

## Candidates tackle tough issues



A spirited exchange regarding the 11 Pines project highlighted a Farmington Hills City Council candidates' debate held Wednesday. Challengers challenged a 'pet project'; incumbents defended the need to protect the land.

BY KEVIN BROWN  
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Farmington Hills city council incumbents trumpeted accomplishments and challengers touted a need for new blood, in a candidates forum Wednesday.

The most spirited exchange came from incumbents Jerry Ellis and Cheryl Oliverio, in response to challenger and Old Homestead homeowner's association president Ken Massey's criticism of the 11 Pines golf course project.

"Why pull money from the sewer

fund to put toward a pet project or special interest project?" Massey asked. "The city's aging infrastructure has to be dealt with."

But Oliverio said money was borrowed from the water fund to secure land for a project residents want. "To refer to it as a pet project is wrong. We on council listen to what the citizens want," she said.

Ellis said he took "very strong exception" to the characterization of 11 Pines as a pet project. He said that borrowing from the water fund enabled

council to buy the land and retain it as open space, "to protect it from developers who wanted to turn it into an industrial park."

Ellis and other incumbents said the current council recognizes a need for sewer improvements. He said the city has negotiated with 14 Mile-Northwestern "Triangle" developers Grand Sakwa to pay for \$6 million in sewer and road improvements. Incumbents Ellis, Oliverio and Don Grant said the city is dependent on county or other

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday Open House:** The Farmington Hills Fire Department invites the public to visit from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the department's Fire Headquarters at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads for the annual Open House to commemorate Fire Prevention Week.

### MONDAY

**Hills City Council:** Officials will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, to consider an agenda that includes extension of a preliminary plan for Hickory Oaks and Reserve at Woodcreek Condominium plans; a plan to move the fire department to transporting agency for Advanced Life Support EMS. The public is invited to attend.

### THURSDAY

**After hours:** The Farmington / Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours will be hosted by the Best Western at 31525 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. For more information, call the Chamber office at 248-474-3440 or stop by their new office at 30309-B West 10 Mile in Farmington Hills.

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Shirt tale

**Screen gem:** At American Silkscreen & Embroidery, Paul Zimmerman feeds shirts into the dryer as Paul Haygood places T-shirts on the silk screen press. Below, Todd Lamb talks about producing "United We Stand" shirts at the Farmington Hills company. He said business has been steady, but not overwhelming, since terrorist attacks spurred more Americans to displays of patriotism.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DRISLER



## Patriotic novelties taking off

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American flags and related items have been in demand since Sept. 11.

But while the flag has been selling out, the demand is more restrained for T-shirts and novelties displaying the stars and stripes.

"It's been steady. Not gangbusters, but steady," said Todd

Lamb of American Silkscreen & Embroidery of Farmington Hills. "In the last week or so it's picked up dramatically."

Lamb has been producing T-shirts with the message "United We Stand," printed in black above the American flag. Many have been produced because area VFW and American Legion posts asked for them. American Silkscreen, which employs 16, has also been producing flag-banners on request,

as standard flags are hard to find.

Intier Automotive, located just east of American Silkscreen, also ordered T-shirts. "They're buying them for their employees to show their pride and spirit," Lamb said.

The company has also produced a sweatshirt with a red, white and blue ribbon. "These

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## Hills reader wins trip

Four lucky readers are winners in the Observer Newspapers Fall Reader Promotion. The drawing was held Tuesday morning in the Observer offices.

Kenneth Paulson of Farmington Hills is the winner of a weekend for two in Stratford, Ontario. His prize includes tickets to see *Twelfth Night* and *Inherit the Wind*, along with lunch at the Church Restaurant.

Judy Lidzbarski of Livonia will receive four tickets to an upcoming performance of Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus at Joe Louis Arena. William Mitchell of Redford Township is the winner of four tickets to a November weekend performance of Disney On Ice at the Joe Louis Arena.

Carolyn Boland will receive four tickets to a Plymouth Whalers home game and a \$50 gift certificate to Ginopolis Parthenon Restaurant inside Compuware Sports Arena.

More than 100 new and renewed subscribers were eligible for the drawing.

## Harrison Homecoming Royalty



**Staying dry:** While a soggy crowd watched, Harrison Homecoming Queen Beth Ann Brozovich and escort Matt Zatkun are all smiles despite a steady rain. Festivities continued on Saturday with a dance.

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