Putting You In Touch With Your World

Farmington Hills City Council

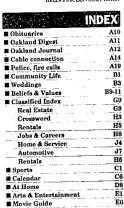
Jerry Ellis (I)

Jon Grant (1) Massie Kurzeja Cheryl Oliverio (1) 305

Parks & Recreation Millage Yes 6,770

Woodland Hills Nature Park preservation amendment No

HELEN FURCEAN / STAFF ARTIS



Sarah Fisher's students aren't often problems

One recent incident aside, Farmington schools officials hast week emphasized that youngsters from the Sarah Fisher Home for Children who attend classes in the district generally don't pose safety or disciplinary problems.

Children who attend classes in the district generally don't pose safety or disciplinary problems.

On Oct. 21 at Power Middle School, an 11-year-old student – who was then living at Sarah Fisher – lost control after someone reportedly threw a gum wrapper at her. Before she could be restrained, the girl swung at a classmate; battled to get away from three staff members; and later attacked a Farmington Hills police officer by punching, biting and kicking the officer in the groin, according to police reports.
Students who attend from Sarah Fisher typically mesh well with those from traditional homes, according to Donald Cowan, Farmington schools' executive director for K-12 instruction and special services. And angry outbursts can happen to anybedy. "The staff there did a wonderful johworking with the situation," Cowan said. "Al to of times, any of us might have an emotional situation – an argument with your wife, mother, girlfriend – and something happens. It's the streaw that breaks the camel's back.

"I don't think this had anything to do with what was thrown at her."
The student was taken to Children's Village in Pontiac and will not return to the school district.

"This was an absolute first for me." said.

lage in Pontiae and will not return to the school district. "This was an absolute first for me," said Norm Luebke, Power assistant principal. "In my nine years here, this is the first time a student even tauched a teacher." Luebke said there wasn't a fight. "She wanted to leave the room and (ataff members) were holding the doorknob to keep ber in. She was out of control. "According to Luebke, the girl was one of "a couple" students attending Power this year from Snarh Fisher, which is a private facility located at 12 Mile-Inkster in Farmington Hills. year n... facility locat →on Hills

ington Hills.
"We have limited enrollment in regular classes and they're doing great," Luebke

suid.

Superintendent Bob Maxfield said about 76 children from Sarah Fisher (which takes in special needs children from throughout metro Detroit) are enrolled into a program coordinated by the district's special educa-

Piense see STUDENT, A4



Number watch: Mary Ellis, wife of Farmington Hills Councilman Jerry Ellis, points out votes on the computer to top vote-getter Cheryl Oliverio at Farmington Hills City Hall Tuesday night. Below, the re-elected team of council members Jon Grant, Oliverio and Ellis are all smiles.

Voters reaffirm Oliverio, Grant, Ellis for council

BY RICHARD PEARL STAFF WRITER

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi's reacts to the vote, the future. Page A18

A typical light voter turnout for a city election in Farmington Hills returned all three incumbents to the city council Tuesday for four-year

Four candidates sought the three open seats on the seven-member council.

cil.

Cheryl Oliverio, who is mayor protem on the current council, led in
votes with almost 29 percent of the
9,669 votes cast. The city has 64,269
eligible voters.

eligible voters.
Right behind Oliverio were Jon
Grant with 28.5 percent and Jerry

Ellis with 28 percent.

The fourth candidate, former council member Massic Kurzeja, got just under 14 pront.

The turnout of 18.6 percent of eligible voter "is typical" of a non-subernatori. non-presidential election, said City Clark Kathy Dornan.

"Unfortunately, people don't think a city election is important enough," she said.

Councilman Terry Sever, who was not running, said Oliverio told him she feared she wouldn't get any votes

Please see Winners, A6

because she didn't get the Observer's endorsement.

I told her she'd be the top vote-getter," said Sever, who said he's watched city elections very closely since losing his first bid for a seat 15 years ago. Sever said, Oliverio's door-to-door campaigning helped her.

Oliverio said her concern in the coming years would continue to be public safety. With an aging communi-

Hills' voters big on parks



BY RICHARD PEAIL STAFF WARTER

Martin Shoushaninn probably said Tucaday inght what a lot of Farming as he left his Gill Elementary School polling place, said he's seen what parks can do for a community and "Tille to see it happen for the next generation."

The desire to benefit today's youngsters was reflected in a lopsided vote that extended the 0.5 mill levy well into the next century. With 72 percent of the voters favoring it, the proposed extension of the expiration from June 30, 1999 to the same date in 2009 passed by a 4,130-vote margin.

The levy means a home valued at \$150,000 would be assessed about \$37 more per year in taxes. Voters also passed a related issue – Charter Amendment 2, ensuring that Woodland Hills Nature Park keeps its natural setting and wildlife habitat – by an even bigger percentage. Some \$7.5 percent were in favor, for a whopping 7,050-vote margin.

The victory of both issues reflected the citizens' confidence in the current city council, particularly with regard to spending tax money as it says it will, said incumbent Councilwoman Nancy Bates.

"When we put a proposal out there, we deliver what we say we'll deliver," Bates said.

Shoushanian, a resident of the

Please see PARKS, AS

Developer's advocate

Schafer stands up for his housing projects

A mayor chews your head off and an elderly resident complains one of your newly built houses is blocking out the

swin.

Worst of all, you cannot even get the carpet guy out to your new home.

The typical day in the life of a developer, perhaps, but Steven Schafer just drives on. Or, at least he tries.

The partner of Phoenix Land Development stops his sporty red Cadillac in the middle of 13 Mile - holding up traffic behind him - to point out one of six or soven projects his company has going in Farmington Hills alone.

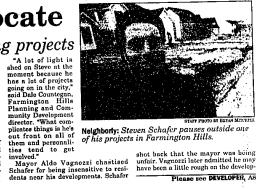
"Everyone is always honking at me,"

said Schnfer, 39, turning down a side road after getting beeped by an irate meterist. When I'm on the road I've get blinders on ... I'm always looking at off land to develop."

Schafor's knack for in-fill development - where new homes are wedged in between existing subdivisions - gets him tied up in traffic at city hall, too.

Out in front

Such projects carn equal amounts of council members' constorantion and resident wrath. Unlike other develop-ors, Schafor doesn't hide behind smooth-talking attorneys or intermedi-nies, he faces detractors head-on.



Parents charged for hosting teen beer bash But police reports also included donials from the parents that alcoholic beverages were being consumed by minors in their house. The parents of a 17-year-old Farmington High School senior were charged with providing alcoholic beverages were being consumed by minors during an Oct. 25 key beer bash in Farmington. According to Farmington. According to Farmington Public Safety Department. Some estimates had more than 100 teens at the party, but Wiggins this on Saxony and supplied the beer. According to Farmington Public Safety Department. Some estimates had more than 100 teens at the party, but Wiggins this week could not confirm whether that

ages to minors during an observable her bash in Farmington.

According to Farmington police reports, the teen's mother and steplather hosted the party at their residence on Saxony and supplied the beer.

Grant dances into town

Look for the first annual Farmington Featival of
Dance to invade the community next month, courteey of the Farmington Area Arts Commission and a
grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cul-

ural Affairs.

Local dancer/choreographer/instructor Eric John-ton proposed the idea last spring.

With the grant, the festival schedule is set up as

follows:

■ Monday, Dec. 8, an open dress rehearsal of the Detroit Dance Collectivo, directed by 1907 Farmington Artist in Residence Barbara Selinger, will be hosted at Farmington High School.

■ Tuesday, Dec. 9, the Farmington Public Schools

FARMINGTON FOCUS

will perform "DANCEABOUT 1997" by the Detroit Dance Collective at the Farmington High auditori-

Dance Collective at the Farmington 11112 acutum at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11, a master class in modern dance will be presented at Farmington High.

Friday, Dec. 12, the festival culminates with its grand finale featuring performances by Farmington's best dancers in any style of dance (including local studies or school dance programs). The even will also feature performances by Barbara Selinger

and the Detroit Dance Collective.

The event is presented by the Farmington Hills
Department of Special Services, the Farmington
Area Arts Commission and Farmington Public
Schools.

Halloween's over

Things were so also at Precinct I during Tuesday's Farmington City Council election, that precinct worker Harry Faris couldn't stop himself from walking down the hallway and standing near the exit, peering out toward the parking lot. It was as if he was trying to will voter to arrive.

"I'm trying to scare them in," said Faris.