

## Knol goes to the head of the class

All three candidates in the Republican primary for the House District 37 seat have ties to our communities and have made it a better place to live.

Terry Sever has a long history in local government, including terms on city council and county commission, and has been active in civic groups. John Akouri is a longtime community volunteer who has strong political ties through his work with U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg.

But Valerie Knol, though relatively new to the communities by comparison, seems to us best prepared to move on to the next level of competition in November.

Knol literally sparked during her interview and was prepared to dis-



Valerie Knol

cuss many more issues after our hour's worth of questions were asked. She clearly demonstrated a solid understanding not only of the problems facing state government, but of the kinds of ideas that could go a long way toward resolving them.

We were particularly impressed with her ideas about education, offering tax credits to people who volunteer in schools and the promotion of additional charter schools. Knol is opposed to vouchers, supports Proposal A and favors incentives, rather than restrictions to curb

urban sprawl.

A believer in private property rights, she wants to see developers encouraged through tax incentives and grants to help bring life back into Detroit by making development there cheaper than clear-cutting open space.

Most importantly, however, she presented herself to us as an articulate and enthusiastic candidate, able to clearly present her positions on a wide variety of issues. She is bright and energetic, unafraid to take a firm stand and come prepared with specific proposals for change.

She has done her homework. On Aug. 6, we recommend voters in the Republican primary cast a ballot for Valerie Knol.

## Vagnozzi's record is unbeatable

When it comes to our endorsement for the Democratic candidate in the Aug. 6 House District 37 primary, the choice is clear.

We're backing the candidate who showed up - Aldo Vagnozzi.

Of course, we have a great many other reasons for endorsing him over Charisse Heath, who didn't return several requests for an interview. When it comes to local politics, local government, social issues and community involvement, Vagnozzi's record is simply unbeatable.

He has served on both the Farmington School Board and Farmington City Council, including two terms as mayor. He's actively involved with the Michigan Campaign for Quality Care, which works on behalf of folks in long-term care facilities, in the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, the AARP and the city's Consumer Protection



Aldo Vagnozzi

Committee, which he chairs.

Vagnozzi is a member of various civic organizations as well, and is a fixture at community events and fund-raisers. He's a strong proponent of local control, a position from which he has never wavered since long before Farmington Hills took action to help defeat an effort by state lawmakers to usurp local government authority.

He rightly calls our state's mental health system "one of the worst in the country" and advocates a move away from million dollar tax incentives to large corporations and toward funding programs that will benefit the state's most vulnerable residents.

The sprightly septagenarian

demonstrated his stamina and energy by walking to Lansing early in the campaign season, and he hasn't stopped moving forward as a strong voice on behalf of all residents, but particularly those in greatest need.

He'd like to see more done to help seniors stay in their homes as long as possible, whether that means increasing the property tax exemption (which hasn't been re-examined in more than 20 years) or expanding the kinds of programs that keep seniors active and involved in their communities.

But Vagnozzi's most important attribute, in our estimation, is his staunch support of local control. Government works best when it's closest to the people.

Vagnozzi knows that, and that's the message he'll carry to Lansing.

We urge voters in the Democratic primary to give Aldo Vagnozzi a chance to do that on Aug. 6.

## LETTERS

### Tongue in cheek?

I got a chuckle out of your interview with our Representative Knollenberg. He is quoted as saying "The economic free fall is in part stocks being so over valued."

Talk about faulting the victim. I saw nothing about lying CEOs, Arthur Anderson type accounting firms, or obscene bonuses to failing company executives, i.e. Knart, Enron et al.

How can Wall Street, or anyone else, believe a CEO talking about the profitability of any company. Remember World Comp? Four billion dollars is a bit beyond an accounting error. Knollenberg's blaming the EPA for his atrocious environmental record is preposterous. Again, Joe faults the victim well.

This guy must have had his tongue in his cheek when talking to you. His statements must be in jest as they make no sense.

Gerald and Dolores Mazzy  
Farmington Hills

### Vote Vagnozzi

At election time, we see many political positions in order to send declaring the candidates' name, party affiliation and office for which they're running. They reveal nothing about the candidate's qualifications.

In order to make intelligent voting decisions, we citizens need to go beyond the superficial publicity and find out each candidate's positions on vital issues, experience in public office and in community involvement. In the case of incumbents, we should examine their voting record and whether they respond in their constituents' best interests rather than pandering to big business in exchange for political contributions.

Aldo Vagnozzi is running for state representative. In looking at

his record, I find that he meets the highest standards in experience, achievements and integrity.

During the years, as a Farmington Hills City Council member, as Mayor and as chair of the Consumer Protection Committee, he fought for the interests of the general public, unafraid to take on big business such as Detroit Edison and Time-Warner.

In addition to his elected offices, throughout his adult life Vagnozzi has served as a member, official or volunteer for numerous committees and commissions that promote the well-being and interests of the general public. His activities and accomplishments are familiar to the residents in this area and have been listed in our local papers. So I need not list them here.

Vagnozzi has earned the esteem of our residents for his integrity and dedication. Now it's time for us to show our appreciation on a grander scale by voting for him in the primary August 6. It's an important date, for a win on this day will place him on the ballot on November 5.

We therefore need to vote in both elections in order to send him to Lansing as our state representative. This position would broaden his scope in promoting good legislation that would benefit the people of this district and state.

In these troubled times when the ordinary citizen has been gravely let down by many government officials and their cohorts in big business, we need to be extra careful for whom we vote to represent us. I firmly believe this is our significant opportunity to send Aldo Vagnozzi to Lansing, for he is a true representative for all the people.

Lydia Rizzo  
Farmington Hills

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