

Observer

Caravati, Searls get nod for city council run

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It wasn't supposed to go for four hours, but it took at least that long for Charlottesville Democrats to pick their two city council nominees, Mayor Blake



Searls

Caravati and Alexandria Searls, showing how strong the lineup of candidates was this year. More than 400 people came to the Charlottesville Performing Arts Center Saturday for the Democratic Convention to pick among six candidates, including Bern Ewert, Joan Fenton, Waldo Jaquith and David Simmons.

With no clear front-runner, voters patiently sat through four separate rounds of balloting until finally two candidates emerged. A candidate must gain more than 50 total convention votes on a round of balloting to be nominated. Caravati was the first to achieve the requisite number of convention votes to win nomination; his was secured on the third ballot.

On the opening round of balloting, Fenton, who heads the city's Board of

Architectural Review, was the first to be eliminated from contention after receiving the lowest percentage of votes. Before the second round began, she asked the audience to throw their support to Jaquith, a Web site developer and the youngest candidate. "I know for many of you the age of 23 is very young," she said, "but he is a very old and wise 23-year-old and I do not think anybody could do a better job than he could do for us."

When the second round didn't bring a nominee, Simmons was dropped from the race because he was next to receive the lowest vote count. Simmons then urged the roomful of Democrats to vote for Caravati.



Caravati

On the third round of balloting, Caravati was the sole candidate to win, leaving the next person to receive the least votes, Ewert, to be taken off the following ballot. This left voters with the option of choosing Jaquith or Searls as the party's second nominee. Searls, a professor at Mary

See COUNCIL, page A-3

Preparing

Local safety personnel help gear up for worse

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It was the area's worst nightmare come true.

Seven days of continuous snow in the Albemarle County/Charlottesville area, totaling 10 inches with a layer of ice on top. Temperatures hovering around 20 degrees. Schools are closed, roads are treacherous — impassable in many places — and accidents are commonplace.

Then it gets worse.

This was the scenario faced by dozens of local emergency services and other organizations on Feb. 22 as they met at UVa's Zehmer Hall for the first of two annual mock disaster drills. Groups including local police, fire and rescue were joined by government representatives, the American Red Cross, area hospitals, Sprint, and many others.

"We do two drills a year, one, like this, for the emergency operations center, and then in September we have a hands-on drill with the responders," said Tom Hanson, director of the emergency communications center. "The three jurisdictions (Albemarle

County, Charlottesville and UVa) combined (emergency services about 10 years ago. We been doing this ever since then."

As Hanson and other officials talked reporters, the mock snow continued to fall out bringing with it many problems.

Just after 10 a.m. a call comes in reporting an accident with entrapment at Preston and E Market. The collision involves a city police car. At 10:08, a county police car overturns on an Rte. 810 near White Hall. At 10:10 comes a report that deputy county executive Roxanne Whitehouse was on fire at Crozet. A minute later a call comes in that an explosion has severely damaged the dam at South Fork Riverview Reservoir, necessitating evacuation of nearby homes as well as mandatory water restrictions.

At 10:19, there's a suspicious envelope found at UVa's Jordan Hall. At 10:24, a propane delivery truck develops a leak forcing another neighborhood — including an elderly housing complex — to be evacuated in

See PREPARE, page A

...continued from page A-2

lumped at the landfill
 arely, if ever, have
 modems or CD ROMs.
 RT does not install these
 ut does give recipients
 he name of a computer
 ech who will do the
 pgrade at cost plus a
 mall labor fee.

village — began in
 November 1998 and since
 then has placed comput-
 ers in the hands of more
 than 1,000 people...not
 just in Virginia, but
 around the world.
 "We are now sending
 computers all over the
 world," Keicher said, men-
 tioning countries like
 Kenya, Egypt and the
 Philippines.

largest group in the
 Charlottesville area
 requesting computers, are
 senior citizens.
 "We deal with any-
 body," he said. "There is
 really no criteria in terms
 of qualification." He
 added that CRT will give
 priority to those whose
 family income is at or
 below the \$15,000 mark
 annually.

Council

...continued from page A-1

aldwin, won the fourth
 nd final round by mere
 ercentage points.
 Jaquith, whose
 oments at the podium
 ere met with spirited
 ppraise, congratulated
 he winners. "I am so
 leased we have new blood
 n city council," he said.
 Searls had told the audi-

upcoming campaign as
 Caravati's running mate.
 "I was co-chair of my
 precinct and have worked
 on campaigns alongside
 him before so I think we'll
 do very well together."

ter, and the audien
 support during
 on council. "V
 Democrats. We
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 years ahead," h
 While Democ
 behind the
 Searls
 Charlott
 Republicans
 their candidate
 inating meeti

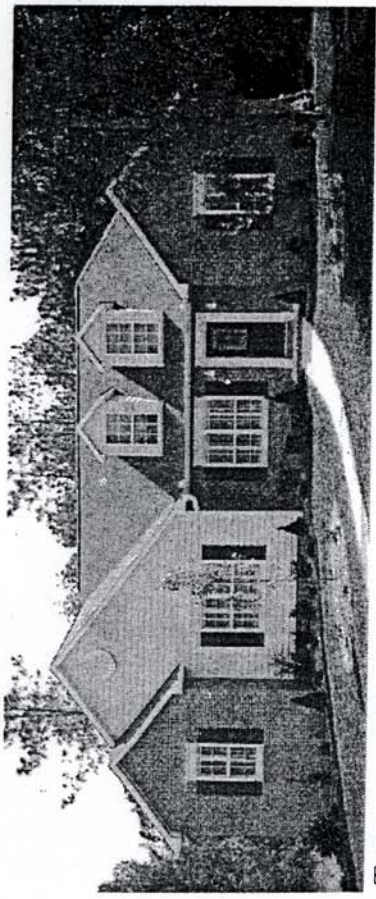
Caravati, an incumbent,
 said the convention was
 longer than he expected. "It
 didn't quite go like I thought
 it was going to go but I'm
 very excited that everybody
 here, all these Democrats,
 stuck it out. I thought it
 would have been in two bal-

ter, particularly including
 all segments, every citizen
 in Charlottesville."
 Apart from the voting,
 the convention had its emo-
 tional highs and lows,
 including a video tribute
 honoring the late Senator
 Emily Couric and a comical
 top ten list of reasons why
 Councilor David Toscano is
 retiring from public office,
 read by former Mayor Kay
 Slaughter. Clearly touched,
 Toscano, who was called on
 stage, thanked his family

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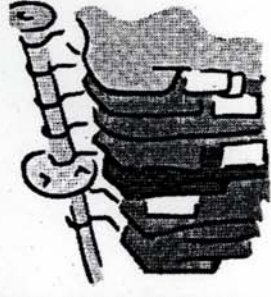
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