

Lichtman is youngest mayor and link to a family tradition

BY BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

Larry Lichtman's election as Farmington Hills mayor is a first in some ways, yet carries on a family tradition in this young city.

Lichtman, 35, became both the youngest mayor-elect in the city's history and the first son of a mayor to become mayor. His father Fred served as mayor in 1974.

"I want to especially thank my father, who is in Florida, for his support and example," said the younger Lichtman in brief remarks at the Nov. 22 council meeting.

"I think there is some significance to this other than the obvious trivia interest," said councilman and former mayor Jon Grant. "It is significant to me that throughout all of our growth since

we were a township that Farmington Hills has managed to remain the type of community where generations of families care a great deal about our city, and generations of families continue to call Farmington Hills home, and continue to dedicate themselves to preserving the type of community we have."

Lichtman won his third two-year term in November.

Council members also elected Joanne Smith as mayor pro tem, which means she will succeed Lichtman in 1995. Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi nominated Smith, praising her long service to the community as a councilwoman and planning commissioner, her volunteer efforts and her professional contributions as a family and child therapist with the Sarah Fisher Home.

"She has paid her dues," Vagnozzi said in nominating Smith.

With Lichtman and Smith set for their terms as mayor (the mayor pro tem has always been elected mayor), only newly elected councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio will not have whetted the spot by 1995. Council members Nancy Bates, Grant, Vagnozzi and Terry Severhave all served as mayor.

In other action, the council:

■ Approved a special assessment for sanitary sewer improvements for Northwestern Highway, from 32550 Northwestern to 675 feet southeast of 14 Mile, but tabled a special assessment for water main improvements until tonight's meeting. The city wants to complete work on both projects at the same time to save money.



Larry Lichtman

■ Voted to make a special assessment district for road improvements for Rock Ridge Lane in Section 1 and Trestlin Road, Section 22.

■ Discussed drainage complaints of Leonard Zak, a resident on Salisbury. The city will monitor possible drainage problems.

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uctor herself," said Santsche, who attends the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "She was kind of standoffish about it."

"She said, 'Everyone has to make sacrifices. I understand you have to scrimp a little to make things run, but slashing a program altogether is not sacrifice.'"

James Newman, executive director of the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education, said people like Wanck and Santsche have made sure adult education hasn't been lost in the legislative shuffle.

"Actually, it's been a popular item," Newman said. "A number of adult education students have contacted legislators to tell them what adult education means to them."

"Those who finished and received their diplomas as adults are saying, 'Hey, this kind of saved me'..."

The missionary zeal with which they have rallied around the issue has perhaps played a role in the latest proposal, which would re-

store some state funding for adult education.

A House K-12 committee would earmark \$192 million. That's a 33-percent cut from the \$285 million paying for adult programs.

"We have some work to do to make sure we're adequately funded," Newman said.

Farmington is already feeling the pinch. Klenz said supplies and the number of classes offered will likely be reduced as this year's funding is uncertain.

As a result, class sizes will increase as scheduling options decrease for many of those students who work and raise children. Next year's financial picture is fuzzy at best.

"It's extremely frustrating," Klenz said. "You can't plan. You spend all your energies on funding issues instead of on the curriculum and offering quality programs."

The Farmington Adult Education program has 297 students, ranging in age from 17 to 74.

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Secondary interviews have been scheduled for Dec. 1-2 and, if needed, Dec. 6. They start at 7 p.m. in Schulman Administration Building.

Board members will also decide tonight on what questions to ask the finalists.

Prior to the interviews, a reception will be held for each finalist 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Farmington Training Center. The purpose is for people to meet prospective superintendents, Prutow said.

The board wants to name a successor to Michael Flanagan, who is leaving Jan. 1 to become superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

Flanagan said he's not seen any of the interviews, but has heard feedback.

"It sounds like there's some very strong people," Flanagan said. "They have very talented people in there and if they get down to a couple of those they

can't make the wrong choice. They can almost throw a dart."

"I'm feeling good. A lot of people say, 'What do you care? You're leaving anyway.' I do care... We've worked hard and you don't want it to fall apart."

Preliminary finalists include Joe Gonzalez of Bay City Public Schools, C. Robert Maxfield of Berkley Public Schools; Margaret "Dolly" McMaster of Northville Public Schools, Charles Mun-

cachy of West Ottawa Public Schools, Michael Shilbar of Rockford Public Schools, Thomas Shorkey of East China School District and Youssef Yomtoob of Ypsilanti Willow Run Public Schools.

All seven were quizzed during 90-minute sessions. All touted their accomplishments in their respective school districts and expressed eagerness to work for Farmington Public Schools.

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"I can't imagine investing in the property without obtaining a license first," said Mayor Nancy Bates.

"There were no guarantees that a liquor license would be granted," Donohue said.

"I don't feel an obligation to grant you a license," councilman Terry Sever said.

But Sever said he would be willing to consider Polasky's proposal based on the good track record of Ruby Tuesday's (11 restaurants in Michigan and 270 nationwide).

Sever said the council had been reluctant to part with the city's remaining license since it won't

be granted any new ones until after the 2000 census. Lichtman said he had hoped the license could be given to a more "distinguished" restaurant.

But Vagnozzi said the issue was the worthiness of the applicant.

"We seem to be harder on him than on other applicants," Vagnozzi said.

Vagnozzi said withholding the license from a worthy applicant would be "politically stupid" because when it finally granted the license, those business turned down would question the choice.

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