

Builders group endorses

Andrew Raczkowski, candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives in the 37th District, recently received the endorsement of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan.

ABC represents nearly 1,300 commercial and industrial construction firms in Michigan.

ABC Executive Director Andy Anuzis said that his organization supports individuals demonstrating a commitment to limited government, less taxes and free and open competition in the construction market.

Small business and the construction industry have been a vital part of Michigan's comeback. The majority of all jobs created over the last decade were in the small business sector. "We endorse Andrew Raczkowski's campaign because we believe he will help keep Michigan on the right track," Anuzis said.

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grounded himself by holding the wires.

Despite getting zapped, Bird-sall "never lost consciousness," the fire marshal continued. "He's just very lucky, for whatever reason."

Birdsall did sustain second- and third-degree burns to his left arm, hand and back, as well as a cut forehead sustained from falling from the ladder. He was listed in fair condition Wednesday at Detroit Receiving Hospi-

tal, where he was expected to undergo skin grafts, said hospital spokeswoman Mattie Majors.

On Thursday, Birdsall's son-in-law told Schornack that Birdsall was moving his left arm and fingers - an optimistic sign that he'll fully recover.

Schornack said second-degree burns are characterized by blistering of the skin while third-degree involves skin charring. There are likely to be some internal burns, depending on how much of the charge actually went

through Birdsall's body.

"Nobody really saw it," Schornack said. "He hollered and a neighbor heard him hollering. After it happened, he just got up and went over to a car."

Members of Birdsall's family transported him to Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. Schornack said the man subsequently was taken by ambulance to Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital and to Receiving. He was listed in good condition Friday.

According to Schornack, the

incident is a powerful reminder to people to leave outdoor wires alone.

"People should contact the proper company to move lines," he said.

According to a public safety report about the accident, Detroit Edison and Time Warner Cable were contacted, with crews expected to check wires in Birdsall's yard for proper placement.

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JoAnne Molin

campaign. Her message is simple: The south end of the county is getting the short end.

"For too long in the southern end of the county we've seen too little representation from our elected officials except at election time," Molin said. "Then, all of sudden they pop out of the wood work."

In order to be accessible, Molin plans to set up a Web page and send out a newsletter.

She'll also have a phone line for residents to call her directly.

"I'd surely keep them abreast of what is happening," Molin said.

She terms the 9-1-1 issue a "toughie."

Taxpayers must ante up to pay for the upgrade in emergency response equipment, Molin said.

"That's what we have to pay for enhancement of improved living conditions," she said.

Instead of grappling with the intricacies of the 12 Towns Drain issue, Molin questions whether the methods to curb pollution are really working. She cites Macomb County's attempts to clean up its beaches.

She thinks \$100 million is high price to pay to eliminate 5 percent of the problem. She also won-

ders what major polluters are doing.

"If we eliminate our 5 percent, in the whole big picture, what difference is it going to make?" Molin asked.

Molin believes the county going to an independent authority for its \$165 million mental health services will make a difference, though. That would allow the county to provide better services, she said.

"We'd definitely have to have a finger in these to see what is going on, but not be in complete and total control of them," Molin said.

Overall, Molin gives high marks to County Executive Brooks Patterson.

"I think Brooks has had some good ideas; He's had some bad ideas. I think we have to take it and whatever recommendations he makes, we have got to discuss it with him and discuss it amongst ourselves and do what's best for the community overall."

Molin moved to Farmington Hills three years ago after marrying her husband Paul. She lives in the southwest area that has a Northville mailing address.

When she's not busy with interior design, Molin is helping raise two grandchildren, ages 5 and 6.

Despite her short time in the county (Molin lived in Wayne County most of her life), she wants to get involved. She also recently became a member of the Republican Women of Western Oakland County.

"People don't even know who the commissioners are or what they do. There's a lot of voter apathy, especially at the primaries," she said. "But that's when the decisions are made."

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