

Knollenberg wins big in primary

Incumbent congressman to face West Bloomfield attorney

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg had no trouble earning the Republican nomination and continuing his quest for a sixth term in Congress.

The Bloomfield Township resident garnered 86 percent of the vote to defeat Bart Baron, a Troy Republican, in Tuesday's primary. The election involved voters in the reapportioned 9th Congressional District, much of which is new territory for Knollenberg.

"Anything can happen in a primary, but we feel very good about the result and now we look forward to the general election," Knollenberg said.

Baron, an automobile industry consultant, made his second run for Congress. Two years ago, Baron lost a bid to unseat U.S. Rep. Sander Levin when

"Most of the action was in the Democratic gubernatorial race, so that's where many people voted," Knollenberg said.

In his previous re-election campaigns, no challenger could raise more than \$250,000, a fraction of Knollenberg's average war chest of \$1 million. Finally, he has some \$800,000 generated with plans to raise much more.

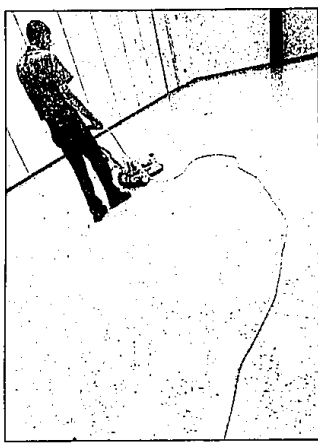
Analysts said both candidates could end up spending some \$2 million each. That would make this one of the most expensive Congressional campaigns in the nation. The fact a Democrat can raise so much in this area, analysts added, is indicative of Oakland County's changing political tide which was once a Republican stronghold.

Knollenberg and Fink are battling to represent Michigan's most affluent Congressional district, which includes Birmingham, Troy, Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Waterford, Lake Orion, Pontiac, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township.

Knollenberg said that result doesn't trouble him.



PHOTOS BY BILL BASLER/OBSERVER



Getting ready

Farmington School District custodians are busy preparing for the opening of schools later this month.

Highmeadow Common Campus custodian Dick Fielding (at left) buffed the freshly waxed floor of the stage last week. Two coats of wax go on the floors before the start of the new school year.

Fielding's co-worker Dan Fisher (above) spent last Tuesday powerwashing student chairs. Since the school has over 500 chairs, it's no small job.

Teachers go back to school with workdays and in-services beginning August 22. Students will be in school on the morning of August 26; the Labor Day recess begins at the close of the day on August 29 and classes reconvene Sept. 3.

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FHS class of 1962 to hold reunion

Farmington High School Class of 1962 is holding a 40-year reunion on Oct. 12 at the Best Western Executive Hotel & Suites, 31825 W. 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

For more information contact Michele (Cook) Hoffmeyer (e-mail: mhoffmeyer@worldnet.net) or call Marlene (Coe) Cline-Smith at (734) 453-6356.

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