

# Farmington Observer

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## farmington FOCUS

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**ALL in fun.**  
Co-workers and friends gathered at Vladimir's to pay tribute July 28 to Joan Reynolds, who retired Wednesday after three years as Farmington Hills city clerk and 23 years with the clerk's staff. As expected, she drew some good-natured barbs.

Said former city clerk Floyd Cairns: "When I hired her in 1965, I thought she'd stay awhile. I never thought she'd stay 23 years."

Added state Rep. Sandy Brotherton of Farmington, who recounted how Cairns said he relied on Reynolds to retrieve information: "I'm pleased to learn why the clerk's office ran so smoothly when Floyd was in there. He always made it seem so easy."

Her retirement gift was a .35mm camera and accessories. Gag gifts included a paint brush she and her husband, Dan, can use on their uncompleted new house in Cedarville on Prestias Bay in the Upper Peninsula, a Reynolds Lane street sign and a "No Parking Tow Away Zone" sign to fend off untoward visitors from back home.

### Quote of the week

"This was an ecumenical effort and I don't apologize to anybody for it."

— Nancy Bates, state House hopeful Jan Dolan's campaign director, after primary election tallies early Wednesday showed their campaign was successful in the GOP primary (see story this page).

### what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 5B
- Business . . . Sec. C
- Cable connection . . . 6C
- Classifieds . . . Secs. C, E, G
- Index . . . . . 5G
- Local . . . . . 5C
- Real estate . . . 2E
- Employment . . . 5G
- Creative living . . . Sec. E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 8E
- Entertainments—3Dr . . . 5C
- Obituaries . . . . . 5C
- Opinion . . . . . 10A
- Police/fire calls . . . 8A
- Sports . . . . . Sec. D
- Suburban Life . . . Sec. B

## Dolan faces Dolan in House race

□ Dolan supporters happy, 3A  
Bouchard tallies vote, 3A

By Casey Hahn  
staff writer

It's Dolan vs. Dolan. But the only relationship between Republican Jan Dolan and Democrat John Dolan is that both will seek the 69th state House district seat Tuesday, Nov. 8.

In a hotly contested regional Republican primary Tuesday, Jan Dolan outdistanced three opponents to grasp the Republican nomination for the state House seat.

The 59-year-old Farmington Hills councilwoman will face Democrat John Dolan, 45, of Bingham Farms, who beat his Farmington opponent, Ken Murray, to represent the Democrats.

"I'm thrilled. I'm so proud of all of you. Without you, I couldn't have done it," Jan Dolan told cheering supporters after final results were posted early Wednesday. "I just love you all."

A former Farmington Hills mayor, Jan Dolan has served on the city council 13 years and has lived in the district 22 years. She is known for her community involvement.

ACCORDING TO unofficial tallies Wednesday, Jan Dolan garnered 3,852 votes, or 83 percent of the vote, beating Beverly Hills Village Council president Michael Bouchard by only 374 votes.

### Aug. 2 primary

State House District 69  
Republican

1. Jan Dolan, 3,852 votes overall — 2,919, Farmington Hills; 629, Farmington; 304, Southfield Township.
2. Michael Bouchard, 3,478 overall — 1,563, Farmington Hills; 987, Farmington; 1,528, Southfield Township.
3. Paul Weldon, 2,724 overall — 1,858, Farmington Hills; 537, Farmington Hills.

Jan Dolan's strength came in the Farmington Hills precincts, while Bouchard won handily in the Southfield Township area, which includes his hometown of Beverly Hills. Bouchard's total vote count was 3,478; 1,528 came from the township.

Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Weldon placed third with 2,724. Political newcomer Mike Sarafa, also of Farmington Hills, finished fourth with 1,507 votes.

Bouchard, 32, came close to winning the race and said, after seeing the results, "a bigger turnout and a little bigger margin in Southfield Township may have helped."

He also speculated on the Farmington-area vote: "I would have preferred it be higher because we would have gotten a lot of new voters. If it's small, it's going to be a lot of the old voters, and they'll vote for her (Jan Dolan)."

SARAFKA KNEW he would not make it before all the precincts were tallied Tuesday night.

"We're going to be short," the 22-year-old political science graduate of Michigan State University said. "But we have nothing not to be smiling about. The impact this campaign has made has been tremendous. Everyone should be proud."

Weldon, 29, said he was pleased with his showing and was busy Wednesday morning picking up political signs.

"I feel pretty good," he said. "We ran second in these communities (Farmington and Farmington Hills).

Weldon, 29, Southfield Township.  
Mike Sarafa, 4, 1,507 overall — 1,013, Farmington Hills; 172, Farmington; 322, Southfield Township.

### Democrat

1. John Dolan 987 overall — 698, Farmington Hills; 152, Farmington; 137, Southfield Township.
2. Ken Murray, 725 overall — 519, Farmington Hills; 115, Farmington; 91, Southfield Township.

### Unofficial vote tallies



Jan Dolan (right) thanks her supporters at her downtown Farmington headquarters early Wednesday after she earned the Republican nomination for the 69th state House district seat.

I'm satisfied, and proud of the job a lot of people did."

In the Democratic race, John Dolan finished with 987 votes, beating Murray's 725. Dolan's support came from throughout the district. He said he was both "pleased and surprised" with the results, which he obtained Wednesday morning.

THE DOLAN vs. Dolan matchup this November "should provide more interest in the race," he said. "It will give more opportunity for the issues to be discussed."

Murray, 50, was also surprised at the election results — and his loss. "My expectation was to be in the election. If that's not to be, I'm kind of surprised," he said. "I thought I came across pretty straight with everybody."

Voter turnout was the lightest in Farmington Hills, which reported 23 percent. Farmington had the highest turnout at 30 percent, and Southfield Township had 27 percent. Of 69,931 registered voters in the district, 15,153 voted Tuesday.

The district includes the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, and the Southfield Township villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

This is the first time in 14 years the 69th district House seat has been open to a non-incumbent. Seventh-term state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, announced last January he would not seek re-election.

Staff writer Dave Varga contributed to this report.



John Dolan

## Thompson wins prosecutor's race

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Dick Thompson proved that indeed Brooks Patterson was the issue. The chief assistant Oakland County prosecutor won 53 percent of the Republican primary vote Tuesday to succeed Patterson as the top law enforcement officer.

"Obviously, they were wrong," Thompson, 51, said Tuesday night to the rivals who charged he was unpopular with the current and past staff of assistant prosecutors.

"I think they were wrong from the beginning. I did not think that should be a campaign issue, and I didn't want to dwell on it. I wanted to stay

on my issues.

"I had virtually every (assistant) prosecutor on the staff supporting me and numerous former prosecutors," he said as dance music blared during his victory party in the Somerset Inn, Troy.

His issue was that if you liked 16 years of Patterson's tough no-plea-bargaining philosophy, you should vote for Thompson. "It was a referendum on Brooks Patterson," Thompson said.

Patterson, who endorsed and actively supported Thompson, quipped that the opposition's charges were "warmed-up baloney."

Please turn to Page 3



Donn Wolf

## Wolf tops Soronen in county GOP race

By Louise Okrutsky  
staff writer

Crediting his strength with elderly voters, former councilman Donn Wolf earned 2,637 votes to Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen's 2,290 to secure a spot on the Republican ticket for the 37th county commission district seat.

Wolf's strategy in Tuesday's primary targeted specific audiences of voters. "I've always been very strong with senior citizens," the former two-term councilman said. "I've been strong in the absentee votes since 1979."

A community and government affairs representative in Ann Arbor for Detroit Edison, Wolf will concentrate on participating in the Republican national convention before he hammers out his next campaign moves.

"I'm very philosophical about it," Soronen said about her loss to Wolf by an unofficial 337-vote margin. "Life's still very full."

Soronen and Wolf, both 53, vied for the GOP nomination to run on the Republican ticket in the Farmington area's largest county commission district.

Please turn to Page 3

## Fanfare eludes mall as drive-in falls to dust

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

The prospect of a new shopping center on the Farmington Hills site of the now-defunct Grand River Drive-In has not stirred much excitement among neighbors.

Andrew Silverman's response is typical. "I don't care one way or another," the Tack Road resident said. "It's possible I'll shop there. It's just walking distance, and it's not drive-in."

Monday, all that remained of the drive-in, a longtime Farmington Hills landmark, were shards of glass and metal debris being hauled away in trucks.

Builders worked both ends of the property, leveling off the 33 acres that will eventually house a 300,000-sq-ft retail development to be called West River Center.

"Part of the impetus to start up in Farmington came from a desire to replicate the success we've had with two other projects," said Tom Goldberg, drive-in owner and spokesman for G.R. Associates Limited Partnership of Southfield.

The firm, which has owned drive-ins since the early 1950s, demolished the Gratiot in Roseville and the Bel Air in Detroit to make way for shopping centers.

GOLDBERG SAID his father began operating the Grand River as a drive-in in 1947, when drive-in theaters were at their peak in popularity.

"They have come under a lot of competitive pressure in recent years," he said. "But there's still a market for them. We think though, this would be a better use of the property."

Target, a discount department store chain owned by the Dayton Hudson Corp., will anchor West River Center with a 100,000-square-foot store. A health and beauty aids store also is planned. Phase II will total 100,000 square feet of gross leasable area.

Goldberg hopes to share a major supermarket and several smaller tenants to round out the development. Project architect is T. Rogovoy and Associates, Birmingham.

"It will be a typical small shopping center with possibly a restaurant, a women's clothing and a shoe store and maybe a dry cleaners," Goldberg said.

"Although Goldberg said he is talking to many potential retailers 'whom names you would recognize,' no other names have been named. Target is scheduled to open in October 1989.

"This will be a first-class operation all the way. We hope that everyone will like it," Goldberg said.

ONE NEIGHBOR who does appear thrilled by the impending change is the adjacent Holiday Chevrolet dealership.

"We're really excited about it," said Colleen Vandersberg, new car sales manager. "The increased traffic flow should have some spillover effect. Holiday is a hard place to get to. This ought to help us."

"I don't like the idea," said Ruth Marth, who lives at the corner of Nine Mile and Tack. "We had all that drive-in traffic for years. It's only going to get worse."

Amy Easook, who also lives on Tack, thought condominiums were going to be built on the site.

neighborhood, then we don't care," Hammond said.

Neighbor Doris Roy foresees heavier traffic, but "we could use a little shopping center — as long as they keep it under control."

Kathleen Ferta, visiting her boyfriend, who lives on Tack, said she usually shops at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

"My boyfriend thinks they should have kept the drive-in. There are lots of shopping centers around but Farmington only had one drive-in," she said.

Not die-hard drive-in fans, the couple nevertheless spent a few dates there, she said.

ANOTHER TACK resident, John Buchanan, used the drive-in occasionally.

Please turn to Page 4

## HOMEARAMA

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE