

Opinion

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U.S. House

Broomfield is best bet in 18th

WILLIAM BROOMFIELD has spent 32 years in Congress, and there is little doubt that he will be elected Tuesday to another two-year term.

There is also little doubt that Broomfield does not offend much of his constituency by his views and voting record, which invariably parrot those of the president.

But there is some dissent. Not everyone is pleased with Broomfield's support of the Contras in Nicaragua, and others were irritated by his vote against the Clean Water Act, which he saw as excessively costly.

We are disappointed that Broomfield's major legislative effort in the last two years was an attempt to make English the national language. This is a strange issue to tackle during a time when many worry about a rise in racism and intolerance. There are more pressing issues for an 18th District congressman to worry about.

THE 18TH, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills, is easily the most affluent of Michigan's congressional districts. Broomfield,



Rep. Broomfield

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first elected in 1956, should easily defeat Democrat Gary Kohut, a well-spoken Troy attorney making his second attempt for the position.

Kohut is trying to establish a name for himself for the day Broomfield retires, but he needs also to establish ties with local government leaders or else his campaigning is empty rhetoric.

Broomfield justifiably scores high marks with many of his constituents for quickly responding to their needs when dealing with the federal bureaucracy.

His conservative philosophy fits most of his voters just fine, and he certainly has seen and learned a lot in three decades in Washington. We wish, however, that he would better use that seniority in a leadership role to benefit both the district and the nation.

Our endorsement goes to William Broomfield with the admonition that longevity by itself is useless if the clout and knowledge gained from experience are not exercised.

County board

Back Moffitt, Jaffe-Oaks, Wolf

BOTH INCUMBENTS and challengers agree there is little public awareness of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

This is also true of the every-other-year elections in which the 27 members of the board are elected. The obscurity is too bad since the board spends a great deal of taxpayer money while dealing with pressing issues such as the crucial solid waste disposal problem, the need to provide jail and court space, and the administration of a \$150 million budget.

Rarely do individual commissioners make a difference when the Republican-dominated board as a whole meets. They make a difference through committee work — by the kinds of questions they ask, the kinds of amendments they seek and the kinds of insight they provide.

With little fanfare, the incumbents usually win. In two of the three Farmington-area races in which we are endorsing today, we urge votes for the incumbents. They are well versed and eager to continue on the job. The third race is to fill the seat held by Jack McDonald, R-Farmington Hills, defeated in the primary for the Republican nomination for Oakland County prosecutor.

HERE IS how we see the three races:

● **15TH DISTRICT**
Albert Zolton, a Mercy College of Detroit professor from Farmington Hills, calls himself a "perennial candidate" and indeed is waging a serious campaign, reaching (by his estimate) 2,500 homes in a door-to-door campaign by early October.

The Democrat has seriously studied issues and believes it is time for new leadership on the board. We were impressed with Zolton, although we disagree with him when he says Republican incumbent David Moffitt doesn't do his homework.

An attorney from Farmington Hills, Moffitt knows his issues and his politics, earning the position as vice-chair of the majority Republican caucus. Moffitt also made a laudable but failed attempt to get the county board to pass a resolution supporting the \$25 motor vehicle registra-

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tion fee for road repair on next Tuesday's ballot. Zolton opposes the fee as unfair.

The 15th district includes the northeast portion of Farmington Hills. Based on his performance as a commissioner, we urge a vote for David Moffitt.

● **21ST DISTRICT**
Voters have a clear-cut choice here for Democrat Lillian Jaffe-Oaks, an incumbent who was elected to fill the remaining term of Alexander Perinoff who died. She faces weak opposition from her Republican opponent Marie Bowers, who has shown herself to be poorly informed on the issues.

Jaffe-Oaks brings with her a record of public service in the city of Southfield. That can only help her understand the needs on the home front while dealing with what she called exciting countywide issues. And she has done her homework, "doing more reading than ever before."

We find Jaffe-Oaks to be well-informed on the issues and to have taken an active role in county government committees such as building and planning, personnel, general government and retiree pension benefits. That record warrants Lillian Jaffe-Oaks' return to office.

The 21st district includes four southeast Farmington Hills precincts: 2, 4, 5 and 13.

● **27TH DISTRICT**
Last week, we endorsed former Farmington Hills city councilman Donn Wolf, a Republican, over Democratic challenger Steven Hill, a state House Democratic Caucus research analyst from Farmington Hills. Wolf offers stronger, more measurable credentials.

for county clerk-register, John Nichols for sheriff, George Kuhn for drain commissioner and Hugh Dohany for treasurer.

In judicial races, this newspaper supports Ed Sosnick for circuit court judge, Joan Young for one probate court judgeship and Sandra Silver for the other.

In the 69th state House district, which represents Farmington, Farmington Hills and Southfield Township, we did not endorse either Republican Jan C. Dolan of Farmington Hills or Democrat John E. Dolan of Bingham Farms. We chose not to endorse after we discovered that our preferred candidate, Jan C. Dolan, had lied about her age.

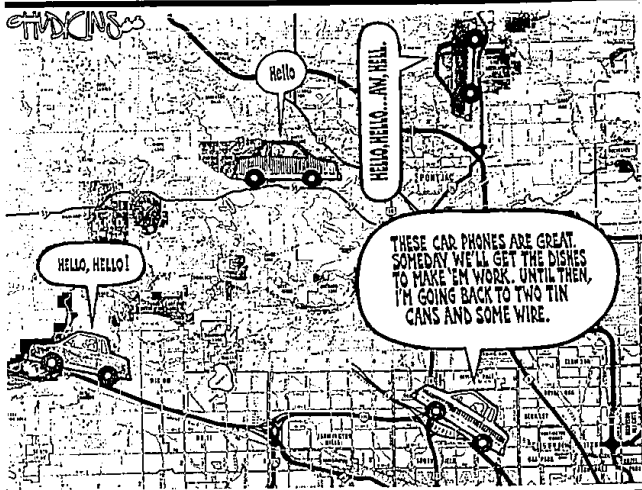
Recap

O&E reviews endorsements

HERE IS a recap of previous positions taken by the Observer & Eccentric in races that face all Oakland County voters:

In the state ballot proposals, the O&E urges a no vote on Proposal A, which would ban Medicaid funding for abortions; a no vote on Proposal B, which would put crime victim rights into the state constitution; a yes vote on Proposal C, which would raise \$660 million for environmental purposes; and a yes vote on Proposal D, which would raise \$140 million for recreational purposes.

In races for countywide offices, the O&E has endorsed Daniel Murphy for county executive, Richard Thompson for prosecutor, Lynn Allen



Freshly planted trees help boost downtown

THEY MAY not stimulate the local economy the way special sales do.

But the new central business district trees that went in last week should prove pivotal in securing Farmington's small-town charm and keeping the central business district visually competitive with neighboring shopping districts.

Too often in rapidly growing suburban areas, people tend to overlook the value of natural pedestrian lures such as trees.

A study in contrasts is right in our community. Because too much woodland was bulldozed in the name of progress, Farmington Hills planners have recommended an ordinance making it harder for developers to chop down trees.

As part of \$1.4 million in streetscape improvements over five years, Farmington's Downtown Development Authority has spent \$31,000 to plant 80 new trees along Grand River, Farmington Road and the north parking lot.

Some of the seedlings replaced alling trees, or those that didn't match the area. The varieties include ash, maple, honey locust and Little Leaf Linden.

THE TREES came from Canada,



Bob Sklar

Ohio and Michigan — hand picked to assure their size and spread was just right for downtown Farmington.

By all accounts, they've been instant hits.

And that's hardly surprising. As DDA executive director Wendy Stoltzamer put it, "It's nice to see an island of green in a sea of asphalt and concrete. It's nice to see some color break up the asphalt and concrete."

The timing couldn't have been better, what with the Christmas Walk and window decorating contest, the traditional start of the downtown holiday shopping season, coming up Nov. 18-19.

This Saturday, the DDA, in cooperation with the Downtown Farmington Business Association, will decorate the trees with mini lights.

IN COMBINATION with new pedestrian lampposts and illuminated window displays, the soft glow of

the trees' mini lights will make a night-time drive through downtown a holiday lover's delight.

Critics could argue the \$31,000 spent on tree plantings could have gone toward other downtown needs — like benches, trash cans and a public restroom.

But heck: well-tended trees shouldn't be viewed as luxuries.

Part of the local landscape long before Grand River developed, trees are highly visible in many fashionable and prosperous suburban downtowns. Witness Birmingham and Grosse Pointe.

FOR A downtown to survive, it must truly be shopper oriented. Trees help establish a relaxed, homey feeling. That's why patches of green are sprouting in the vast corridors of shopping malls.

Sure, frugality should be the byword when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars. But it shouldn't blind public officials to the woes of a dreary-looking downtown.

The new trees are a symbol of the city's commitment to keeping green the order of the day both on the walkways and in the cash registers downtown.

They're living reminders of the healthy growth that care and commitment can promote.

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Jan Dolan merits vote

To the editor:

Having just read your editorial, "State House, Public Trust Must Be Protected," I can't believe you would begin to waste your time and effort saying that Jan Dolan was deceiving us by making herself a few years younger.

I know a lot of women that have shaved a few years here and there, and that certainly did not affect their integrity or honesty. When she ran for re-election, did that two years make a difference in her performance? I think not.

I have known this lovely, brilliant lady for 20 years and she certainly deserves the endorsement of all of us for the Republican seat as our state representative.

Billie J. Costello,
Farmington Hills

Libertarians' pitch on target

To the editor:

When will the mass media realize that the American people want a better choice of presidential candidates and stop hiding them from us?

I'm referring to the fact that no mention is ever made of the third-party candidate, Dr. Ron Paul.

Could it be that the major media

has a vested interest in keeping the political status quo or is it just ignorance?

Don't they realize that if Libertarian candidate Ron Paul were allowed to present his policies and ideology to the American people on network television and in the major presses, most Americans would vote for him? Especially when the majority of voters are voicing complete dissatisfaction with both Bush and Dukakis.

Dr. Ron Paul stands for all that the silent majority believes in — lower taxes, elimination of the abusive IRS, a sound money system, non-intervention in foreign affairs, an SDI defense system and the protection of individual rights and liberties by government. Let his voice be heard by all.

Holly Calderwood,
Farmington Hills

Sarafa looks back on race

To the editor:

As Election Day draws near, the primary season feels like it occurred in the distant past. My experiences, however, remain vivid and, overall, very positive. At a relatively young age, I had the unique opportunity to choose the ultimate manifestation of political involvement — running for office.

While I knew it would be difficult, I felt all along that I had much to offer. As a virtual unknown before the race, I am very proud of the

campaign I ran. At the very least, I hope my campaign proved that young people can and should be involved in politics at all levels.

Since the primary election, many people have asked me if I had to do it over again, would I and what would I do differently. The answers are "yes" and "very little."

I learned much during the race but the big picture would have remained the same — issue oriented, grass roots, clean, hard campaigning.

The encouragement I received from community and Republican leaders, supporters and non-supporters, and even from my opponents, made my job much easier and more enjoyable.

I would like to especially thank Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Cairns, Sheriff John Nichols, Mr. Max Fisher and the Bouchard family.

A special thanks to all those who received me or one of my volunteers at your door, and most especially a big thanks to those 1,500 people who voted for me. As I said throughout the campaign, my commitment to the community and to political involvement is long term, and I mean that sincerely.

Also, congratulations to the winner, Jan Dolan. Jan is a woman of much experience and I know she will continue to serve the community well.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to urge everyone to vote. The 69th District surpassed most other areas in voter turnout Aug. 2 and we should do so again Nov. 8.

Mike Sarafa,
Farmington Hills

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