

Race from page A1

think I'm one of the leading tax cutters in the state Legislature." The Senate finance committee vice chairman, Bullard said his bill to cut the income tax rate from 4.4 to 3.9 percent was just approved last week by the full Senate. It now goes to the House for its consideration.

Bullard and Dobb faced each other before. In June 1996, Bullard beat out Dobb to win a special election to fill the Senate seat vacated by West Bloomfield's Honigman, who resigned

due to health problems. Bullard moved over from the state House, where he served 14 years in the 38th District.

House race

State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, won't face primary opposition this year, but he will also face a rematch.

Raczowski will face Democratic challenger Steve Dibert, D-Farmington, in the race for a two-year term in the 37th District. Both candidates are unop-

posed in the August primary and are assured places on the November ballot. In November 1996, Raczowski took the seat with 58 percent of the vote.

In a press release, Raczowski said re-election would "position him to catapult into a leadership position where he can be even more effective at addressing issues that affect Farmington and Farmington Hills and government waste."

Raczowski described his first term as "extremely productive" and noted that he would strive to continue with results-oriented leadership.

"My teachers told me that the

proof is in the pudding," Raczowski stated. "In public service, I believe the proof is in results."

He said those include: supporting three tax cuts in 1997-98; leading the fight for parents to maintain the right to decide whether their child takes the former High School Proficiency Test (now again known as the MEAP); and co-sponsoring the bill that to allow a \$180 per vehicle auto insurance rebate.

Dibert is touting a 10-point plan "to fix Michigan's embarrassing infrastructure" which some estimate to be a multi-billion dollar problem.

"This 10-point plan is a simple

common sense approach to tackling the infrastructure crisis we now face," Dibert said. "We need to fix the roads and fix them right with real and long-term solutions."

Besides roads, Dibert will address the issues of improving public education and "demanding care for our senior citizens."

His campaign will also be "giving the voters a very viable alternative ... It's going to be an exciting campaign," he said.

Dibert was involved in Farmington's downtown "Visioning" process and is a member of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Roads from page A1

center-turn lane, Gushman said, coupled with MDOT bridge projects in Farmington Hills, near M-6 and Orchard Lake Road, traffic is getting heavier in other parts of the city.

"We may be carrying heavier traffic through downtown due to the ongoing work on the bridges," Gushman said. "People may be rerouting themselves."

"Obviously, you have a heavier (traffic) load on surrounding areas as people avoid construction."

According to Lauhoff, "there will be significant lane closures" near the Nino Mile-Farmington bridge until late summer. Besides adding the new roadway on top of the bridge, workers for Posen Construction Co. will be doing plenty of work underneath - stripping off concrete and painting. To protect motorists from debris, the lanes will be reduced.

"You can't imagine how hard it is to tear down a bridge with traffic going underneath it," said Lauhoff.

The delay in bridge work was due to a recent study by MDOT and the contractor comparing using steel or concrete to support the span, after it was found the bridge was more deteriorated than first anticipated. Lauhoff said it was finally decided to go with the steel support beams.

Lauhoff thanked residents for cooperating with the city's successful paving program.

The city program had been estimated at costing about \$450,000. But on Monday, Gushman said it was closer to \$400,000, with \$250,000 for concrete paving and \$150,000 for asphalt.

Meanwhile, if driving around town has become more nerve-racking due to the construction, driving within the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot should be much easier.

Gushman said a \$10,000 seal-coat and restriping project was to be completed Monday. Most of the lot was already open, with brighter lane markings, pedestrian crossings and arrows pointing cars in the right direction.

"It really did improve the traffic flow in there," Gushman said. "There's a better definition of where the aisles are and which direction you're supposed to be going."

Court from page A1

school in 1979.

This time, the committee will be a joint operation and city attorneys and officials must still work out representation from the two communities and other details.

Once it's set, the building authority will assess needs for the court and options for funding, according to Frank Lauhoff, Farmington city manager.

At the same meeting last week, Walsh and court officials asked that the cities boost the court building fund by increasing the current set-aside of \$5 per civil infraction to \$10.

Farmington Hills officials agreed Farmington didn't.

"The more money we have in this fund," said Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, "the less borrowing we will have to do on a new building. We would like to do it without undue pressure on the taxpayers."

Hills council members were unanimous in their support. "Farmington Hills thought that some of the money should be used immediately for improved security and we're going to recommend that to the building authority," Vagnozzi said.

Farmington officials, on the other hand, preferred to let the committee study the court needs first, before boosting the building fund - which takes money from the revenues the court returns to each city's budget.

Lauhoff said there wasn't enough information presented on the need to boost the building fund, which is estimated to be more than \$300,000 by this budget year's end in June.

"We felt strongly that it was important to have a plan," said Farmington Mayor Mary Bush. She noted that the first priority for the court seemed to be dealing with the security issue, while the second was parking.

Walsh outlined the needs by comparing the courthouse on 10 Mile west of Power with other neighboring communities' courts.

The 47th District building - a former school building - is 13,870 square feet, making it 38 percent smaller than the next smallest courthouse, Livonia. Both have two judges, with 31 full-time staff in Farmington and 35 in Livonia.

All the neighboring courts are housed in buildings built to be courthouses, Walsh said. That makes a difference. The public area is limited to a narrow hallway which doesn't allow space for a metal detector and requires prisoner transport through it.

The entrance to the building also isn't as friendly, Walsh said, and no attorney-client or victim/witness rooms are available. Storage also isn't adequate.

One jury deliberation room barely accommodates the chairs and a table. "It's almost something you'd see out of a Benny Hill show," Walsh said.

Once the cities officially re-create the building authority, Walsh said, "it will be the responsibility of the building authority to make the decisions about where, how much, what type of funding ..."

Vagnozzi said he expected Farmington Hills will take up the issue in the next 90 days.

Choices, Choices, Choices.

THE GRAND COURT

THE GRAND COURT

THE GRAND COURT

Call for more information on Senior Living:

THE GRAND COURT

THE GRAND COURT

THE GRAND COURT

WAKING UP MICHIGAN

GRAND OPENING FESTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

STARBUCKS COFFEE

Coffee sampling, brewing demonstrations and live music

- ◆ Coffee sampling and brewing demonstrations
- ◆ Samplings from our pastry menu
- ◆ Live music

A percentage of all beverages sold on May 16 will benefit Gilda's Club Metro Detroit.

STARBUCKS COFFEE

FARMINGTON — 33199 Grand River (in downtown Farmington) — 248-476-5411

ROYAL OAK — 300 South Main St. (in downtown Royal Oak) — 248-548-4570

Free Starbucks

12-ounce coffee beverage of your choice

Present this coupon for a free 12-ounce coffee beverage of your choice. Valid only at the Farmington and Royal Oak Starbucks listed below. Limit one per customer. Expires June 1, 1998.

VISIT STARBUCKS COFFEE AT

FARMINGTON — 33199 Grand River (in downtown Farmington)

ROYAL OAK — 300 South Main St. (in downtown Royal Oak)

Eaton Nursery

invites you to attend our

MAY SALE

Sunday, May 17th

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

on all items

o Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Perennials & More

Stroll through our 5 acre nursery while enjoying a cool refreshment and taking in the beauty of spring

Eaton Nursery LTD.

5899 W. MAPLE

WEST BLOOMFIELD

(248) 851-5440

1/2 Mile West of Orchard Lake Rd.

All items must be paid in full at time of purchase. Discount can not be applied to landscape quotations.