

State House Retain incumbent Dolan

Jan Dolan, who was once described as a "thoroughbred of a legislator," seems to be looking for a race to run.

Well, the Farmington-area's only state representative isn't likely to get it in the Nov. 8 election any more than she did two years ago, or two years before that.

Still, we're happy to support Republican Dolan's bid for re-election in the 37th District.

Talk about term limits notwithstanding, Dolan's experience in state and local government leads us to pick the Republican incumbent in the 37th just as we did in 1992 and 1990.

Dolan, with service both in the state House and before that on the Farmington Hills City Council, has shown herself to be a caring, decent public servant. We haven't agreed with her on every issue, but over time she's shown herself to be a fighter for the district and its people.

And she's one state representative who hasn't disappeared into that governmental sink-hole in Lansing. She's constantly around and about the district, willing to have her cage rattled by constituents.

Overall, Jan Dolan's a good argument for not having term limitations.

Levy - a wise judicial choice

After a hard-fought primary in the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court race for a newly created judgeship, voters will have a clear choice on Nov. 8.

On the one hand, there is Alice Gilbert, 62, a former circuit judge who quit to run a bitter race against state Sen. Dave Honigman, R-West Bloomfield. Talkative Gilbert revealed, perhaps subconsciously, that her real motivation for seeking office was politics, not people.

Without prompting, she volunteered that she knew a judgeship would be created, so she felt secure in facing off against Honigman because she could always go back to the court. The people who appear before the new judge need to know that the person ruling over their lives is serving them, not herself.

Gilbert has name recognition and has largely financed her own campaign, but she also has a courtroom reputation as not being a people person. Apparently irked that The Eccentric didn't endorse her in the primary, she refused to come in for a second interview preceding the

general election. Her actions speak louder than her words and list of civic involvement.

Bryan Levy, however, would bring a fresh countenance with solid knowledge of the law, the energy to do the job and maybe even a few ideas on how to do it better.

Levy, 44, has served as a 46th District Court judge in Southfield since 1987. He realistically understands the monumental task of jousting with someone who has spent a large amount of money on her campaign.

He's not about to quit, and instead is going to run until the polls close.

As a judge, Levy has worked hard and worked well. He is considered to be one of the best when it comes to settling cases and being considerate to people. However, drunk drivers best not expect to get an easy ride from Levy. The judge also believes that the rules of evidence are his "one true love."

Selecting Bryan Levy to serve on the bench is going to be a wise choice for some time to come.

Vote for quality in circuit court

Voters will have a hard time making up their minds on who to cast ballots for on Nov. 8 in the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court race. Rarely do the names of judges and their rulings come before the public eye.

They refuse to go on the record on such important issues as abortion and the death penalty, claiming they don't want to be considered prejudiced and barred from hearing a case. But that's one reason why the public has a right to know their positions on issues.

There are a few qualifiers, however, that voters can use in making decisions. There is courtroom demeanor: does the court run on time; how are those who appear before the judge treated; what's the temperament of the judge? Moreover, voters should look at whether a judge knows the law and is involved in it, and does the judge take part in civic involvement.

What also may confuse voters this year is that besides the new judgeship, there are four judges running for re-election. Challenging them in a bold move is Leslie Ann Logan, 38, who is thought to be targeting Judge Francis X. O'Brien, 61.

That would be a huge upset, but one that is sorely needed. O'Brien has forgotten how to run a courtroom. In an interview with The Observer, he admitted he schedules up to 10 trials a day even though he expects to hear only one.

That tears up a lot of lives.

In what has become a controversial move, O'Brien did not receive a good recommenda-

tion from the county bar association. Furthermore, he was censured by the Michigan Supreme Court for pulling the hair of an female airline flight attendant.

Logan's practice has spanned a breadth of legal areas, from domestic relations to business law. Unlike most judges or attorneys campaigning for office, Logan has chosen to campaign the old-fashioned way - by walking door to door. That shows she is one potential judge who would hold the interest of the people in balancing the scales of justice.

The other incumbents - Edward Sosnick, David Hreck and Denise Langford-Morris - are well worth another six-year term in office, at \$103,000 a year.

Langford-Morris, 40, has been campaigning hard as well and has been endorsed by the NAACP. A judge since 1992, she has an excellent background record as a former U.S. assistant attorney and former Oakland County assistant prosecutor.

Breck made headlines in 1989 over a drug-sentencing guidelines case. He was over-tuned, but the law was later changed. Easy-going, Breck allows both parties time to reach a settlement.

Sosnick, once voted Michigan's "most respected" judge, remains so at age 63 with a lengthy list of civic involvement that focuses on resolving domestic violence. This is his first time up for re-election.

Those four make for quality on the circuit court bench.



ARKIE HUDRINS

LETTERS

Had a good time

Last Sunday, I invited two friends, one from Novi and one from Northville, to join me for a few hours of enjoyment of our spectacular fall weather.

We first went to the relatively new Mrs. Lovell's Tea Cozy for lunch. What a great experience. Each room is lovingly and authentically furnished. A harpist plays softly. Everywhere you see lovely things.

And the food was very good. We agreed this was a reminder of a way of life that most of us have never experienced.

We next visited Heritage Park on Farmington Road, just beyond Longacre House. There are sturdy walkways, picnic areas, play areas for the children.

We watched the ducks on the pond, the windmill slowly turning. I enjoyed the color show put on by many varieties of trees, shrubs, grasses. The sun shown. The children played.

We drove back into town, picked up ice cream cones at Baskin-Robbins, ended up sitting by the fountain in the little square in the plaza.

The sun was beginning to wane, so we were able to sit in its rays and feel some warmth, just enough to be comfortable.

Longacre House? The Governor's Mansion? We didn't get to these this time, but we will. Both of my friends expressed a wish to "do this again."

I'm so glad I live in the Farmington area.

S. Dulko, Farmington Hills

Says thanks

Farmington Families In Action wishes to issue a grand thank you to all the local dignitaries who donated three hours of time and lots of energy to make the first annual Celebrity Server Night at Big Boy a rousing success.

On Oct. 12, the following folks cleared tables, served coffee and generally made customers happy:

Tom Baer, editor, Farmington Observer; Nancy Bates, Farmington Hills City Council; Mary Bush, Farmington City Council; Arnold Campbell, mayor of Farmington; Bill Costick, city manager, Farmington Hills; Jan Dolan, state representative; Bill Dwyer, police chief, Farmington Hills; Budge Gere, minister, First Presbyterian Church; John Harrington, coach, Harrison High School; Ron Holland, athletic director-Farmington Schools; Rich Marinucci, fire chief-Farmington Hills; Ben Marks, direc-

tor-Longacre House; Bob Maxfield, superintendent-Farmington Schools; Joanne McShane, Farmington City Council; Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills Council; Cathy Webb, president-School Board; and Donn Wolf, Oakland County Commissioner.

Our special thanks to all the hungry diners who gave generous "tips" to provide funds for FFIA's substance abuse education programs. We also appreciate the generosity of Big Boy manager George Darany, who contributed 10 percent of the entire day's sales.

To all of you we send heartfelt gratitude and a reminder that October's red ribbons signify: "Drugs can be dangerous to your health - Be smart - Say NO"

Nancy Smith, fund-raising chairperson, Farmington Families In Action

It's still there

Your letter writer of Oct. 20 - headlined "Fountain Envy?" - chose to find fault with recent efforts to enhance Downtown Farmington, specifically the City Hall sculpture.

It's true that one person's work of art is another's pile of twisted metal. Who's to say what art is? But oh, how easy to criticize.

She apparently also longs for the "good old days" with small independent merchants. Has she noticed the number and variety of small individually owned retail shops now in downtown Farmington?

Everyone wants a small-town atmosphere but when it comes to shopping, more often than not they head for the malls and super stores and as a result quaint downtown districts disappear.

"Good Old Farmington" is still there for those who wish to find it and keep it alive by eating and shopping at independently owned establishments.

Alice E. McCoy, Books Abound, Farmington

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION: What's on your mind?

We asked this question at the Big Boy restaurant on Farmington Road.



"I'm thinking of how to run this business and get it involved in the community."

George Dossier, Big boy owner Dearborn



"The state of the world and my business - auto financing and export."

Edna Franklin Commerce Township



"Money. I need a new car."

Linda Bell Farmington Hills



"My son's moving into his own apartment. Your kids are always on your mind."

Charlotte Berke Livonia

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— Philip Power