

Moran begins Lake commissioner service

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Anyone who talks with Judy Moran lately can see how excited she is to begin serving as a Lake County commissioner.

Moran, a Willowick Democrat, joins fellow Democrats Robert E. Aufuldish of Wickliffe and Daniel P. Troy of Willowick on the three-member county board.

She replaces former Commissioner Raymond E. Sines, a Perry Village Republican who did not seek re-election.

After starting a four-year term Jan. 2, Moran will attend her first meeting as a commissioner today.

Moran is the first woman Democrat to serve as a Lake County commissioner and the second woman elected to the position.

"I think it's a huge milestone," she said. "I think it's a new era for Lake County."

Moran is no stranger to serving the public as she previously was elected as Willowick City Council president for eight years and prior to that was Willowick Ward 1 councilwoman for seven years.

She also had run for commissioner in 2008, narrowly losing to Sines before trying again last year and winning Nov. 6 against Willoughby Hills Councilman at large David M. Fiebig.

Moran, 53, has lived in Willowick since she was 5, and attributes her involvement in the community and accessibility as major parts of her success.

She said becoming a commissioner is quite personal to her especially because her parents emigrated from Germany years ago when there was no work there.

"I feel that I've come very far. I started out in school, I worked a regular job and then had my doughnut shop for almost 25 years," Moran said.

Operating Dandy Donuts, helped her get to know many members of the community.



Jeff Forman/JForman@News-Herald.com

Newly-elected Lake County Commissioner Judy Moran gives a treat to her daughter's horse Gambler during a visit Tuesday to the horse barn at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

"That is where I expanded my resident base," Moran said. "All kinds of people would come in to get their stuff and we would chat. It was word of mouth and if you're a nice person that carries and I think that means a lot."

Eventually her husband Dale, to whom she's been married for 26 years, suggested she run for Willowick City Council. She's been an elected official ever since.

The couple have a daughter, Alyssa, 19, who loves horses and has an Equine Entrepreneurship at Lake Erie College in Painesville.

With that, the Moran family spends a lot of time at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Painesville Township where their horses are stabled.

Moran would like to help attract more activity to the fairgrounds.

"We want to bring a positive light to the fairgrounds and the things that can

Video online

Judy Moran discusses her goals for Lake County



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happen here," Moran said. "I'm kind of thinking it is an under utilized property."

Now that she has started to get to work at her new job, Moran said an immediate goal for the commissioners is to put an annual budget together.

One of her long-term goals is to conduct a comprehensive facilities study.

"The county owns a lot of buildings and if we can shuffle their uses around, instead of playing catch up with repairs and bandaging things, I'd like to make a plan for 10 years down the road,"

Moran said.

Although the Board of Commissioners now consists of three Democrats, she plans to receive input from Republicans.

"There are plenty of Republican mayors, council people and some of our county office holders are Republicans and will want to have their say," Moran said.

"You have to let people have their say. A lot of times, a lot of good ideas are there and just because you didn't think of it doesn't mean it's not a good idea. I'll listen to anyone who will help bring a sense of prosperity to Lake County."

Moran added that she plans to remain accessible to the public because she works for county taxpayers who are her boss.

"I want to bring a fresh perspective and energy to this county," she said.