



Victory ring: Nancy Bates accepts a congratulatory phone call as her son and daughter-in-law try to match their numbers to the official numbers.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

Council trio: Terry Sever (left), Cheryl Oliverio and Vicki Barnett celebrate Tuesday's Farmington Hills City Council election results.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Council from page 1A

"I did pretty well with seniors where I have a long track record," Bates said of her success.

Bates seemed almost as pleased the public safety millage passed by a large margin.

"I think the community stepped forward tonight," she said.

Sever, who spent the least amount of money of any candidate, said he had expected to do a little better, but thought Marks cut into his vote by doing well in the northwest part of the city.

"I'm very satisfied," he said. "I worked on my weaknesses and relied on my strengths. I was guarding against losing."

**"I felt I had done everything I could do. I walked beginning in May and June. I was no stranger to the community and to issues."**

Vicki Barnett

"I was surprised and disappointed," said Fitzgerald. "But I was going up against four professional candidates, and I say that with respect. I'm glad I did as well as I did."

Marks, who had lost two years ago, said he had done what he thought he had to do to win, after running poorly in 1993.

"I just saw the city council drifting away from what they should be doing," he said. "But I'm not sure the voters saw it the same way."

All three council members will serve four-year terms.

### Mayor from page 1A

Sowerby was philosophical about the loss, saying that he brought about debate on important issues, like taxes and leadership.

"The city council is going to have to look closely at finances," he said. "But I'm proud of what we did."

Bill Smith, who worked outside Precinct 5 for Sowerby, said he was getting some good responses despite the light turnout up to 5 p.m.

"This (St. Alexander's Church) is Vagnozzi's church," he said. "I haven't had a lot of negative comments about Paul (Sowerby)."

But Mario Guerrero, who had just voted, said he was angry with Sowerby's campaign tactics that included putting literature on car windshields during Mass at the church.

Vagnozzi received 8,633 votes to Sowerby's 5,447, a margin of 61 percent to Sowerby's 34.5 percent. There were 62 write-ins.

Voter turnout was heavier in the evening hours, bringing the total number of voters to 14,592, or 29 percent of registered voters. City Clerk Kathy Dornan said that was higher than the normal



Support: An upbeat Paul Sowerby, who was unsuccessful in his bid for Hills mayor, enjoys the post-election atmosphere with supporters Christa Murphy and Terry Fubbs.

city vote of 20 percent.

Vagnozzi won handily with absentee voters as well as on election-day ballots, 3,839-2,664. Sowerby did not win a single precinct.

City Councilwoman Nancy

Bates, who won re-election, said she was pleased with the result.

"Spending \$50,000 on an election offends me," she said of Sowerby's campaign. "I think the voters of Farmington Hills sent a strong message that they can't be bought."

## No surprises in Farmington

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

In the Farmington City Council race, it was only a matter of who would win, place and show.

Incumbent Jo Anne McShane collected the most votes with 531 in Tuesday's city election. McShane edged out second incumbent Bill Hartsack, who had 523 votes.

McShane and Hartsack both receive four-year terms. Newcomer James Mitchell received 464 votes, and a two-year term.

A lack of a race corresponded with a low voter turnout. Only 693, or 6.8 percent, of the city's 7,834 voters cast ballots.

"It is kind of anticlimactic," said Hartsack, 45, who will tack four more years onto his 23-year tenure on council. "It certainly didn't feel like a campaign."

"If anybody in the community would like to run for city council, I'd encourage them to do so."

McShane, who was also top-vote getter in the 1991 election, posted numerous signs and campaigned door-to-door. Her hard work more than ensured her a



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New member: Farmington Mayor Arnie Campbell welcomes James Mitchell aboard as a council member Tuesday night at Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission studios.

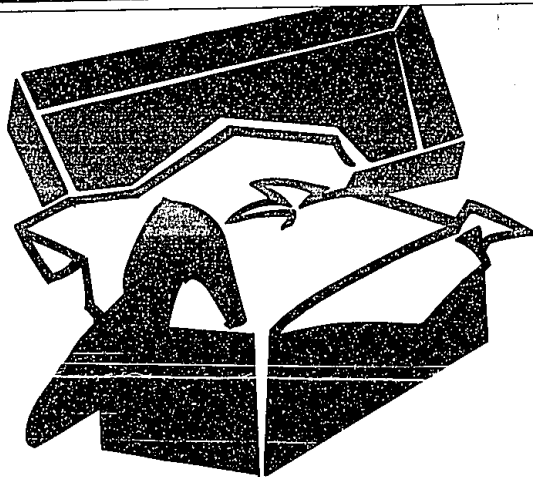
third term on council.

"I can't say that (being the top vote-getter) was my priority," said McShane, who was awaiting results with the other candidates at Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission studios Tuesday night.

"It was important for me to win

a four-year term. I'm glad there were more votes so there wasn't the like before (in 1993 between Richard Tupper and Mary Bush)."

With four of seven precincts counted, McShane flashed a thumbs up sign after learning she was ahead.



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