

Mock: Students turn down pay hike for city council

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@ecce.com

North Farmington High students made sure their votes counted, even if they didn't have a direct impact on Tuesday's election.

Seniors at all three public high schools took part in mock elections this week.

On Monday, North and Harrison students voted for Farmington Hills mayor and city council candidates as well as charter amendments. Farmington High's seniors were expected to cast votes on the City of Farmington ballot Wednesday.

North Farmington senior Ben Shapiro had sentry duty near the Optech machine, which tabulated every ballot. One student wanted to know if hers went through properly. Shapiro assured her it did, pointing to the red digital readout.

"It's fun," Ronda Jarbo said. "We actually get to have an opinion on what we want to see. It's nice that people are willing to see what our vote would be."

When Shapiro informed another student his vote tallied correctly, they gave each other a high-five.

"I'm glad they did it here so I'll know what to do when I turn 18," said Lia Lepati, 17, a North senior.

That's the hope behind such mock elections.



To vote: Brandon Adena places his ballot in the voting machine during mock elections at the high schools Monday.

'I think there's a carry-over. Politicians watch because they believe children vote the way their parents do.'

Pearl Forst

—League of Women Voters

Despite efforts like MTV's "Rock the Vote," turnout among voters 18-20 is extremely low, experts say.

Harrison High had 101 seniors vote; North Farmington 92.

Government classes were encouraged to vote. Other seniors like North's Ronda Jarbo took part after walking by where the booths were set up.

At Harrison High, a teacher showed a

video of recent candidate forums to help educate students on issues, Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman said.

"I think there's a carry-over," said Pearl Forst of the Oakland Area League of Women Voters. "Politicians watch because they believe children vote the way their parents do."

As it turned out, Nancy Bates prevailed in the vote for Farmington Hills



Balloting: Students at North Farmington cast their ballots.

mayor. She outdistanced opponent George Sarkisian, 182-55, in the student vote.

North Farmington seniors voted by a three-to-one margin for Bates while her leader Sarkisian was 55-34 at Harrison.

In the race for Hills city council, Vicki Barnett, Barry Brickner and Ron Oliverio were the top vote-getters. Seven charter amendments on the mock ballot met with mixed results.

Students approved four amendments to allow the city to create departments, increase the dollar amount from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for items required to go out for bids, and reduce the number of petition signatures required to put an ordinance up for a referendum vote.

They also OK'd an accompanying proposal to increase from one to two years the time a city can amend or repeal an ordinance adopted by referendum.

Students turned thumbs down to proposals to increase pay for elected officials, require internal audits every 10 years instead of five and allow hiring relatives of municipal employees prior to city council approval.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL SHAPIRO

Work: Poll worker Benjamin Shapiro puts ballots into the voting machine.

Farmington Hills Inn
Established in 1980

If someone you love is in need of extra loving assistance, but not a nursing home, that's when you should consider the comfort of Personal Care at the Farmington Hills Inn.

PERSONAL CARE IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THINK

- Special programs available for seniors with limited income
- 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
- Enhanced Care Program available for changing needs including memory impairment.

Farmington Hills Inn

50550 W. 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Easy Access On and Off I-696

248-851-0640

Licensed by the State of Michigan

Excellent Thai Food As You Like It! Extra Hot, Mild, Medium, Spicy and Extra Spicy

Mai Thai

Lunch Special from **\$5.50**
11 a.m. - 4 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 Orchard Lake Road at Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Center • 526.5131

Farmington Observer

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334-0810. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48334-0810. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48334-0810. Telephone 544-1110

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Carrier Delivery		Mail Delivery	
One year	\$47.00	One year	\$56.00
One year (St. Clair)	\$36.00	One year	\$44.00
One year (Out of State)	\$60.00	One year (Out of State)	\$66.00
per copy 75			

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. All advertising rates are available from the advertising department, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48334-0810. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric does not have the authority to bind the newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute the acceptance of the advertiser's order.

READER SERVICE

HOW TO REACH US

- Newsrooms: 248-477-5450
- Newsrooms 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 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 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

EE **MPA** **SN**

Farmington Family YMCA

a community

For as little as \$31.50 plus a \$100 joiners fee you can experience all the benefits and features of a YMCA membership.

Farmington Family YMCA
28100 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 553-4020

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.