

FARMINGTON  
NOTES

Questions for Dolan?

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, will increase her district office hours in Farmington and Farmington Hills to twice a week until the March 15 special election. Dolan or her staff will meet with constituents every Monday and Friday this week. Information on the ballot proposal and statutory school funding plan, property taxes, homestead exemptions forms, and the millage change to Farmington, Walled Lake and Clarenceville school districts will be available.

Residents also can pick up taxpayer guides and state tax forms. She will resume her regular schedule after March 15.

District hours and locations are:  
■ 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 11, 18, 25 and March 4 and 11, at Farmington City Hall in the city council chamber, 23600 Liberty.

■ 1-4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11, 18, 25 and March 4 and 11, at Farmington Hills City Hall in the city manager's room, 31555 11 Mile Road.

■ 6:30-7:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, and March 7, at Farmington City Hall in the city council chamber, 23600 Liberty.

■ 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14 and 28, and March 14 at Farmington Hills City Hall in the manager's room, 31555 11 Mile Road.

"The historic education reforms passed last year by the Legislature have generated many questions concerning property taxes and school finance," said Dolan, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "To answer the flood of inquiries, I want to make myself as available as possible. No appointments are necessary and all meetings are informal. I hope local residents will stop and let me know what is on their mind."

The 37th District lawmaker added that much of the printed material at these meetings also can be obtained through some area subdivision presidents, in addition to libraries and city halls.

For more information, call Dolan's Lansing office at 1-617-373-1793.

'People person' gets job well-done

■ Dorothy Gullon, Farmington Hills' Employee of the Year, is compassionate and "really helps morale," says her boss, city planner Ed Gardiner. She's worked for the city for more than nine years.

By BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER



In an era when the word government conjures up cold-faced bureaucrats in the minds of many people, Dorothy Gullon breaks down that image.

Gullon, who has worked for the city of Farmington Hills for more than nine years, was named Employee of the Year.

After working for the city of Detroit for five years she took time off to raise three children. But Gullon, 57, did not lose a thing when it came to organizational skills during her 25 years away from work.

"I worked with the PTA, Little League, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts," she said. "I have to be organized. I do whatever it takes to keep everything running smoothly."

If she sounds like a Type A, Gullon seems anything but driven to those who come to her at the city's planning division.

"She's the first one to know when someone is having a birthday or an anniversary," said her boss, city planner Ed Gardiner. "She's compassionate. She really helps morale."

And city manager Bill Costick, who appreciates her efficiency, also sees the West Bloomfield resident as one of the city's best ambassadors.

"She tries to be helpful to whoever," he said. "She takes on a motherly role and puts people at ease. And



Hills' top employee: Dorothy Gullon says, "I tell them my name so they don't feel shuffled around."

I think that is an example to the younger employees."

Although Gullon is a "people person," her job does not allow for a lot of chitchat.

"Nothing is repetitious about this job," she said. "But there are always deadlines. I have to review anything submitted to the planning commission, make up the packets, get out letters for public hearings, take phone calls and be at the counter."

That's why on workday mornings Gullon, whose husband, James, owns

a business, comes in early. It could be to make coffee, make copies of plans or organize work. She wants to make sure that when the city offices are open at 8:30 a.m., she's ready for just about anything or anyone.

"She's self-motivated," Gardiner said. "Her job has a lot of time constraints and deadlines. She's always willing to take on new projects. It gets down to being efficient."

While Gullon says she's been accused of being "the lady who knows everything," it's not the case.

"If I don't know something, I give people my number and tell them. 'I will get back to you,'" she said. "And I tell them my name so they don't feel like they're being shuffled around."

Gullon's talent goes beyond being organized and skilled at dealing with people, Gardiner said.

"She has an intangible," he said. "She knows if something is going in the wrong direction before it gets out of hand."

See HONOR, 13A

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