

Dibert takes first shot in 37th state House race

If voters are waiting for the first shot to be fired in the 37th District House race, they haven't been looking around their feet. . . . Otherwise, they'd have seen the spent shell casings already scattered on the political landscape - the majority launched by upstart Democratic candidate Stephen Dibert. . . . The window washing business owner who is challenging Republican incumbent Andrew Raczkowski started his attacks in May through his self-published organ, The Dibert Document. The missive is regularly faxed to the media and banner such Weekly World News type headlines as "Cocky Rocky screws Farmington Hills. Encourages businesses to leave district" and "Cocky Rocky caught stealing wheels from seniors." . . . Like Raczkowski, Dibert ran uncontested in the Aug. 4 primary. That's allowed the Dem to vigorously lash out at the sopho-

'We're going after him this time. Two years ago, we bumped into a lot of walls. Everyone wrote us off in 1996.'

Stephen Dibert
—Democratic challenger

more legislator for his votes on senior transportation, the gas tax and, most recently, the bill that gives businesses tax breaks for moving to predetermined distressed areas. . . . The bill, which has passed the Senate and is expected to be signed by Gov. John Engler, could potentially cost Farmington Hills \$2.2 million in lost revenue, city officials said. . . . "The job of a representative is to bring home the bacon, not steal it from our platen," Dibert said. . . . His campaign marks a radical departure from his run for the same seat in 1996. Raczkowski soundly beat Dibert in the gener-

al election, but the upstart is buoyed by a better-than-predicted performance and is mounting an aggressive effort. . . . "We're going after him this time," Dibert said. "Two years ago, we bumped into a lot of walls. Everyone wrote us off in 1996." . . . With an incumbent in a Republican stronghold, the Democratic Party hasn't targeted the 37th District as a key race - and thus hasn't poured money into Dibert's campaign. Dibert had two fund-raisers, including one attended by former Gov. James Blanchard in June. Dibert said he plans to spend \$40,000.

His opponent is not impressed with the campaign tactics. Raczkowski called them "offensive." . . . "He twists the truth on my votes and characterizes me as this evil person who doesn't represent Farmington and Farmington Hills, which is the total opposite of who I am," Raczkowski said. "I would hope he wouldn't stoop to Fiegersims." . . . "In fact, you can say he and (Geoffrey) Fieger are cut from the same cloth with their name-calling." . . . Actually, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate has not been immune to Dibert's wrath. In a refusal to support the attorney's bid, The Dibert Document referred to Fieger as "out of control, foul mouth, egomaniacal . . ." . . . Republicans picked up the quote and ran with it, which caused Dibert to be dressed down by Michigan Democratic Party officials. . . . Raczkowski said Dibert went

too far. The state rep defends his vote on the bill to eliminate personal property tax for businesses that relocate to distressed areas. . . . For one, the proposed legislation only covers personal property taxes for new equipment and machinery; existing equipment would still be taxed, he said. . . . Raczkowski doesn't see the bill being a factor in Compuware Corp.'s decision of whether to stay in Farmington Hills or move to Detroit. He cites \$7.5 million over 14 years in job tax credits from the state the company already receives being in the Hills. . . . "I stand by that bill," Raczkowski said. "If we build a strong Detroit, we build a strong Farmington Hills." . . . Aside from swings at his opponent, The Dibert Document includes quotes from George Patton, Sam Rayburn and Robert Kennedy and provides updates on the campaign. He also shares his ideas on how to fix the state's



Challenged: State Rep. Steve Raczkowski says his opponent twists the truth.

sagging infrastructure and create economic redevelopment. . . . The sparsely distributed newsletter has achieved one goal in terms of Raczkowski, Dibert said. . . . "It's gotten under his skin."

Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-842)
Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48306-0112. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48306-0112. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48306-0112. Telephone 541-1100.
E-SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Carrier Delivery \$47.40 One Year (50 Copies) \$45.00
One Year (50 Copies) \$45.00 One Year (50 Copies) \$45.00
Homebound \$45.00 One Year (50 Copies) \$45.00
All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 (248) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right to refuse advertising. Classified advertising rates are listed on page 10. We do not have the authority to bind the newspaper and only publication of an advertisement constitutes final acceptance of the advertiser's offer.

Run from page A1

marathon in downtown was approved. . . . The marathon is designed to raise awareness about the thousands of amputees that have lost

limbs to land mines and the associated problems they face. . . . Williams and Paul Tempel founded Make-A-Difference In 1997; Tempel lost his arm when

attacked by a rogue hippopotamus on the Zambezi River during the 1996 ZZAM Expedition. ZZAM stands for Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique, those cities the river passes through. . . . Council members such as Jim Mitchell were enthralled with the idea. "I think this is a noble cause . . . And it's a way for us to be able to demonstrate how pedestrian-friendly and runner-friendly a community we can be." . . . The council was assured that the marathon would not hinder pedestrian traffic, with Clinard and others staying on the sidewalks; not running in clusters; stopping for all traffic signals. . . . A registration tent will be put

'I think this is a noble cause . . . And it's a way for us to be able to demonstrate how pedestrian-friendly and runner-friendly a community we can be.'

Jim Mitchell
—Councilman

up on the northeast corner of the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot. . . . The route itself will begin at Mayfield and Grand River; proceed west to Farmington Road, south on Farmington to Slocum and east on Slocum to Mayfield.

**Life is short...
...Dance is Cool**

DANCE ELECTRIC

Takin It To The Next Level

- ★ 5500 sq. feet Exploding Dance Excitement!
- ★ Professional Wood Dance Floors
- ★ Extreme Curriculum
- ★ Highly Trained Professional Instructors
- ★ Award Winning DJs
- ★ Morning, Afternoon, Evening Classes
- ★ Promoting Mind, Body & Spirit

Join The Excitement
(248) 777-3930

Come See Us at Our OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Aug. 22 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Registration Hours:
Monday-Thursday
Aug. 24-27 - 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

8172 CREVENUE CT., FARMINGTON HILLS
NORTH OF GRAND RIVER, EAST OF HALEGERTY

Mai Thai
RESTAURANT

Featuring Authentic Thai Dishes

- LUNCH SPECIALS FROM 11-4 PM
- CARRY OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE

Cocktails Now Available
Reservations (248) 626-6313
6635 Orchard Lk. Rd. at Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Ctr.
HOURS: Mon.-Thur. 11 AM-10 PM, Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM, Sun. 12-9 PM

Your Future is Our Business
Oakland University Center — Birmingham

Earn your MBA from Oakland University's nationally accredited program at Seaholm High School in Birmingham during convenient evening hours.

Call (248) 988-1402 for more information.
Email: leblanc@oakland.edu
Fax: (248) 647-2285
Web Site: www.sba.oakland.edu

**Think Success.
Think Oakland University.**

CASH
Waiting For You At
Italia Jewelry

Bring In All Of Your Old Diamonds & Gold Rolex Watches Wanted

\$1.99 Batteries for Most Watches
• Excluding Lithium • W/Corning • Limit One

33463 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia • (248) 442-7878

READER SERVICE

HOW TO REACH US

- ▶ Newsroom: 248-477-5450
- ▶ Newsroom fax: 248-477-9722
- ▶ Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2141
- ▶ Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2042
- ▶ Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
- ▶ Display Advertising: 734-591-2300
- ▶ Home Delivery: 248-901-4716
- ▶ Cable TV Weekly: 734-953-2190

HOME LINE: 734-953-2020

Open houses and new developments in your area.

- ▶ Free real estate seminar information.
- ▶ Current mortgage rates.

✓ **CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 734-591-0900**

▶ Place classified ads at your convenience.

✓ **CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS**
OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-901-4716

▶ Request subscriptions at your convenience.

✓ **O&E ON-LINE: 248-644-1100**

You can access On-Line with just about any communications software—PC or Macintosh. On-Line users can:

- Send and receive unlimited email.
- Access all features of the Internet—Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
- Read electronic editions of the the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.
- Chat with users across town or across the country.

If you need help signing on to our service, just call the **O & E On-Line Hotline: 734-953-2266**

PHOTO REPRINTS: 734-591-0500

▶ Order reprints of pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers:

- Provide the publication date, page number, and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past 6 months.
- \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print paid in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

QUALITY PRINTING
CPC
MP&L
SNI

Vet News
Steven Zinderman, D.V.M.

FIGHTING LIKE CATS AND DOGS

We have all seen the cartoon cat and dog chase but many households have both species coexisting peacefully. These pets can often be seen grooming each other, curling up together, or sharing the same water bowl. I am often asked how to introduce a new kitten or puppy into a family with other pets.

The difficulty in having both dogs and cats in a household is due to their innate predatory behaviors. Cats will chase after anything that moves. This includes toys, bugs, and puppy tails. Dogs also chase moving objects and a running cat stimulates this predatory behavior.

To introduce these two species select a quiet spot and keep the newest pet restrained while keeping the new pet calm and under control. If more than one dog is in a household, introduce a new cat to each one separately. Continue

to reassure both pets while they get to know each other. Given time most pets will become friends but it is important not to leave them together unsupervised until this relationship develops.

At Small Animal Hospital, our primary concern is your pet's health. We offer boarding, house calls, and a 24 hour emergency service. For questions concerning your pet or to schedule an appointment, call our office.

Look for our next article in two weeks.

"Serving the community for over forty-one years."
SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C.
32635 Northwestern Hwy.
Farmington Hills, MI
(248) 626-1854
"We See Big Dogs Too"

Barbara Hatch School of Dance
NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT FOR FALL CLASSES

- Ballet
- Pointe
- Tap
- Jazz
- Modern & Swing Dance
- Lyrical
- Boys Classes

Ages Pre-School thru Adult
Morning Classes Available
Registration August 25th, 26th & 27th 5-7 p.m.

248-476-7074 Call for More Info **248-348-3310**

33305 Grand River, Downtown Farmington
1/2 Block East of Farmington Rd. (behind the Art Alcovoe)
Barbara Masak Hatch - Director B.F.A. in Dance

AMAZING SAVINGS
BEST SERVICE • BEST PRICES
FREE ESTIMATES

Made in Michigan
POLAR SEAL
Since 1950

Come see the newest technology in Replacement Windows

We now offer financing
• Lifetime Warranty • Thermopane in many styles and colors to choose from
• Boys & Boys • Low E Glass • Superspace Windows that fights condensation • Fast, easy cleaning

AMAZING BUY! \$250 OFF
on any double door unit or floor to ceiling unit

Worcester Dalton • Peabody GARAGE DOORS
18x7 Normal Installation \$715

GREAT PRICES! ALL THE FREE!
To Help You Create a New Look With:
• Windows • Steel Doors • Fiberglass Doors • Trapp, Fox & Larson Storm Doors
• Fiberglass Garage Doors • Insulated Doors • Vinyl Siding • Gutters
See our new spectacular showrooms where we offer a greater selection of all our products!

J&J INSTALLATION
20271 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia • Just S. of 8 Mile Rd.
248-473-6999 or 1-800-295-6744