

He's in the race

Vagnozzi's shoes all set for another run at rep

BY PAUL R. PACE
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Aldo Vagnozzi plans to wear out some more shoes this year in his run for state representative in Farmington/Farmington Hills' 37th District.

Once the weather improves, the Democrat plans to walk to Lansing in five days, maybe even hopping on his bike for some of it, and meet people along the way to find out what's on their minds.

"I think if you're going to represent in Lansing, you got to know the way there," he said.

He plans to visit 16,000 homes in the district.

The former Hills mayor and city council member announced his candidacy at Hills City Hall Thursday.

Among the issues he'll take on will be nursing home reform, helping the mentally ill get better care and making sure communities retain local control.

He said, "I'm actively working these issues by serving as Oakland County coordinator for the Michigan Campaign for Quality Care, vice president of the Farmington area AARP, a member of the Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial Council of the Farmington area, vice president of the Kimberly Homeowners Association, Neighborhood House board and a mem-

ber of the Council of Homeowners Association." Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said Vagnozzi was instrumental in shaping Farmington Hills before it became a city 28 years ago.

"He helped graft a lot of what we see around us," she said. "He wants to continue to be our voice in Lansing," she said, adding that Vagnozzi was instrumental in encouraging her to run for office.

The 70-year-old Italian immigrant said he plans to avoid taking campaign money from big businesses.

"I will try to have most of my donations from individuals," he said. Vagnozzi said he is against the present term limit system in Lansing and supports an idea to increase the limit to 12 years for representatives in the Senate and House.

Helping the mentally ill is also an issue he plans to pursue vigorously as a legislator. "People are being kicked out of hospitals and thrown in jail," he said. "Some people do crimes just to go to jail to have a place to stay."

State money used to support huge corporations could be better earmarked to help improve care for the mentally ill, he said.

The candidate also wants more people to get involved in the legislature. "I want to bring people into the process," he said. "I will designate people as my representatives, precinct delegates. I will invite Republicans and Democrats to serve."

"I want to bring in task forces and have them televised with at least a monthly program," he added.

Farmington Hills Police are seeking the public's help in looking for a man believed to be involved in several accostings of young girls that may be related.

On Wednesday, police said at around 6:30 p.m. near Hillside Elementary School an unknown male suspect asked two girls, ages 7 and 8 to perform a sex act.

The second incident occurred on Friday around 10:40 a.m., believed to be the same man, inside Wooddale Elementary School. A man was confronted by an office clerk who noticed he did not have a visitor's pass. The man said he was looking for his sister, but the school did not have a student by that name.

The two recent incidents are a concern to the department, said Hills Police Chief William Dwyer since on Tuesday, an indecent exposure and assault of two girls, ages 7 and 9, near Botsford Elementary School in Livonia was reported. In that case, the man grabbed one girl by the hair

and the other by the arm. The man exposed himself and the girls ran away.

The suspect is described as 20-30 years old, 5-feet, 11-inches tall, thin build with short dark hair.

The suspect was wearing a gray sweatshirt with dark stripes, dark blue jeans, black Nike tennis shoes and a black and red jacket, possibly a Red Wings jacket.

He was driving a dark-colored navy or black newer model SUV, possibly an Ford Explorer or a Chevrolet Blazer.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Hills Police Department Command Desk at (248) 473-9695.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRZEZALA

Ready: Hills Councilwoman Vicki Barnett introduces candidate for state representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Police look for suspect in accosting cases



FARMINGTON CALENDAR

VALENTINE DANCE

The annual Valentine Dinner Dance, sponsored by the Farmington Community Band, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills. The evening includes cocktail hour with cash bar, buffet dinner, music and dancing. The cost is \$42 per person. Call (734) 281-2202 or (248) 489-3412 or visit the FCB web site at www.fcbmusic.org.

WINTER JAZZ

Enjoy a Winter Jazz Concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 489-3412.

TALENT SHOW

North Farmington High School will host a talent show at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in the school auditorium. Call (248) 489-3412.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Frank A. Marshall Chapter Order of Darnley will hold a pancake breakfast 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at the

Farmington Masonic Hall in downtown Farmington. The cost is \$5 per person and includes pancakes, bacon, coffee, tea, milk and specialty salads.

THE PLAYERS

The Farmington Players will perform *The Rainmaker* by Richard Nash, Feb. 8 through March 2 at Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield. For ticket information call (248) 219-0800.

BOWL-A-THON

Team Farmington Special Olympics will host their 10th annual Bowl-A-Thon Saturday, Feb. 23, at Drakeshire Lanes on Grand River in Farmington. There will be two sessions of bowling, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Teams and individual bowlers are asked to call Nancy Meloche at (248) 888-5021.

LEARN TO SKATE

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena offers *Learn to Skate* classes through March 29. For more information call (248) 478-8800.

Boundary input meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday

BY SUE BUCK
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A public forum to gather community input on proposed school boundary plans is rescheduled for 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at East Middle School, 26000 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The forum, originally scheduled for Jan. 31, was canceled due to bad weather and

school closing. School officials are considering several plans to eliminate the expected overcrowding at Beechview, Kenbrook and Longacre elementary schools next year.

The district wants to fill home schools first and use both the Alameda and Fairview Early Childhood Centers located at 32400 Alameda and 28500 Oak Crest Drive, as "fill back" centers and to have those buildings

house expanding preschool programs.

Sue Zurvalec, assistant superintendent for staff and community services, and Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations, have co-chaired a committee charged with studying this year's school boundary issues. Members include principals and the parent representatives they chose.

For more information, call Zurvalec at 489-3356 or Cannon at 489-3341.

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