

# Race from page A1

election headquarters at Farmington Hills City Hall. "It's important work."

In the Farmington race, Sharp finished with 894 votes, almost 43 percent. Sharp's election to a four-year term means he won't have to worry about campaigning anytime soon. He was appointed in 1998 to fill a vacant board slot until the June 1999 school election, when he won the final year of that unexpired term. Both years, he basted

Jaske. "I'm very pleased that I can concentrate on the board instead of worrying about elections," Sharp said. "But we still have a lot of work to do. We still have the voucher thing in November and that's going to take a lot of time."

After learning of her defeat, Jaske still said she was glad she decided to become a write-in candidate.

"It was the issues that brought me out," Jaske said. "I felt the voters should look at the issues I thought were issues and to give them another choice. Yes, I feel (her write-in try) was worth it."

Jaske, in an earlier interview, cited the school board's handling of recent issues such as a parent's concerns about teacher behavior at Farmington High School.



Write-in: Melody Jaske lost in her 11th hour bid.

### Not fooled

Both incumbents, however, credited voters for not falling for what they said was a calculated ploy. Jaske could have filed as a write-in candidate as early as mid-April, but waited until the last day of eligibility to file the necessary paperwork to declare herself as a verified write-in candidate (per state law).

"It was a very politically sophisticated thing that they (Jaske and her supporters) attempted," Sharp said. "And I think that our electorate saw

through it." Brouillette said her campaign supporters worked hard over the weekend "in response to this unexpected attempt to steal a school board position. I hope Mrs. Jaske will recognize the voters in Farmington (schools) have three times determined she does not have the qualifications they are looking for in a school board trustee."

All the candidates said they were disappointed by the low voter turnout. Precinct 1 (Longacre Elementary School in Farmington) drew the largest number, with 284 (3.65 percent) of 7,771 registered voters. That was Jaske's home precinct, but she only collected 57 votes (about 11.4 percent).

### Light activity

The precincts at Dunceal and East middle schools were almost as busy, with turnouts of an estimated 2.9 and 2.6 percent, respectively. But the remaining five precincts failed to see even 2 percent of voters. Another 88 cast absentee ballots.

"The low turnout is a concern to me," Brouillette said, "because with a budget for \$130 million and the responsibility for educating 12,000 of Farmington's students, this is an election of great importance to the community."



Winner: Incumbent Gary Sharp ranked second in vote totals.

Jaske's decision to be a write-in candidate was expected to at least bring out similar voter support to what she received in 1998 and 1999. In each of those years, she received about 500 votes.

Instead, Jaske only collected about half that many votes. Her approach to this year's election might have backfired, particularly as the incumbents got the word out to their backers. Farmington residents Mike and Sandra Shelly voted at the Longacre precinct. They heard about Jaske's write-in attempt and wanted to make sure Brouillette and Sharp were re-elected.

"That's why we're here," Sandra Shelly said.

## JUNE LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The following is a schedule of events at the Farmington Community Library. For more information, call the Hill branch at 563-0300, or the downtown Farmington branch at 474-7770.

### Summer Reading Club 2000

The Farmington Community Library announces the 2000 Summer Reading Club for all ages. Bring the entire family to either branch of the library to sign up and begin a reading adventure.

"Score Big with Books" - ages 2-11

"Ride to Read" - ages 11-17

"Around the World in 80 Books" - adults of all ages

"Tuesdays are Terrific!" - Kids can enjoy the "Tuesdays are Terrific" program every Tuesday throughout the summer. These fun programs are created just for elementary-age kids and will be held at 2 p.m.

"Summertime Crafts" - The library staff will present a fun summertime crafts program. Crafts will include a windsock, a seashell picture frame and more on June 20 at the Farmington branch.

"Kids in Black" - Mike Best a "Man in Black" will

explain outer space and extraterrestrials on June 27 at the main library.

"Animal Fair" - Maureen Schiffman will present the program at 7 p.m. June 21 at the Farmington branch.

"Kids Day in the Park" - Stop by and visit with the library staff at Shiloh Park for fun activities for all ages at "Kids Day in the Park" from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 22.

"Using the library catalog" - Learn how to locate library materials, place holds, and renew books from your home computer by registering for "Using the Library Catalog" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 21 at the Farmington branch or at 9:15 a.m. Thursday, June 22 at the main library.

"Summer Investment Series" - Mark your calendars for the popular "Summer Investment Series" at 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings, beginning July 11 and running through Aug. 8 at the main library. Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management will open the series on July 11. Call 563-0300 for details and a list of speakers.

# Joining elections has been made easier for write-in candidates

BY TIM SMITH  
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## FARMINGTON SCHOOLS ELECTION

ny Mouse.

Apparently, other business offices were beleaguered as well, because a state law was adopted in spring 1997 requiring that write-in candidates file paperwork no later than 4 p.m. of the Friday prior to a school election, Steinhebel said.

Because of that law, which took effect on March 31, 1997, Melody Jaske visited the busi-

ness office (which oversees school elections) Friday afternoon and filled out the necessary forms to become a verified write-

in candidate for Monday's election.

Jaske thus joined incumbents Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp in the quest for two four-year seats on the Farmington school board. Brouillette and Sharp filed their candidacies in

April, and their names appeared on the ballot.

Steinhebel, executive secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Cheryl

Cannon, said Jaske's paperwork was faxed immediately on Friday to the Oakland County Board of Canvassers.

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