

# Farmington Observer

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## Hopefuls seek to move away from pack

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

By the close of a recent candidates' night, differences had emerged between the 15th District senate hopefuls who gathered as guests of the Jewish Labor Committee at the Southfield Civic Center.

Republicans John Anderson, S. James Clarkson, David Pickering and Markus Simon, and Democrats Alan Feuer and Philip Marcuse were allotted seven minutes apiece to sell themselves to approximately 50 people in attendance.

Democratic state senators Dana Wilson and Jack Faxon sent spokespersons while the remaining candidates were Democrats Jacki Kaye Work and Dan

Reedy, and Republican Richard Corey, were absent.

**THE ANTI-MICHIGAN** mentality circulating on bumperstickers that pleads: "Will the last one out of Michigan please turn out the lights," prompted Anderson to enter the race.

"I can't sit still with the way things are going in Michigan right now," said the 31-year-old attorney.

"More voters are beginning to realize Michigan faces some very serious challenges, and people are asking themselves, 'what's being done about it in the Legislature?'"

Anderson wonders how many legislators still see Michigan as the great industrial state it was in the 1960s and says "such a mind set is the worst ene-

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my of the state."

"Michigan is spending money like a drunken sailor. We have to make an extra effort to live within our means and we must provide jobs by encouraging business development," added Anderson.

Marcuse, chairman of Huntington Woods traffic control committee, countered, "people are leaving the state. Fine, let them go. A shrinking population isn't going to hurt us."

"Employment in large factories isn't the wave of the future. What works best is making it comfortable for small

and medium-sized businesses to exist."

A law student, who clerks for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John N. O'Brien, Marcuse added, "If the President — I forgot his name — gets his act together, the economy will improve and issues will change. Think of me as a legislator who can get things done."

Simon, 73 and an unsuccessful candidate for state senate in 1978, lambasted the legislature and differed with Anderson claiming, "Michigan doesn't spend money like a drunken sailor. A drunken sailor spends money he has

earned. Michigan is spending money it doesn't have."

The state's ills are due to an absence of intelligence in planning and the fact that "it's politics as usual in Lansing," the Southfield attorney charged.

**MISSPENDING** BY Michigan legislators stuns Feuer, former executive director of Michigan Common Cause.

"The legislature has failed to make even a philosophical fight on what you spend money for. At a time when the closing of Clinton Valley Mental Health Center is being strongly considered, we still fund Pontiac Stadium."

"We have an absurd transportation policy. According to the formula, 65 percent of our state funds is spent on repairs, and 35 percent on new con-

struction. We should fix our present crises before building new ones," said Feuer.

Michigan has natural advantages it hasn't capitalized on, he added. A skilled automotive work force easily could make the changeover to agricultural manufacturing while Michigan's fresh water supply represents a great untapped resource.

In a telephone interview, Corey echoed Marcuse in charging that Faxon and Wilson "are the architects of today's problems," as well as opportunists who changed districts rather than fight it out on their own turf.

"The same people go to Lansing and for 30 years have hurt this state," said

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## Festival bash draws crowd in thousands

By Craig Plochura  
staff writer

All the world loves a parade and it appears that all of Farmington and Farmington Hills loves a Founder's Day Festival.

In its 18th year, the event drew thousands of people Thursday through Sunday to downtown Farmington, as well as areas such as the Murwood Center at Grand River and Drake and the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The weather cooperated during most of the festivities including Tuesday when skies threatened but did not pour on the immensely popular Kid's Day events at Farmington City Park.

For some, the festival meant food. Nachos. French fries. Barbecue beef sandwiches for a buck sold by the Sweet Adelines singing club.

Chicken dinners — 750 birds to be exact — cooked over 1,500 pounds of charcoal, served with 560 pounds of cole slaw and 1,192 ears of sweet corn by the Farmington Area Jaycees, according to Mike Albrecht, club secretary.

For most groups, the profits of the festival would be plowed into charity work or to fund activities.

Proceeds from the Sweet Adelines booth will go toward buying cherry red outfits with sequin trim to be worn in international singing competition Oct. 6 in Minneapolis.

"We have 99 members in our chapter and about 89 performing in competition," said Virginia Colbeck of Allen Park. "We're going to sing 'Showboat,' and 'Who'll Take Our Place When We're Gone?' — that's a ballad, a real tearjerker."

For others, the festival means business.

Gerald Wingerter of Farmington was standing next to a 16-foot satellite television dish antenna that was receiving ESPN, a 24-hour sports channel. Because the outfit sells for \$6,500, Wingerter was looking for owners of bars and apartment complexes as potential customers.

"A lot of what we're trying to do is consumer education about satellite TV," Wingerter says. "If we go and talk to somebody and say that we can offer them cable TV to their apartment tenants, they recognize that but they're not educated to know what satellite TV is."

Colleen Frey, 18, a sales clerk at Maple Village Pharmacy, said inflat-

able rafts were selling well in sidewalk sales, but Pac-Man caps weren't moving as well as expected.

Twenty-five-cent slices of Papa Romano's pizza were going at a fast clip in Murwood Center, said Ron Hancock. "I'm Papa Romano" — owner of the pizza chain.

Almost all local businesses got into the swing of sidewalk sales. Even Real Estate One had a table outside in hopes of encouraging festival-goers to buy a home in the Farmington area.

"Anybody from out-of-town couldn't come at a better time to see the activities and offerings in Farmington," said Margaret Hedberg, of Farmington, real estate agent at Real Estate One.

**BOOTHS OF EVERY** imaginable type were represented at the festival. There were the political booths, such as one manned by state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton and another staffed by a group called Mothers Against Drunk Drivers.

One of the most popular booths among young men whose hearts had turned to fancy, was the kissing booth sponsored by the junior class of Farmington High School. Kisses, more appropriately a polite peck, cost a quarter each.

Greg Krench, a 1982 graduate of the school, wasn't satisfied with the kiss he got for his first quarter and his friends, who were watching, yelled: "You call that a kiss?"

Kisser Kim Noles told him if he wanted another kiss, he'd better pay another quarter. There were no returns or refunds for unsatisfied customers.

Krench picked up and tried to sneak in a hug but Noles broke away clean.

"It was fair," Krench said, when asked to give his consumer opinion.

"The second one was better than the first. It was longer."

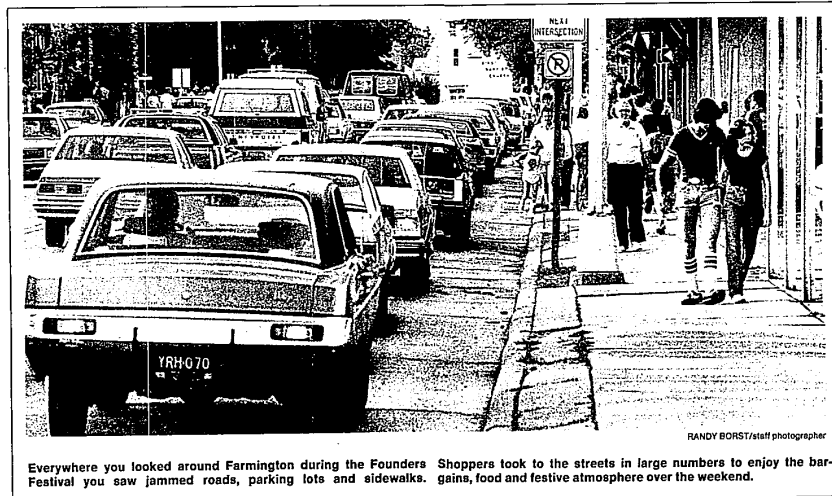
**BOYS WERE** in the booth for girls to kiss for a quarter, too, but found few takers.

"Girls in Farmington are too shy," said Tim Carruthers, male kisser in the booth. "They look over and point and then giggle."

There was a bike auction with Sgt. Gary Goss serving as auctioneer. Despite his derogatory remarks about much of the merchandise, auction patrons paid top dollar for abandoned bikes.

"Here's a girl's one-speed — slow,"

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Everywhere you looked around Farmington during the Founder's Festival you saw jammed roads, parking lots and sidewalks. Shoppers took to the streets in large numbers to enjoy the bargains, food and festive atmosphere over the weekend.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Just ask Florence May

### Driving can be a hassle at 97 years

By Craig Plochura  
staff writer

A 97-year-old Farmington Hills woman had her second accident in 60 years of driving Thursday morning when she lost control of her car on the gravel shoulder of Eight Mile Road and hit two trees and plowed through a wooden fence.

Florence May Ackerly, of the 21000 block of Goldsmith, says she was on her way to a supermarket when a car in front of her stopped suddenly. Because she was too close to stop in time, Ackerly said she decided to swerve to the shoulder of the road to avoid hitting the rear of the stopped car.

Farmington Hills Police Officer Tim Connor didn't issue her a ticket but his superior, Lt. Ernest Miller, said Ackerly will have to take a driving test at the Secretary of State office to evaluate her driving skills and reaction time before her license is given back.

"At my age, I'll admit I don't think that fast," Ackerly said Friday from her bed at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. She is being held for observation after suffering a bump on the forehead in the accident which occurred at 9:50 a.m. Thursday.

"When I struck the gravel, the car

took off and I lost control," Ackerly said, recounting the accident. "It's a wonder I wasn't killed. It's a miracle I didn't have something more serious happen to me."

**PARAMEDICS** from Am-Care Hospital Ackerly to the Providence Hospital Annex in Novi. She was transferred to St. Mary Hospital upon her request.

The day after the accident, Ackerly reported that the swelling on the head was going down and she could see out of both her blackened eyes after being sight in one shortly after the accident.

But Ackerly was in fine spirits, saying in a strong voice that she wanted to "get the fences mended one of these days and get back to normal."

The fence that need mending and two trees that were hit are on the grounds of a home at 38095 Southfarm that backs up on Eight Mile, west of Halsted, across the street from Livonia's Greenmead historic site.

Ackerly says she rarely drives her car, a gray 1976 Ford Maverick, these days because of her advanced age. Driving trips are confined to occasional excursions to grocery stores in Farmington Hills and Novi, where Ackerly says she shops for essentials.



Paramedics Pete Rogers (left) and Bud Desgrandchamps rescue 97-year-old Florence May Ackerly after she knocked down a poplar tree with her car, plowed through a wooden fence and ended up against a second tree. Also giving aid is Farmington Hills police officer Tim Connor.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Lost diamond worth a bundle

If your youngster came home from Kid's Day festivities Tuesday holding a big diamond, don't assume it's junk jewelry obtained from a gumball machine.

A marquis-cut diamond, valued at \$12,000-\$15,000, fell from its ring setting Tuesday afternoon from the finger of Julie DuQuet of Novi in Farmington City Park, at Power and Shiawassee.

The diamond is just shy of two carats, said jeweler Allen R. DuQuet, whose wife, Julie, lost the gem. She apparently lost the diamond when she put her hand in her jean pocket, breaking

off the metal prong that secures the stone in its setting.

After searching the area repeatedly without success, DuQuet is offering the finder or holder a \$1,000 reward for its safe return.

The diamond was dropped near the softball diamond facing Shiawassee.

"She was walking with our two little girls near the softball diamond, near where they had the Moon Walk," DuQuet said.

The search for such a small item "is like trying to find a needle in a haystack," he said. "I've got to believe

that's where it still is."

The diamond, a wedding present, wasn't insured, according to employees of the jewelry store. DuQuet's wife is understandably upset about losing the valuable keepsake, and DuQuet is embarrassed about admitting that a ring he set broke.

"IT DOESN'T" do much for a jeweler's reputation," DuQuet said sheepishly, adding that no ring could have withstood a snag hard enough to snap off a metal prong.

The loss was reported to police at

3:31 p.m. by Julie DuQuet.

The jeweler is afraid that even if someone finds the diamond they might decide to pocket it or sell it, since the gem is worth far more than the reward being offered.

However, he's hoping an honest soul spots the diamond and returns it to its rightful owner recognizing the priceless sentimental value attached to it.

The DuQuets can be contacted through the Farmington Police Department or by phoning the jewelry store in Farmington.

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