needed on busy highways in Farmington Hills. /16A

Write on! Farmington-area letter writers have been busy these past few days. /17A

SPORTS

Grid preview: The outlook might not be a glowing report, but North Farmington hopes to sneak up on some opposing football teams. /1B

Soccer season: Farmington carries the title of defending Western Lakes co-champion into a new season of boys soccer. /1B

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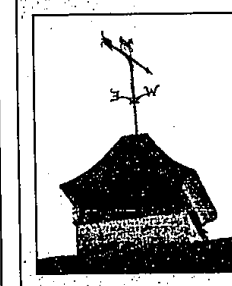
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Life on Oakland Street



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Happy transplants: Betty and Ed Tobin, taking care of business on the porch of their Oakland Street home, are transplants from northwest Detroit. Nan and Frank Reid's weather vane (below) sits atop their garage.



Life's a picture 'behind the show'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

To say it's on Oakland and Warner streets only means something to someone like Rand McNally. To say it's in the Old Village, only a local historian would take note.

But to say "behind the show" you've said it all.

The Farmington neighborhood is secluded one block away from the busy thoroughfare of Grand River Avenue. And, like the directions

say, it is right behind the Farmington Civic Theatre.

The area meets all criteria for quaintness: A canopy of trees hovering over the street, front porches overlooking the sidewalk and houses inspired by a vision rather than development.

"It's like a slice out of Hometown, USA," said Nan Reid, who has lived on Oakland Street with her husband, Frank, and two children for eight years. "Most of the houses have front porches. Most of the people are out in the front of their houses a lot of the time."

"We're a front porch neighborhood."

Other residents concur. Some, like the Cottons and Munters, have lived there for more than 20 years. Others, like Jill and David Latte, have moved in only a year ago.

"Sometimes when I'm walking through the neighborhood — I know this sounds kind of espy — but it's like walking back in time," said Jill Latte, who previously lived in Indianapolis, Ind.

See PICTURE, 3A

New sewage plant starts going with the flow

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

It's big and gray and has city officials gushing. Most of all, it's on line and working.

The pumping station and retention basin — the end result of the \$13.1-million sewer improvement project — went into operation June 6.

In addition, six miles of combined sanitary and storm sewer lines were separated during the improvement process.

The bottom line? Combined storm sewage overflow that used to seep into the Rouge River has been eliminated. That makes the Department of Natural Resources and state officials happy. Their regulations have now been met.

The city will host a tour of the facility 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 11, at the facility on Nine Mile Road.

People who turn out will see pipes, pumps and a bit of pride from city officials.

"We've gone from a (small) facility to a 3 1/2 story pumping station and three million gallon retention center," said city manager Frank Lauboff. "That's the amazing part of this . . ."

Despite a nine-month delay, partly due to the removal of contaminated materials, the project was brought within budget. A low-interest loan from the state paid for the work.

A computer serves as the brain of the three-story pumping station,

though the system is monitored 24 hours by the Oakland County and Water and Sewerage Company.

There are six pumps in all, two of which send waste water to the Detroit Sewerage System. The other four pumps, with 60 horse-powered motors, kick in during wet weather.

When water levels exceed the amount to be sent to the Detroit system, the overload is stored in the retention basin until the system can re-

See SEWAGE, 10A

Farmington's Farmer Jack

A ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Farmington officials and Farmer Jack Super market officials marked the recent symbolic reopening of the renovated Farmer Jack in the Crossroads Center at Nine Mile and Farmington roads.

Celebrating in the reopening, along with store employees, were Farmington Mayor William Hartsock, city manager Frank Lauboff, Farmer Jack manager Richard McArdle, and Farmer Jack sales manager Joe Vorkally.

The updated store now houses a full-service pharmacy, a self-serve bottle and can return center, and an expanded section for health and diet items.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

To perform at synagogue

The folk sounds of Ron Coden and Josh White Jr. will be featured at Adat Shalom Synagogue's "Jez-Propelled" Family Picnic, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 5, at the synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills.

This year's Adat Shalom picnic will have an "out-of-this-world" motif, complete with "astro-nomical" animals, a moon walk, solar sports and "Darth Vader." The event is open to the community and is free for those who make reservations by Friday, Sept.

3. Reservations may be made by calling the synagogue at 851-5100.

For those without reservations, there will be an \$8 charge at the door.

Memory Lane

From the Aug. 20, 1953, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Sirloin steaks were advertised at 65 cents per pound at the grand opening of Farmington Meats; formerly Wally Zehnder Meats, on Grand River.

Nick Ianni was named football coach at Clarencerville High School. He replaced Harry McKittrick, who resigned to take a position with the Dearborn Schools. Ianni lived on Hugo Street in Farmington Township.