## PRICES GOOD MAY 20th Tirku MAY 26th, 2003 Open Memorial Day May 26th 9 to 6 "GREAT ON THE GRILLI" Farm Fresh CHICKEN LEGEUARTERS 5 BLE STEELESS SWIET COM WEITERSELON. **\$759** resh Western Crain-Fel TROSE CENTER COT 7 to 8-55. Dec. Boneless Pork Loims Eresh Approach Compons 48-Count Flat of Flowers ⊕LIMIT 10 FLATS PLEASE⊕ LIMIT ONE COUPON PER FAMILY COUPON GOOD THEIR JAMES

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 22, 2003

PTA

FROM PAGE AT

Provided auestions were:

Provided questions were:

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Farmington Board of Education?

What areas do you believe Farmington Public Schools should improve upon?

We live in an era of tight fiscal responsibility. As a board member, how would you balance fiscal responsibility with quality educational choices?

What do you believe the main legislative issue should be for public education?
A short time following Bolsen's outburst, Farmington School Board Member Pam Christian quickly distributed a card to both the press table and Kim Heath. The cards read:
Why did the PTA Council give one can-

read:
"Why did the PTA Council give one candidate advance review of the questions?"
The card didn't identify the candidate.
When questioned after the forum,
Christian said she was talking about candidate Cheryl Swaim. However, she didn't
have actual proof.
"I believe that Cheryl had all of those
questions ahead of time, because she was





so prepared," Christian said. "It was not the forum we had in the past, and to be honest, it didn't feel good. Did I see someone hand her the questions? No."

it didn't feet good. Did I see someone nand her the questions? No.

Swaim said she saw only the questions each of the candidates received in the mail.

Tknew the out-of-district Section 105 (question) would be one because that always will be one, because that shays will be one, because that shays will be one, because that sain issue, Swaim said. And intra-district schools of choice, those are the hottest issues going right now. I knew that senior project would be one. Those questions were asked at the Republican Club (forum).

Swaim said she does her homework. She prepared presentations for public meetings earlier in the year when both out-of-district schools of choice and the senior project were discussed.

"I studied the manuals all three of us

administration departments back in April, Swaim said. "We all received the same information. I sat down and went through every single manual. I do my research and I do my homework. If I sound prepared, that's what I do. Let the games begin." Both Heath and Bridger absolutely denied allowing any candidate access or review of any questions other than the four.

review of any questions of the four four. Heath apologized for any misunder-standing in her closing remarks and said PTA members who were busy and unable to attend found this a way to pose their metions.

questions.
"It's important to address the issues,"
Heath said.

eath said. "I don't think all candidates should have all access to all the questions in the distallance, Bridges said. Everyhody should have the same opportunity to have all the questions. The questions were pretty standard.

dard."
Bridges thinks it's important to see candidates in an impromptu situation to see how they think. Some candidates want to be pre-packaged, he said.
The candidate forum was taped for later play on Channel 10.

## Candidates talk about scholarships, communicating

Farmington School Board Candidates John Goshorn, Cheryl Swaim and Karen Bolsen Montady discussed retaining the \$2,500 Michigar. Merit Scholarship at its pres-ent level based on high per-formance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program text

formance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.
They expressed their thoughts at the Farmington FTA Council forum held at the school administration building. The election is June 9. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Gramholm has proposed reducing the scholarship to \$500, to help balance the stace's budget. Goshorn said his son took advantage of the scholarship. It benefits every child who goes on to higher education. Let's face it, unless you are fabulously wealthy, paying for a college education these days is not something that's taken lightly and every little bit helps:
Swaim shared this view. "It will help kids who may not have financial resources available to them," Swaim said.

available to them," Swaim said.
"It will give them a little bit of

a head start in college. There's a lot of groups out there who are trying to get money, but I really hope she will come through for us.

It would be a shame if the scholarships were to be decreased, and the governor is in "a very tight spot," Bolsen said.

in 'a very tight spot,' Bolsen said.

The reduction would affect all three of her children, who are in the seventh, ninth and 12th grades, Bolsen said. All three of my children work, whether it's having a paper route, cutting grass or babysitting. They are helping to support their college future.

Her daughter, who's a senior at North Farmington High School, has worked at a number of restaurants. This year, I don't think it will affect her sisters.

Candidates talked about strategies they would use to communicate information about controversial issues to parents and taxpayers.

The allernatives three are endless and I'm not sure which it he best way to get your measage across, Gosborn said.

Certainly the local media is one and TV 10 is another.'

He also suggested that parameters.

ent advocates explain issues to a small group and have those parents explain it further to their friends and neighbors. It's critical to our future to get everybody in the community on board to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. Goshorn said. "With good communication we would have fewer problems than we are having today."

Swaim said she does a lot of research to fully understand issues. The people I have speken to during my candiday are very reasonable people. We have a very intelligent community out there. What we have to do is communicate the facts. We don't have to hide anything. We don't have to smooth things over. They are not afraid to know the truth. Once they understand, I found most of them will be very supportive of different areas, I also feel it is necessare.

cerns are."
Going to the media on a controversial issue would be
Bolsen's last choice not her first
choice. "I would solve any
problems as close to the probiem as I could. What is controversial to one person may not

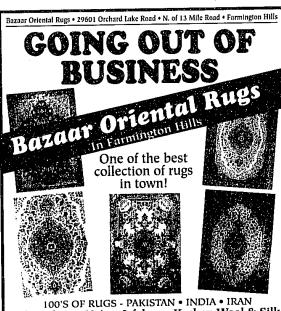
Bolsen liked the idea of quadrant meetings — dividing the community in to four geographic sections — as initiated by state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington Hills.). Candidates also talked about what they'd like to see in a future school superintendent after Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxifeld retires within the next four years.

the attroute of proven leadership.

"Obviously, you want someone with classroom experience because that's vital to the job," Goshom said. Keeping each child's best interests in mind is important to Bolsen. She wants a superintendent who is well informed about the education process, locally and with the county and state.

"You want someone who will develop staff to their fullest potential," Bolsen said.

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