

CAMPAIGN CORNER

State Representative candidate Aldo Vagnozzi has won a second major endorsement from environmental organizations.

Clean Water Action announced this week that they have endorsed Vagnozzi in the Farmington-Farmington Hills 37th District because of his excellent environmental record as a public official and in his private actions.

Clean Water Action cited Vagnozzi's opposition to oil drilling in the Great Lakes and in the sand dunes, his support of continued efforts to clean up the lakes, his role in keeping oil drilling out of Farmington Hills, his work on the Rouge River clean up effort and the stream restoration in Woodcreek subdivision as reasons for his endorsement.

Earlier, the Sierra Club cited Vagnozzi's leadership in creating Woodland Hills as a pristine nature park in Farmington Hills as another reason for their endorsement.

In preparation for the upcoming election, the Michigan Association of Realtors RPAC Trust Company in addition to the Western-Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors have endorsed John

Akouri for the 37th State House of Representatives District.

An endorsement was based on recommendations made upon completion of extensive interview sessions with the candidates in which Akouri rated the highest.

"It's an honor to receive this endorsement from the Michigan Association of Realtors," Akouri said.

"I applaud the MAR commitment to property rights, needs of small business and issues affecting homeownership in the state."

The Detroit Regional Chamber Political Action Committee has endorsed Valerie Knol in her bid to become the next State Representative for Farmington/Farmington Hills 37th District.

The Detroit Regional Chamber PAC represents over 18,000 businesses in Southeast Michigan and is committed to powering the economy for Southeast Michigan.

The Chamber works to retain and attract business investment and jobs in regional Detroit, improve the economic vitality of the region and help member firms compete in local, national and

international markets. The Chamber believes Knol is the best qualified candidate in the 37th district to understand the concerns for the business community and what is important to the economic development of Michigan. "I am very grateful and honored to receive the endorsement of the Detroit Regional Chamber and look forward to working with them to enhance the overall appeal of the region for economic development and job creation," Knol stated.

Of the 53 candidates vying for District Court judgeships in Oakland County, the 50-member Public Advisory Committee on Judicial Candidates gave its highest rating to only ten. In the 47th District race, Paul J. Blizman and Jim Brown were given the top mark. Two others in the 47th District were rated "Well Qualified," while another three were rated "Qualified."

The criteria used to evaluate all candidates' qualifications include legal ability, experience, reputation and conduct, demeanor and temperament, professional ethics and participation in community and professional activities.

Additional details are available at www.occb.org.

Voter guides available locally, on-line

Voter Guides for the August Primary Election are available at all public libraries and city/township halls in Oakland County.

The Voter Guides were prepared by the League of Women Voters Oakland Area, a non-partisan political organization which neither supports nor

opposes any candidate for political office. Candidates for federal, state, county, and judicial offices plus ballot proposals are included in the guide.

The Voter Guide information is also being put online at www.dnet.org. All candidates on the ballot were given an opportunity to

respond to the same set of questions for use in the Voter Guides. The League of Women Voters encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government. For questions or information about the League, call the LVV Oakland Area office at (248) 647-1350.

Bates, Barnett appointed to SEMCOG councils

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates and council member Vicki Barnett have been appointed to leadership positions with the Southeast Michigan Council of Government advisory councils.

Bates has been appointed chair of the Transportation Advisory Council, which identifies regions to existing and future regional transporta-

tion issues including roads, transit, airports, rail, and traffic safety. The council also directs regional plans and policies, and recommends positions on state and federal legislative regulatory proposals.

Barnett has been appointed vice chair of the Community & Economic Development Advisory Council. This group identifies and responds to

regional housing land use, and community and economic development issues, including commercial revitalization, rehabilitation of older areas, development incentives, and affordable housing. It also advises SEMCOG's executive director on matters related to the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce's Business Attraction Council.

OCC Board of Trustees elects new officers

The Oakland Community College Board of Trustees chose new officers at its organizational meeting July 15. They are Janice Simmons, chair; John Wangler, vice chair; and Anne Scott, secretary. Their terms run until July 2004, approximately three weeks after the

next board election. Just before the officer vote new trustee Phillip Abraham was sworn into office by retired Circuit Judge Francis X. O'Brien. Re-elected incumbent Sandra Ritter had taken the oath of office earlier, on June 28.

The Oakland Community College District encompasses a 900-square mile area, its borders generally coinciding with the boundaries of Oakland County. OCC is the largest community college in Michigan, and the 14th largest in the nation.

Prop. 2 would increase park funds

Michigan voters may decide the fate of the state's most popular environmental program with their vote on Proposal 2 on the Aug. 6 primary ballot.

If Proposal 2 fails, supporters say local governments could face an estimated loss of \$16 million in grant funding annually from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. If Proposal 2 passes, the fund could gain more than \$500 million over the next 20 years with no tax increase.

In Wayne County, places like the Canton Recreational Center, Southgate Nature Center and the State Fairgrounds were funded by the trust fund.

Local units of government can apply for a three-to-one match in funding from the trust fund for acquiring or improving local parks, trails, nature

preserves or other recreational areas. Since 1978, Wayne County has received more than \$32.4 million from the trust fund.

"The trust fund has touched literally every county in the state of Michigan over the past 25 years," said Garret Johnson, director of government relations for the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. "The success or failure of Proposal 2 will greatly affect the ability of local communities to provide these recreational opportunities for its residents."

If it passes on Aug. 6, Proposal 2 would:

Allow certain permanent and endowment funds operated by the state, such as the Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Park Endowment Fund and the Veterans Trust Fund, to be invested as provided by law.

Increase the cap on the Natural Resources Trust Fund from \$400 million to \$500 million, and allow the continued annual expenditure of up to 33-1/3 percent of mineral royalties received by the Natural Resources Trust Fund on state and local outdoor recreation grants.

Allow interest and earnings, and not more than 50 percent of the money received by the State Park Endowment Fund to be annually spent for state park improvements.

Proposal 2 was placed on the Aug. 6 primary ballot by an overwhelming bipartisan vote by the Michigan Legislature earlier this year.

"We hope voters will remember that a 'yes' vote on Proposal 2 is a vote for Michigan's parks, lakes and wildlife," Johnson said.

Advertisement for Executive Education Centers in Plymouth and Macomb. Lists programs like MBA, MSIG, MSIS, BSIT, and contact information for Macomb and Michigan Manufacturing Technology Centers.

Advertisement for A-Great Summer Event at Groveland Oaks County Park. Features 5th Annual REMAX Hot Air Balloon Rally, tethered rides, and hot air balloons. Includes a map and contact info for Denise Felker.

Advertisement for Farmington Observer story ideas via email at jhubred@oe.homecomm.net.

Advertisement for LENNOX CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING. Offers free estimates, 28,000 toys, dolls & activities, and includes kid favorites like LEGO, Thomas, Play-Doh, & more!

Advertisement for 50th Anniversary CHIMNEYS and ROOFS. Services include cleaning, screening, repairing, and roof replacement. Contact Kenney Denhart's CROWN CONTRACTING.

Advertisement for LAZARE'S FURS. Features a 50% OFF fur sale on August 5th. Includes contact info and store hours.

Advertisement for University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center. Offers diagnostic evaluations and consultations for autistic spectrum disorders.

Advertisement for AMERICAN HOUSE SENIOR LIVING RESIDENCES. Offers independent villas with 1-2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Includes floor plan and contact info for Birmingham, The Village, Farmington Hills, and Oakland.