Council pay hike among trio of ballot proposals

Voters picking which candidates will six on Parmington City Council in November will also be able to decide "yes" or "no" on three different belief proposals.

If the proposals pass, city council members and the mayor will receive their first salary increases since 1970 and people who have resided in the city for at least a year, rather than three years, will be able to serve on city council and on the city's various boards and commissions.

The proposals include raising the pay of the Mayor and City Council members from \$500 to \$1,800 annually, changing residency requirements for elected and appointed officials from three years to one year and removing a requirement to hold



regular council meetings the Monday immediately following

Monday immediately following election day.

The ballot proposal is only one way to make changes to the city's charger. The other way is through the city's charter revision committee, said Frank Lauhoff, Farmington city man Lauhoff, Farmington city man Lauhoff, Farmington city man council and mayor is long overdue.

"This has not been changed since 1970," Lauhoff said. The

annually to the \$900 they receive today."

Money iant typically a strong motivator for seeking public office, but not getting enough of it can make it seem more like a chore, said City Clerk Patry Cantrell.

Part of the intention was to prevent public service from becoming a burden," Cantrell:

Mayor Mary Bush said as the recent Michigan Municipatid.

Mayor Mary Bush said as the city hunctions and participates in confronces, such prevent public service from becoming a burden," Cantrell said.

Mayor Mary Bush said as the centimates she logs about 30 to 30 hours monthly as part of her elected duties.

"Certainly the city has been very kind to pick up a lot of my out-of-pocket expenses," Bush said. But (serving on council) takes time away from regular policies.

Serving the residents of Farmington is what the job is all

\$1,440 per year. But the mayor of Auburn Hills, with a population of 17,076 makes \$6,000 maximum annually. The mayor of Beverly Hills, the closest Oakland County community to Farmington in population of 10,610, makes a maximum of \$400 annually.

\$400 annually.
The city's current charter was adopted April 2, 1951, said Cantrell.
"The charter is old," she said. "There are several sections that need changing."
The residency ballot proposal change is badly needed, Lauhoff said.

change is used, said.

"We just deal with this on a daily basis," Lauhoff said. 'It's hard to get volunteers on boards and commissions. This will allow, first of all, a bigger pool of volunteers to be available for these appointed offices."

"housekeeping" measure to bring the city's charter in line with state law, Lauhoff said. The current wording requires a regular council meeting immediately fol-lowing the election, which was previously held in April. If voters approve the change, it won't affect the regular meeting schoolule the city already follows, Lauhoff said.

"We had to bring our charter in compliance with state law," he

Also on Nov. 2, votors will have to choose three candidates from a pool including Stephen Dibert and current council memhers Bill Hartsock, JoAnne

Store from page A1

either on the such votal building.
Then, Damman would gradually close down the existing 13,000 square-foot store he has operated since the mid-1880s. He said the current downtown Farmington store, located just a couple doors east of the vacant Farmer Jack, is the smallest of the southeast Michigan chain's 17 stores.

17 stores.
"We'll be able to merchandise a lot better, too," Damman said.
"One of the problems with the Farmington store is it's so

Farmington store is it's so cramped."
Lauhoff emphasized that efforts to land a food store for the center won't end. Some type of food store could be recruited to take over the current Damman Hardware space.
"We still haven't given up and neither has Kimco on bringing in a food store, Lauhoff said." But a lot of this is a timing

Statement of Ownership, Mar

space in March 2000, following extensive renovations that could include a secondary entrance either on the side or rear of the building.

"We'll be able to merchandise a lot better, too. One of the problems with the Farmington store is it's so cramped."

Rick Damman

—President and CEO, Damman Hardware

thing. Empty stores are not good for downtowns. So we're pleased that Damman's wants to enlarge their investment in the community.

One issue Damman will look into is whether to put in a rear entrance, which is something the city would like to see happen. Finding ways for customers to use available-but-unused city parking behind the center was one of the goals of the recent "visioning" process, Lauhoff explained.

Building permits for Kimco's

Building permits for Kimco's planned renovation of the back of the center were issued, this week, with work expected to

begin during the next two weeks.

"There will be a new facade all along the top edge," Lauhoff said. "And the (roof) peaks will be constructed similar to the front. We'll begin to use it more

like a building front."

Damman said he will study installing a second entrance, which could also be placed in the corridor between his future store location and Shoe Carnival.

"We'd like to utilize the rear parking and make that whole back area more pleasant to come through," Damman said. "We're



Botter days shead: With Damman Hardware expected to soon complete a deal to move to the former Farmer Jack in downtown Farmington, shoppers won't have to look at covered-up windows anymore.

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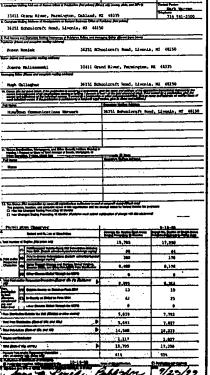
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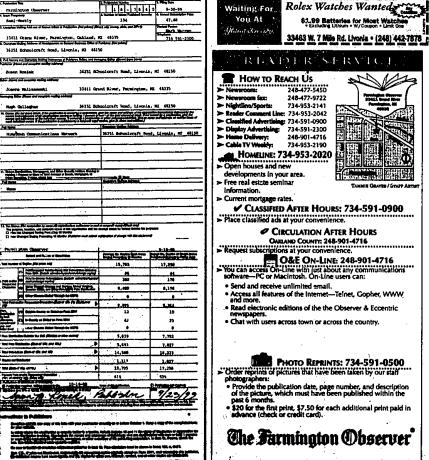
Problems with contractors and equipment have pushed back the grand opening of the Great Harvest Bread Co. in the Downtown the store is now expected.



Another delay for Great Harvest Bread

Farmington Observer %





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