

Moffitt

from page A1

Farmington Hills.

Other commission candidates' suggestions to improve service to Farmington Hills residents sound simple but are not practical, Moffitt said.

One proposal is setting up a county satellite office in the Farmington area. Court records, marriage licenses and other documents can only be obtained at the Oakland County headquarters in Pontiac.

Residents having access to those documents electronically — through the Internet — is better and cheaper than setting up a separate office, Moffitt said.

Ironically, his commissioner's link on the Oakland County Web site on the Internet is not activated. He assures the site will be up by the end of the year. "I just had my county computer taken in and redid it," he said.

Views on parks

He also doesn't believe there is a pressing need for more county parks in the area. The county owns Glen Oaks Golf Course and is developing Lyon Oaks in South Lyon.

"No one would suggest this city lacks superb parks and recreation facilities," he said. "We do have Glen Oaks, which is the crown jewel in the (county) parks and recreation system."

In the same dismissive tone, he addresses the nagging issue of his unfiled campaign finance report and his opponent's assertions that he's been tardy at commission meetings.

"It has no effect on a county commissioner's substantive ability to represent the district," Moffitt said about the post-primary report due in September. "It is disclosure. It seems most often the only people who read it are newspapers and opponents. I'm busy; it will get done."

"Gosh, if the most they can say is on one or two occasions a meeting started 10 minutes late or so and, gosh, you need to file a campaign statement, I think you need to look at that in context."

From where he sits, the county paid a price for its success in business and population growth. The strain on its infrastructure —

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—Candidate speaking about campaign finance report

roads and sewers — is telling. What compounds the problem is the lack of money returned by the state in terms of revenue sharing, Moffitt said.

"We are the economic engine of Michigan," he said. "We support many other activities outside of the county."

The effect on county services extends beyond the state to the federal level.

Moffitt chairs the Public Services Committee, which is grappling with the 911 issue. The commission took action to upgrade the equipment and applied for a federal grant to help pay for it.

Talking to each other

A second part of the riddle remains: how to allow cities to communicate with each other on the same frequency.

A federal mandate also requires that new dispatcher equipment be able to pinpoint

the location of the emergency caller when using a cellular phone.

One solution involves separating the 63 municipalities into two groups and assigning them each a frequency. That will require at least two new towers be built, Moffitt said.

"It's not just a matter of giving everyone a blue radio and say now everyone can talk on the same channel," Moffitt said.

Moffitt has sought to open the channels of communication between residents and the county. He's held town hall meetings with residents and is pushing to have commission meetings cablecast.

Moffitt has also printed and distributed updates — at his own expense — to residents, he said.

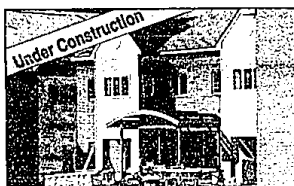
"It's almost been a personal crusade to make county government more accessible to people," he said.

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RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the Recreation Division of Farmington Hills' Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For further information regarding programs, contact the recreation office at 473-9570. Preregistration is required for most activities. For matters regarding Farmington Hills City Council agenda items, call the news line at 473-9532.

OPEN GYM

Get your exercise at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Choose from Adult Basketball: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays; Teen Basketball: 3-5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-3 p.m. Sundays; Adult Volleyball: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays; Family Gym & Swim: 12:30-3 p.m. Saturdays. Cost to participate for residents 17 and under is \$2, non-residents \$4. Residents 18 and over \$3 and \$5 for non-residents. Call 473-9570.

TEEN NIGHT

Check out the place to be on Friday nights and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities or just hang out with some friends. This program is co-sponsored by the Recreation Division and Farmington Area Youth Assistance, and is open to Farmington area teens ages 12-16. Participants must register on a Friday at East Middle School during the time the program is being held (7-9:45 p.m.). Registration is a one-time fee of \$2 for the duration of the 1998-99 Friday Night Teen Center Program. The program began in mid-September and will end in April. Call 473-9570.

PARKY'S HALLOWEEN

Parky's Ghost, Goblins & Goodies (ages 5-10), 1-2:30 p.m. and Parky's Preschool Halloween Happenings, 10-11:30 a.m. on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31. The cost is \$10 and you must preregister.

HAUNTED HIKE

Join us for the spine-chilling

self-guided walk in the haunted hills of Heritage Park 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24. The cost is \$4 per person. Not recommended for children under 7 years of age.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Farmington Hills Recreation kicks off another exciting season of Youth Basketball games being played in the OCC Gym. Games will be on Saturdays, Jan. 16-March 27. Practices will be once a week at a school selected by a coach. Three divisions are made up of grades four and five; grade six; and grades seven and eight. League fee is \$60 per player and includes a team T-shirt. Registration deadline is Dec. 4. Call 473-9570.

OPEN VOLLEYBALL

Adult open volleyball is 7:30-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Costick Activities Center now through Dec. 14. The cost to participate is \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Call 473-9570.

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