

## What a race! But our crystal ball is a bit cloudy

The race is on — and, for a change, people seem to be watching.

Anybody out there think they have a handle on this hot 37th District State House primary in the Farmington area?

We're admitting that we don't. Not yet, anyway. There are four solid Republican candidates, we think, and any one of them could win the nomination on Aug. 6.

Since this is rock-ribbed Republican territory, the GOP nominee is almost certain to triumph in the November general election and move on to Lansing as Jan Dolan's successor in the State House.

But who will win the primary? Sorry, our crystal ball is a bit cloudy at present. We can say, however, that the victor will win by a landslide — or perhaps just by one vote.

Each of the four has his/her strengths and weaknesses. They're all smart and savvy, and working hard. The campaign trail is thunderous with their hoofbeats.

But there are so many factors to consider. For example:

■ School trustee Cathy Webb, as close to an heir apparent to Dolan's throne as there is in this race, seems to be officialdom's darling. The PTA moms love Cathy, so does the outgoing state representative. But is officialdom's support going to be enough? Not every voter is in love with the Farmington Public Schools. And there are pundits who are saying that Cathy should be distancing herself (not embracing) Dolan.

■ By the same token, is Hills Councilman Terry Sever a bit too estranged from officialdom? He seems to be at the top of his political

game right now, but has he made too many political enemies over the years? It isn't lost on us that in former Councilman Ben Marks' vacant lot, Kitty-corner from City Hall, there are "vote-for" signs up for every Republican except Terry.

■ Some observers like to minimize Andrew Raczkowski, but not us. Anyone who thinks he can't win should check in vote totals in the last GOP House primary. He came within 100 votes of knocking off Dolan. In fact, it was most likely that close call that helped convince Dolan to call it a career. Andy likes to say that he's the only candidate preaching to true conservative message, whatever that is. He does have his supporters, but how many, really, and will they go to the polls? And another thing: There are those who think that this brash young man is just too much of a . . . well, a brash young man.

■ If this race has a dark horse, surely it's Linda Jolicœur. A political newcomer, she is said to be well-connected in the Michigan Republican Party. Even if it's true, what's that really worth? Maybe it's not so good to be too closely linked with guys like, oh, Gov. John Engler. Anyway, Linda seems to come across as the champion of the little guy/gal. Can she get her message out in the entire district before primary day?

Well, we're sorry to present so many questions and almost no answers. But, hey, it's a horse race, this 37th District GOP primary, one worth watching.

Why, we haven't had so much fun with a local election since . . . oh, how about that district court race in 1992?

## About that sheriff's race . . .

Who is best fit to be Oakland County sheriff?

Among Republicans, the choices include: ■ Sheriff John Nichols of Novi, at 77 slower in step and in need of oxygen because of emphysema but with a mind still sharp as a tack.

■ Gerard Carlin, 41, of Oakland Township, the former sheriff's captain and Nichols' protee cleared in the infamous corruption probe of the sheriff's work-release program and Rochester Hills substation. Nichols fired him in 1993 amid felony charges.

■ Paul Molin, 53, of Farmington Hills, who sells law enforcement equipment but who has no real law enforcement experience. His focus: the age and health of Nichols.

■ William Goodfellow, 90, of Pontiac, a former sheriff's dispatcher and Huntington Woods police officer.

■ Michael Odette, 43, of Clarkston, a former sheriff's deputy who traded in his badge after 12 years to become an attorney.

There's plenty of debate fodder — jail management, jail alternatives, department morale, new weaponry, budget controls, privatization, juvenile offenders, command staff levels, cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. But the key issue boils down to who best can lead the county's top law enforcement agency.

Critics charge that Nichols, the former Detroit police commissioner, Oakland County undersheriff and Farmington Hills police chief who introduced military-style respectability when he replaced Johannes Spreen as sheriff in 1984, has lost the vigor and support to hold down such a demanding job. They wonder if Nichols lost control of his department and

unwittingly triggered the corruption probe. Meanwhile, the Deputy Sheriff's Association, the Command Officers Association and police chiefs from across the county have endorsed his re-election. And he came off as feisty as ever at recent candidate sessions.

Carlin's opponents say that even though he has fought off 29 felony counts stemming from when he headed the sheriff's Rochester Hills substation, his judgment is at issue and he has overplayed his support. Still, Carlin is a persuasive speaker who displays a lot of understanding of the inner workings of the sheriff's department. Odette wants the \$90,645-a-year job but doesn't plan to spend any money. Goodfellow declined to be interviewed.

Nichols, a lawman for 54 years, and Carlin, now a pretzel maker in Frankenmuth but whose background includes 22 years in law enforcement, boast the best name recognition. They have to be considered the GOP front-runners to lead the sheriff's department and its 825 employees and \$64 million budget.

In the Aug. 6 primary, GOP voters will decide who moves on to face the winner of the Democratic primary between Michigan State Police Lt. Matt Hogan, 46, of White Lake, commander of the Brighton Post and an especially appealing contender, and Waterford Township police officer Scott Good, 33, of Auburn Hills.

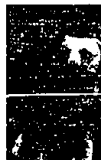
During summer campaigning, we'll be on the lookout for a Republican and a Democratic candidate for sheriff who offer a proven mix of law enforcement credentials, leadership skills, wide-ranging respect, countywide police support and practical (i.e., affordable) ideas for driving the department into the 21st century.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

#### QUESTION:

If you could speak for your dog, what would he/she say about Kid's Day?

We asked this question at Kid's Day last Tuesday.



She hopes she wins the waggly-eat contest.

Catherine Audette (Ayni), Farmington Hills



He likes to bark at the other dogs and hopes to win the waggly-eat contest.

Jessica Kwapiak (Buster), Farmington



He likes the kids and the other dogs.

Lauren Hutton (Pugsley & Shang-Hi), Farmington Hills



Too many dogs.

Lindsay Grainger (Milo), Farmington Hills

### Letters to the Editor

#### Anybody know them?

I lived in Farmington many years ago on Miller Street. It is now Springbrook. Five of my children were born there.

One of my neighbors was the Rozenboom Family. Eventually Mildred worked for the schools in the kitchen. Joan married a Strye (I think that was the name) and she worked in the bank on the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River.

I stopped a couple of weeks ago to see if the bank had any information on Joan, as I had lost contact with the family. What a surprise — there was no bank there!

I did hear from someone that Mildred had married again. To whom? Joan's husband owned the gas station on the corner of Power Road and Grand River, but people in the station had no idea who he was.

I am sure someone must know of the family. I am at a loss as to where to start. The telephone book is no help. This is not a matter of life and death, but I would like to get in touch with the family. They belonged to Our Lady of Sorrows. I would appreciate if you could locate some information on them.

Billie Zolnosky, 1235 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197

#### Candidate speaks

I would like to apologize to Mr. Donn Wolf for not being a more formidable candidate during this primary. I would also like to extend my good wishes to Mr. Wolf and assure him of my support in the general election.

I would also like to request the editor of the Farmington Observer have his telephone dialing finger checked for accuracy. I have never received a message from you on my answering machine and Caller ID shows no record of any telephone calls that might be from you.

Aside from that you have a fair and courageous newspaper and I will continue to trust you reporting of the important local events.

JoAnne F. Molin, Farmington Hills

#### He supports Andrew

In the recent candidate's debate hosted by the Jaycees, who won?

From the specific answers to the questions, and not vague generalities, Andrew Raczkowski demonstrated how he would represent our interests and concerns in Lansing.

The citizens of our community were the winners as Andrew showed the leadership qualities that will make him an effective and responsible representative in Lansing.

With the endorsement of the Farmington Hills Police Officers, the Police Officers Association of Michigan, and the Oakland County

Sheriff, Raczkowski has taken a pro-active position on tougher punishments for criminals that will make our community and our state a better place to live.

And with the endorsements of David Honigan and Dick Headlee, Andrew will be our fighter for lower taxes and bringing more of those tax dollars back to the community that paid them.

Our thanks to the Farmington Jaycees for allowing us to learn more about Andrew Raczkowski and his leadership qualities.

William R. Smith, Farmington Hills

#### We fought for them?

Nineteen Americans killed and hundreds hurt in Saudi Arabia terrorist bombing.

We now learn the Saudis blocked the U.S. probe of the '95 bombings that killed five Americans.

When the four terrorists were executed on May 31, the FBI and the CIA were refused the opportunity to question them.

When the U.S. requested they be allowed to build the protective wall 400 feet from the building, they were denied this chance of making the building safer.

With friends like the Saudis, who needs enemies?

This was the country we fought for in Desert Storm?

Milton Rose, Farmington Hills

#### Great story, photo

Well, I have to say, we weren't expecting such a splash for an article . . . and a color picture yet. (Yessian Music, Community Life, June 27).

Thank you so much for your time and energy in preparing our story.

It's very well written, and the photo is great. We have received a number of calls from some very impressed folks.

Thanks so much.

Dan Yessian, Farmington Hills

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, 33411 Grand River, Farmington Michigan 48335. Or they can be faxed to 810-477-9722.

### MEMORY LANE

This week in history as reported in past editions of the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Enterprise.

#### ■ 40 YEARS AGO — JULY 12, 1956

Earl Teeples, who lived at 30155 W. 14 Mile Road, was named Farmington Township's fourth police officer.

Brown's Supermarket, Northwestern and Orchard Lake Road, advertised Libby's pork and beans at 10 cents a can.

"Invasion of the Body Snatchers" was the attraction at the Civic Theatre.

#### ■ 10 YEARS AGO — JUNE 30, 1986

Farmington school trustees registered concern about proposed pay hikes for non-represented employees in the district, but approved the measure with few changes.

Know the dangers of fireworks, urged police officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"All beef" ground chuck was on sale for \$1.09 a pound at the Orchard-10 IGA in Farmington.

#### ■ 1 YEAR AGO — JULY 6, 1995

A bicycle path planned for the side of Farmington Road once was cursed by residents who lived nearby. But the downsized project seems to have quieted critics.

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— Philip Power