

## Suburban Life

Loraine McCleish editor/477-5450



Thursday, March 30, 1989 O&amp;E

(F)1B

# Learning the ropes

## Long working days for freshman lawmaker

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A part-time state legislator? Jan Dolan can't see it.

"You just can't do it," said the freshman Republican state representative in the 69th District for Farmington Hills, Farmington and Southfield Township.

Empty space just isn't common in Dolan's daily calendar. Her days begin at 8 a.m. and end at approximately 7 p.m., if she's lucky. One recent evening, she had three 7 p.m. functions to attend in Lansing, then returned to Farmington Hills for a 7:45 p.m. meeting of Farmington Families in Action.

The state House is in session Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dolan has joined three task forces — solid waste/recycling, drunk driving, and child care.

"We will hear a lot of different, innovative ideas that are on the drawing board, approved by the state Department of Natural Resources, but not yet implemented in the state," Dolan said, following a morning solid waste task force meeting.

The former Farmington Hills city councilwoman is fast learning the ropes around the state Capitol. Though she knew the Legislature was far more partisan than the city council, she's still learning just how partisan.

Whichever party is the majority in the state Legislature rules the roost, including whether bills see the light of day, the size of each lawmaker's office and where the minority party sits while the Senate and the House are in session.

DOLAN SAID she was lucky in getting her small, first-floor office in the Capitol Building rather than in a nearby office building, from where many legislators work.

She also considers herself lucky with her committee assignments: conservation, recreation and environment; consumers; and House oversight. Shortly after her November election, Dolan said her goal was assignment to at least the conservation, recreation and environment committee.

By 2 p.m., Dolan is ready for the House session to begin. Others are still straggling in. But business continues amid the noise, chattering and hustle.

"There's activities going on all the time," Dolan said. "I really have to concentrate. I'm not used to such commotion. People are up and moving around."

Dolan recently co-sponsored a bill beefing up handicap parking restrictions. As a Republican and a newcomer, Dolan doesn't have a legislative research aide. But legislative services are provided so legislators don't have to research current laws to determine where changes, such as in handicap parking, may be needed.

Looking back at her years on the Farmington Hills City Council, Dolan said she never had the amount of reading she has now. But plenty of conferences and seminars are available, such as about elderly needs and liquor law enforcement, that also help educate.

"I take advantage of any areas I'm interested in," Dolan said.

SO FAR, Dolan has had a lot of constituent calls, which she handles with the help of her secretary, Sallie Redfern.

Dolan is working to set up her computer system so she can readily get her hands on information requested by constituents. She also plans to keep an updated list of constituents' interests so when she comes across information, constituents receive it.

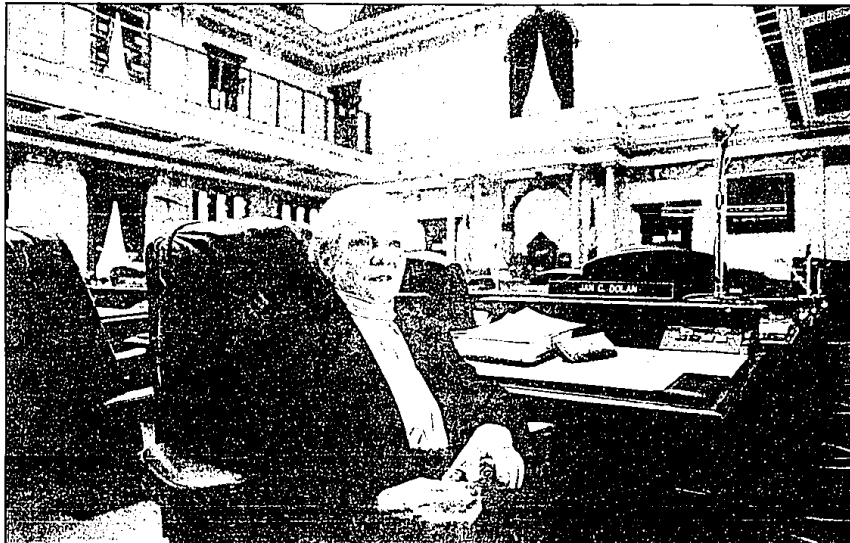
With all the meetings, formal and informal, telephone calls, setting up appointments and speaking engagements, not much time is left for the ordinary things in life, like laundry.

"I'm trying to figure out when I can do laundry without waking everyone else up," Dolan said.

At right, Jan Dolan is with fellow Republicans in a meeting concerning solid waste disposal. Below, she's at her desk on the floor of the House of Representatives in Lansing.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Musicians who will be performing their winning selections for area residents April 9 are George Nagrant (left), Melanie Downie,

Kevin Chou, Cameron Smith, Renee Chou, Sherry Howitt and Kristin Urevig.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Violinist Evan Price, vocalist Holly Underwood and pianist Theresa Theodore were named winners in Farmington Musicals' Musical Excellence competition.

# Musical excellence

## Talented teens win scholarships

Music students from the seventh through the 12th grade performed memorized classical selections to win scholarships in Farmington Musicals' "Awards for Musical Excellence" competition.

The annual spring event culminates when the winners in each grade category perform their winning pieces in a recital hosted by the musicale to showcase the young musicians' talent.

This year's recital is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, April 9, in North Farmington High School, on 13 Mile Road east of Farmington Road. There is no admission and guests are invited to stay for a reception and meet the performers immediately after the recital.

First-place winners in the piano competition for each grade category are Renee Chou, Cameron Smith and Teresa Theodore. Second-place winners are Melanie Downie and Kevin Chou. Third-place winners are Jessica Curtin and Kristin Urevig.

One of these winners will be given the Sirey-McCallum Memorial Piano Award at the end of the recital.

"We keep this winner a secret, which creates an element of anticipation," said Beverly Notestine, the musicale's scholarship chairman for the year. "The award is given to the student selected by the judges as the most outstanding piano student

based on the performance on the day of competition."

FIRST-PLACE winners for their vocal performances are Sherry Howitt and Holly Underwood. Erin Guiser took second place and Teresa Theodore was given an honorable mention.

First-place winners in the instrumental division are George Nagrant, Kristin Urevig and J. Edward Lim.

Second-place winners in the instrumental division are Melanie Downie, Emily Aers and Evan Price. Honorable mentions were given to Kristi Bosker, Stephanie Davi and Melissa Taylor.

Concerts and rummage sales

staged throughout the 1988-89 season netted Farmington Musicals \$1,600, which will be used for scholarships distributed to the musicians on the afternoon of the recital. The group is affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Guest artist for one of those concerts this season was Catherine Bennett, a former Musicals scholarship winner for her musical excellence and now the vocal teacher at North Farmington High School.

Vocal judges for the competition were Paul Joyner, Clinard and Ruth Lapeyre. Piano judges were Eleanor Auld and Joyce Adelson. Instrumental judges were Isabel Metry and Andrew Vermiglio.

**'We keep this winner a secret which creates an element of anticipation. The award is given to the student selected by the judges as the most outstanding piano student based on the performance on the day of competition.'**

— Beverly Notestine