

Candidate forum

Sarkisian lashes out at mayor, opponent, council

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
larry@observer.com

Farmington Hills mayor challenger George Sarkisian didn't wait for anyone to say ready or aim. He just fired.

At Monday's forum sponsored by the Farmington Area Democrats, Sarkisian attacked opponent Nancy Bates on many issues, including the city's recently enacted bike helmet ordinance.

Sarkisian said the law "crossed over the line of democracy and into dictatorship." Sarkisian and Bates are vying for Farmington Hills mayor Nov. 2. Bates is on the city council and is mayor pro-tem.

In his opening statement, Sarkisian criticized Bates' supposed role in disbanding the Ethics Committee and alluded to her association with previous city councils in which he contends there were financial irregularities. Sarkisian was not specific on the latter assertion.

He also took a shot at outgoing Mayor Aldo Vagnotori.



Aggressive: Mayoral candidate George Sarkisian criticized his opponent for her supposed role in disbanding the Ethics Committee.

"We have a mayor who is the epitome of arrogance and pomposity," Sarkisian said. "This bothers me."

Vagnotori is not permitted to seek re-election due to city term limits.

Asked about his aggressive campaign tack in a question from an audience member, Sark-

'We have a mayor who is the epitome of arrogance and pomposity. This bothers me.'

George Sarkisian
—Hills mayoral candidate

isian looked toward Bates supporters seated in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

"Is this an attack George Sarkisian night?" he asked before turning to Bates to inquire if she felt he maligned her personally.

"Oh, don't go there, George," Bates said.

Bates cited her 10 years on the city council and involvement in several local, state and national committees in her opening statement. She spent a better part of her closing, answering Sarkisian's charges.

The city's ethics committee was disbanded along with several inactive bodies as a "house-keeping" measure, Bates said.

audit every 10 years opposed to one to every five years.

Sarkisian likened the issue to General Motors doing an audit once every 10 years. Ten audits in a century is not enough, he added.

"The audit on the ballot has nothing to do with dollars," Bates said. "It has to do with management of the city."

Bates defended the bike helmet ordinance, noting that it not only protects children but shields the city from potential lawsuits. A petition drive failed to put the measure on the ballot, Bates added.

"I'm not sure there was as much conflict as a few people would have you believe," she said.

In his closing, Sarkisian cited his 10-year involvement on the city's Committee to Increase Voter Participation and work as warranty analyst for Ford Motor Co. as qualifications for mayor.

"Applying those problem-solving techniques to city government is no different than applying those techniques at a car company," he said.

At times, Sarkisian appeared unclear on some questions posed.



Response: Mayoral candidate Nancy Bates used a better part of her closing at the forum to address her opponent's remarks.

For example, he said it would be "unprofessional" to answer a question on a proposal to increase council members' and the mayor's salaries, which have remained the same since 1973.

He also didn't elaborate when asked where he saw Farmington Hills progressing two years from now.

"God has a way of changing your agenda," he said. "I don't like to say what is going to happen."

Bates returned a few jabs. She noted election turnout was 39.6 percent in 1989 when Sarkisian started with the Committee to Increase Voter Participation. Eight years later, in 1997, 17.8 percent of the electorate voted.

"I'm certain that's not a reflection on his leadership," Bates said, "but simply proves that statistics do not always tell the story."

A story on the forum that featured candidates for the Farmington Hills City Council will run in the Sunday, Oct. 10 edition of the Farmington Observer.

Man in custody in suspected ring theft

A maintenance worker started a Farmington Hills apartment resident who was still in bed while he allegedly rummaged through her dresser drawer and closet around noon Monday.

HILLS POLICE NEWS

Police took a Farmington Hills man, 57, into custody.

He was unaware who was in the bedroom. When he realized she was there, the man said "Oh great!" and left the residence at Village Green Apartments off Hagerty Road. She noticed her \$7,700 one-karat diamond ring was missing.

With the help of an apartment manager, Farmington Hills police found the maintenance worker, who admitted being in the apartment to fix a broken toilet. He also said he went into the bedroom to check the point.

Authorities searched the man and his truck but didn't find the ring.

The woman returned to her apartment after dropping off her husband at the airport. She awoke to hear someone working in the bathroom. She remained under the covers when a man came into the bedroom.

Mai Thai
Lunch Special from \$5.50
11 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Carry-Out & Catering Available • Cocktails Served
Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun. 12 noon - 9 p.m.
5635 Old Town Lane, West of Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Center • 626-6114

BUILDER'S LICENSE CLASS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th
8:00 am TO 4:00 pm
Holiday Inn, Farmington Hills
Cost: \$125.00 Includes study material, Prep Calculator and Highlighter
Home study Package available with same money back guarantee.
Based on 1998 to 1999 to 2000
10027 E. Lake City, West City, MI 48078
Homes by Donahue, Inc. 1-800-852-3168
email: homesbydonahue.com website: www.homesbydonahue.com

READER SERVICE
HOW TO REACH US
Newsroom: 248-477-5450
Newsroom fax: 248-477-9722
Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2141
Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042
Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
Display Advertising: 734-591-2300
Home Delivery: 248-901-4716
Cable TV Weekly: 734-953-2190
HOME LINE: 734-953-2020
Open houses and new developments in your area.
Free real estate seminar information.
Current mortgage rates.
CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 734-591-0900
Place classified ads at your convenience.
CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS
OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-901-4716
Request subscriptions at your convenience.
O&E ON-LINE: 248-901-4716
You can access O&E on-line with just about any communications software—PC or Macintosh. On-line users can:
• Send and receive unlimited email.
• Access all features of the Internet—Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
• Read electronic editions of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.
• Chat with users across town or across the country.

PHOTO REPRINTS: 734-591-0500
Order reprints of pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers:
• Provide the publication date, page number, and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past 6 months.
• \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print paid in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer
MPSI SNA

Uptight?
Can't Concentrate
Trouble Sleeping
Nervous
Irritable
Muscle Tension
If you or someone you love experience some of these symptoms, it may be an anxiety condition. Call today for information on an integrational medication research study.
For more information, please call:
TITUTE FOR HEALTH STUDIES
(517) 349-5505
(800) 682-6663
Robert J. Bieliski, M.D.

Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry
Comprehensive, thorough treatment with quality care.
The most recent advances in dentistry practiced.
Member of:
ADA (American Dental Association)
MDA (Midwestern Dental Association)
AGD (Academy of General Dentists)
AACD (American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry)
Are YOU A Candidate For Esthetic Dentistry?
Do you wish your teeth were more attractive? Yes No
Do you have black lines above old crowns? Yes No
Are dental fillings noticeable or unsightly? Yes No
Is one or more of your teeth stained or discolored? Yes No
Do you have a gap between your front teeth? Yes No
Are any of your teeth chipped, broken or rough? Yes No
If you answered YES to any of the above questions and would like to discover how cosmetic dentistry can quickly, safely and painlessly correct the problem, please call our office for a FREE Consultation Appointment.
Terri L. Todaro, D.D.S.
Cynthia M. Todaro, D.D.S.
31395 Seven Mile Road, Ste. B, Livonia
(248) 477-7905

FARMER JOHN'S Greenhouse
50% OFF
TREES & SHRUBS
18 Month Warranty on all sale shrubs!
Perennials 25% OFF
Hardy Mums NOW Great Selection

Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-840)
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48030-2010. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48030-2010. Telephone 944-1100.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Carrier Delivery Mail Delivery
One year \$47.00 \$44.00
One year (Pr. Outside) \$50.00 \$44.00
Newstand per copy 75 One year (Out of Country) \$65.00
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, 33111 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48030 (248) 477-5500. The Farmington Observer reserves the right to refuse or limit the number of ads. Classified ads are subject to the advertiser's order. Classified ads are not for sale and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

SHANGRI-LA
GOURMET CHINESE RESTAURANT
Featuring Authentic HONG KONG Style Cooking
Wonderful Traditional Favorites...Superb Variety of Dining Specialties
LIVE PORK LOBBSTER, and CRAB in one take, COOKED TO ORDER
DIM SUM LUNGE SPECIALS 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
SAT. SUN. DIM SUM 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
LUNGE SPECIALS 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE
HOUSE OF CHINESE
33111 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48030
Tel: 248-901-4716
Fax: 248-901-4716
E-Mail: shangri-la@att.net

Farmington Hills Inn
Established in 1980
If someone you love is in need of extra loving care, but not a nursing home, that's when you should consider the comfort of Assisted Living at the Farmington Hills Inn.
ASSISTED LIVING IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THINK
• 24-hour staffing with personal assistance
• Nurses on staff
• Medication Administration
• Three meals per day including therapeutic diets.
• Daily housekeeping and laundry
• Semi-private and private accommodations
• Full calendar of activities on-site and group trips
• Bladder incontinence program
• Short term stays welcomed
• Progressive Care Program available for changing needs.
Farmington Hills Inn
Call for a tour and a complimentary cup of coffee today!
30350 W. 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48034
Easy Access On and Off I-96
248-851-9640
Licensed by the State of Michigan