

15th state Senate District

Zero in on traffic congestion: Faxon

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Jack Faxon can sympathize with frustrated Oakland County commuters who get bottled up in daily traffic snarls. He is often one of them.

That's why improving the road system to alleviate traffic woes tops his priority list for another term in the state Senate.

The 14-year incumbent is being challenged by Republican Frank Brock for the 15th District post, which represents Southfield, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Novi and Wixom.

THE BIGGEST problem his district faces is traffic congestion, Faxon said. "We're constantly tied up in traffic, and I spend every day, hours each day, just trying to get around in short distances."

"It's outrageous, and has to be rectified in the future."

Faxon said he is confident that the I-696 expansion will probably bring the most relief to beleaguered Southfield commuters.

"Certainly the opening up of 696 and completing it will take the pressure off the east-west roads in Southfield, where currently all that traffic has to go out in order to get to the other side of town."

North- and south-bound congestion on the heavily travelled Haggerty and Telegraph roads are also Faxon targets.

FAXON SAID he was successful this year, as a member of the appropriations committee, in getting Haggerty named a state highway, so state money can be used to widen it. On Telegraph, cars must "go south of 12 mile to go north of 12 mile." Those turnarounds cause a major backup problem, Faxon added.

The much-discussed extensions of I-275 and Northwestern Highway are "issues requiring a lot of local input to achieve some level of accord," he said.

By letting the state highway department know of 15th District road concerns, the area could be a priority for future road projects, Faxon said.

FAXON ADMITS he isn't an expert on the wastes. But the incumbent thinks that the federal "super fund" has the greatest resources to tackle the issue.



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— Jack Faxon
Democrat

However, he maintains that businesses and individuals who use and pollute the system must be held accountable.

"If the state is going to impose an assessment on potential polluters, it should be across-the-board. All people who use underground containers all have to bear some responsibility for the quality of our underground waters."

The state won't actively mandate local cleanups or help in better disposal of refuse, Faxon said, because costs for any state-ordered program would have to be paid by the state.

"The best thing the state can do is establish sufficient safeguards to ensure that local communities won't leave a problem we're ultimately going to have to pay for in the future."

WHEREVER GROUP homes have gone, there has been public concern about "potential harm" their occupants may cause, he said.

But Faxon has yet to see those problems at group homes he has visited, at those lived in by senior citizens or those with mental disorders.

"Deinstitutionalization" has been adopted as a policy, Faxon said, to place individuals in the most humane setting possible. He added that group homes are such places, where they can have a sense of belonging in an identifiable group.

Faxon stressed though, that when it is known that problems exist, state legislators need to speak up and take steps to correct them.

"No department is immune from correction," he said.

WHILE SUPPORTING Blanchard's BEST, Baccalaureate Education System Trust, program Faxon claims that many questions need to be answered.

"I support options that are available to the public, at no additional cost to them, that ensure them a chance to be able to pay for their child's tuition for four years of college."

Some of his questions are: How to cash out of the program if the child doesn't go to college. What happens if students take more than four years to complete their college education? What is the policy if the money is transferred from the originally intended child to another in the family? Does the money belong to the child or parent if the policy is cashed out?

COMMUNITIES THAT use tax abatements to lure businesses may be raising their property tax base in the long run, but they're "shortening themselves out in the short run," Faxon said.

Any tax relief should go to people on fixed incomes who are faced with rising property taxes, he added.

"They're the ones who need the most help, not those who are making money from property and not paying taxes on property."

The Democratic candidate said that while property taxes have doubled since 1975, the amount residents can recover from the "circuit breaker" has stayed at \$1,000. He suggested doubling that amount.

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Trim cost of doing business: Brock

By Tim Smith
staff writer

As the father of six adopted and 67 foster children, Frank Brock has gotten a lot of cooperation in his bid for the state Senate representing the 15th District.

So it comes as little surprise that the Republican candidate stresses cooperative efforts in solving many of the state's problems.

Brock, Lathrup Village's mayor pro-tem and Providence Hospital Foundation executive director, is challenging veteran Democrat incumbent Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills in the Nov. 4 general election.

The challenger is calling for a cooperative effort between state, county and local government in solving road problems; wants companies which dump toxic waste into the underground water supply held accountable; and believes youth employment incentives are needed to help take a bite out of rising crime.

BROCK ADMITS that the continued growth of western Oakland County has proved too much for an aging road system. But he stresses that the problem won't be solved without contributions from the state, county, cities and developers.

"I don't think the state can provide the answer to every local problem," he said.

Brock said the state and county should step up appropriations to help expedite projects, such as the widening of I-696, Haggerty Road extension and new I-696 interchanges.

And developers need to become more involved in road projects, perhaps through state-legislation or creation of a special tax district in developing areas, he added.

Developers would be likely to participate in such a district, Brock said, because unpaved streets would stop their projects from being successful.

FOR THE TAX district to work, city councils and zoning boards would probably need to require participation from developers before approving any projects, according to Brock.

Companies dumping toxic chemicals into the ground water system should be "dealt with severely and made to pay," Brock said. The state has a significant toxic waste clean-



'Our track record over the past several years of using tax abatement packages to lure new business to Michigan has been a mixed bag at best.'

— Frank Brock
Republican

up problem, he said.

Placing the entire clean-up burden on industry may not be feasible, he said. Instead, everybody has a "stake" in cleaning up the state water supply, and specific companies traced as being toxic polluters should share responsibility in paying for clean-ups.

"I wouldn't advocate that we place such a burden on individual businesses that would force them out of business," he said.

AS A LAST resort, the state and federal governments should step forward and help pay for cleaning up the environment.

The state's "de-institutionalization" program can work if group homes are well-supervised to protect neighborhoods, Brock said, and if patients placed in them actually belong there instead of in traditional hospital settings.

He also stressed that more specific criteria need to be set on where group homes should be located and how they should be run.

Residents of some cities and neighborhoods are justifiably worried about their areas becoming "repositories" for more than their share of group homes, he added.

Brock is concerned that "de-institutionalization" may become a cost-containment strategy.

"IT IS FAR less expensive to run these group homes than it is to maintain big state hospitals," he said, adding that some mental health patients will always need to remain in traditional hospital environments.

"We can't, in the name of cost-con-

tainment, continue to move people out that are not appropriately placed in the community settings."

However, mental health reform is not popular with fiscally oriented state legislators.

"Mental health (reform) isn't fashionable," Brock said. "But they are a part of our society that we have responsibility for."

"We need to make sure that those programs are good programs. We know today that many of these people can be rehabilitated."

BROCK SUPPORTS Gov. Blanchard's BEST plan — with some reservation — which guarantees participants four years of college tuition at a Michigan university.

Brock said he would like to see an opinion from the Internal Revenue Service on whether tax-deductible or deferred tax benefits would be available for program participants.

He also wants to know if the state would be left "holding the bag" 10-15 years from now should BEST costs escalate far more than originally planned.

Despite his caution on the program's feasibility, Brock is confident it will be a positive step for Michigan education.

Brock said he would probably vote in favor of BEST.

"If I'm going to error at all, I'd rather error on the side that says we're going to provide more opportunity for people to get a higher education," he said.

ACCESS To a college education,

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short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

● COMPLETES TRAINING
Jennifer Hunt, certified color consultant, has completed advanced training in Dayton, Ohio, through World Wide Images Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Farmington Hills resident received certification training in July. She completed advanced training in September. All training for World Wide Images is conducted by Nevena Christl, president.

Christl's professional experience consists of creating images for Cadillac, Coppertone, Bulck, Pan American Airlines and Intercontinental Hotels. She has experience as a film coordinator, casting director and interior designer.

● HE'S RE-ELECTED
Gordon Graham of Farmington Hills was elected to a second term on the international board of directors of Hoo-Hoo International.

Hoo-Hoo is a fraternity of the forest products and building materials industry. It has 7,500 members in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Graham is retired from Johns-Manville, where he worked as a sales representative in the building material division for 37 years. He joined the Detroit Hoo-Hoo Club in 1960 and served on the board of directors from 1967 to 1970. He became club president in 1970 and has served continuously as club secretary/treasurer since 1975.

Graham was chosen Hoo-Hoo of the Year in 1980. He has served as assistant treasurer of the international organization. Graham has been an active delegate at 17 of the last Hoo-Hoo annual conventions.

Hoo-Hoo has been called the pub-

lic relations department of the lumber industry.

● NEW LOCATION
St. Claire Inc., has moved to 37440 Hills Tech Drive, Farmington Hills, 48018-1221. The telephone number is 553-4774.

The Farmington Hills Tech Center is just south of 12 Mile Road, between Halsted and Haggerty Roads.

● NEW MACHINERY
When James and Robert Bretz, president and general manager of Libralter Plastics, bought a computerized plastic injection molding machine to upgrade production capability and insure greater quality control over products, they wondered what to do with the old machine, still capable of producing quality parts.

At the suggestion of controller Donald Jenks, familiar with the work of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit in employing and training handicapped men and women for placement in jobs, the father and son team decided to contribute the machine to Goodwill.

The Libralter people arranged to transport the 15,000-pound Follows Plastic Injection Molding Machine to the Goodwill Industries main plant on Ash in Detroit. This was a two-day operation involving heavy machinery-moving equipment.

Libralter personnel supervised installation of the necessary electrical and water connections, supplied the initial batch of raw materials and sent production people to train Goodwill workers.

On Oct. 7, James Bretz formally handed over the 4500 clumping force machine to Gerald Schroeder, treasurer and former board chairman of the non-profit vocational training organization.

The machine will be fired up and ready to roll on production contracts for Goodwill's customers. Goodwill's handicapped workers will operate the equipment, which can mold parts up to 48 ounces in weight.

Libralter Plastics, founded by James Bretz, has plants in Walled Lake and Farmington Hills.

Goodwill Industries has served the handicapped of Detroit for 65 years through training and employment programs. Originally a sheltered workshop, Goodwill Industries has evolved into a many-faceted program designed to make it possible for handicapped people to live successfully in the community.

During 1985, Goodwill placed 402

handicapped workers in private, competitive employment. It provided employment opportunities in its sheltered workshops for another 800 persons. Employment in the sheltered workshops allows the handicapped person to earn a paycheck while improving work skills leading to outside employment.

● CONSULTING SERVICES
Marilyn Finkel & Associates provides art consulting services to hospitals, financial institutions and a variety of corporations. The firm acts as a computerized resource center for architects and interior designers.

Finkel, firm president, has worked in the art consulting business for 10 years and as a professor of art history at Oakland Community College for 18 years. She has architectural and engineering training.

This background allows the firm to enter a project from the planning stages and follow it through to installation, thereby supplying efficient, cost-effective service.

"Art that is selected properly can enhance the architecture site, the interior design plan and properly reflect the function of a particular client," Finkel said. "Art can both stimulate the work environment and interest the visitor."

Her client list includes Hyatt Regency Baltimore and Bethesda, Hyatt Orlando Hotel, Crittenton Hospital, Liberty State Bank & Trust, Federal-Mogul Corp. headquarters and St. Joseph Hospital.

All existing art and commissioned works are housed in a computerized resource center at Finkel's headquarters. Also included in the inventory are slides, brochures, and art resumes.

As an extension of her services, Finkel provides client consultations and holds seminars to familiarize employees with the art collection chosen.

Marilyn Finkel & Associates is at 31455 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills 48018.

● ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
David Fernquist of Farmington Hills was named account executive at FM 104/WOMC.

He is a recent graduate of Michigan State University, majoring in advertising.

At 104 on the FM dial, WOMC is owned and operated by Metromedia Inc., the nation's largest independent broadcasting company.



Wardrobe
Shopping
Service

For her fall wardrobe, she borrowed a few ideas.



She knew what pieces she wanted, but she felt that she could use a little help in selecting the exact styles that would work best for her.

■ And she knew that the right accessories could really pull off the look she wanted. So she went to a great idea source: FV! They were happy to lend her their expertise. And their lipstick, as well.

There is no charge for the services of FV!

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