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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

What do you know?: Farmington Public Schools will tap the collective minds of the community and business in the coming months. /3A

AAA's future is now: The new AAA office on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills is large and full of high-tech equipment. /3A

Nice going, Ernie: Honors are in store for Ernie Sauter, longtime member of the Farmington Library Board. /3A

STREET SCENE

Invasion: The H.O.R.D.E. is touring in the shadow of the acclaimed alternative festival Lollapalooza, but this festival has something more going for it. /8A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS



Under-retailed: Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer addressed local shopping center officials to gain their support for new retail operations in Detroit. /10A

Behind the Label: Meet LA-based designer Lane Davis whose classic silhouettes are available at Roz and Sherm. /10A

TASTE

It's a toss up: Toss up pasta salads and entrees for cool suppers on hot summer nights. /1B

Wine column: Chalk Hill Winery on California's North Coast produces flavor-dynamic wines. /1B

SPORTS

Softball king: The 1994 champion of the Founders Festival men's tournament was crowned Sunday at Pioneer Park. /1C

Diamond roundup: Some Farmington youth sandlot baseball teams are looking forward to post-season play. /1C

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Festival has a hit parade

Parade lovers, responding to sunny skies and the Farmington Founders Festival, turned out several thousand strong Saturday to take in the festival's big event.

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER



line their pockets.

Saturday's sunny skies were dotted by the many helium-filled yellow balloons that got away as the crowd and parade participants enjoyed temperatures in the low 80s, a nice change from last year's more typical July Saturday.

Carl Rosenblum, 19, had his lawn chair in place early. The lifelong Farmington Hills resident who attends Oakland Community College said that, after watching the parade all his life, he's learned how to beat the crowd.

"We just live upstairs," he said. "I like to get out here early."

And the parade's appeal transcended generations. Hills resident Donna Jensen said she and her husband have attended the last four and brought their son and daughter-in-law, who are visiting from Rochester, N.Y., to this year's event.

"We just like the whole weekend," Jensen said. "But we especially like seeing (flutist) Alexander Zonjic. And we got to see him for free."

There were some other freebies, including balloons. Al Lazar was helping his son Howard of The Gold Loft by cleaning and polishing rings for passers-by.

"We do it every year," he said. "And my price is right — free!"

There was no shortage of free campaign literature as candidates made the most of a captive audience. Candidates including state Rep. Jan Dolan (who rode in the parade) and her Republican primary challenger, Andrew Raczkowski; U.S. Senate hopeful Ronna Romney; 11th District con-



STAFF PHOTOS BY AISH HEALY

Clowns coming! One-year-old Maclin Malloy claps as the clowns pass by during the Founders Festival parade Saturday. Mother Linda Malloy seems a bit more composed.

gressional candidate Mike Breshgold; and Circuit Court candidates Marcia Ross, Alice Gilbert and Denise Langford Morris (who had the novel idea of handing out emery boards with her name) were among those praising the fest and handing out literature.

Langford Morris, who was appointed by Gov. John Engler two years ago, liked the festive atmosphere and friendly crowd at the parade.

"I've never run for anything before, so this is a new experience," said the 6th Circuit judge. "I really like getting out and talking to people."

This year's parade had traditional favorites like the Shriners, Farmington and Farmington Hills police, clowns, bands, a calliope, and fire trucks playing "dueling sirens."

Rotaford General Hospital's float was surrounded by a variety of animals from dogs (from the Kids Pet Show), to the Elks (Club), and even a Wolf (County Commissioner Donn).



Great view: Connie Riddle (left) and Eric Scott have a bird's-eye view of the parade.

Raczkowski: Voters tired of business as usual



Andrew Raczkowski

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Andrew Raczkowski is betting that voters in the 37th state House District are ready for a change, and anti-tax guru Richard Headlee and some other area Republicans say he's right. Raczkowski — pronounced Ratch-Koff-Ski — is counting on an aggressive door-to-door campaign, mailings and Headlee's endorsement to dethrone Rep. Jan Dolan, a veteran who has had little competition in recent primaries and general elections.

Raczkowski, 35, is trying to unseat Dolan, who is running for her fourth term in the district, which includes just Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Dolan's longevity in Lansing has made her part of the system, a system that gives too many rewards to legislators and sets them apart from their

STATE HOUSE

constituents, the challenger said.

"We haven't had a true fighter for our ideals," he said. "She spends little time in the district as far as office hours, and that's wrong."

Raczkowski, who was defeated as a write-in candidate for the Farmington Hills City Council in 1991, said he sees an electorate that is fed up with "business as usual."

Raczkowski, who owns his own marketing and printing business, is an Eastern Michigan University graduate, reserve army officer, and student at Detroit College of Law night school.

Dolan is part of a Legislature that has voted itself pay raises and a pension that kicks in after only five years in office, Raczkowski said. And the

incumbent has also used the franking privilege for \$25,000 a year, something Raczkowski said he would not do.

"Any mailings I send out will come out of my own pocket," he said. "That's a pledge."

Raczkowski said that although he supported Proposal A, which Michigan voters approved by a 2-1 margin, he opposes the way the Legislature and governor have made deals to alter it.

The Farmington Hills resident said the state could go further in cutting taxes, starting by cutting pensions and pay raises for the Legislature, and also would further trim a budget surplus that he said is about \$500 million.

See RACZKOWSKI, 4A

Cable tries to make cents out of new regulations

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Cable TV has a paper chase, except this is no fictional drama starring John Houseman.

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission is trying to get a grasp on the flurry of paperwork flying back and forth among itself, MetroVision and the Federal Communications Commission. SWOCC serves Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

At a July 12 meeting, SWOCC rejected the filing, pending further review, of a form by MetroVision concerning rates it charged customers from Sept. 1, 1993, to July 14.

There's inconsistency in how MetroVision is calculating equipment revenues, said SWOCC attorney Neil Lehto. It may result in a small refund to customers.

A MetroVision spokesman disagrees. "We don't think we're wrong," said Tom Bjorklund, MetroVision vice president, "but we'll be happy to send it back to you."

Possible refund at stake? Roughly 8 cents a

METROVISION

month per customer.

"The question is: How important is this in terms of dollars and cents?" Lehto said. "On a monthly basis, it's about \$2,500. On a yearly basis . . . it mounts up."

Nonetheless, if MetroVision erred, SWOCC has to act before Sept. 1. Otherwise, the chance to request a refund is lost.

SWOCC will wait and see how MetroVision calculates similar equipment revenues in yet another FCC form to be filed Aug. 18.

That form will explain why MetroVision raised rates 3.2 percent for broadcast and expanded service July 14. Subscribers will pay 34 cents (from \$10.45 to \$10.79) more for broadcast basic service and an additional 35 cents (from \$10.93 to \$11.28) for expanded basic service.

A similar FCC initiative last year to lower monthly cable bills resulted in MetroVision raising the broadcast basic rate from \$1 a year to \$10.62 a

month in September.

A MetroVision spokesman has said the increases are in line with a new FCC formula, which factors in the number of cable systems the franchisee operates and median household income in the community.

SWOCC will review MetroVision's explanation and decide whether to file a service rate complaint form with the FCC.

Rejection of MetroVision's form allows time to compare figures. Part of the problem is MetroVision waited until the last minute to provide information, Lehto said.

"We did not get this information until 3 o'clock in the afternoon," Lehto said. "We said more than 10 days ago that this information was important and that they said they had the information 10 days ago."

"It was their choice to put the pressure on and not deliver this until yesterday afternoon."

Said Bjorklund: "You asked that the information be delivered in a week to 10 days. I think if you add it up, it was eight days."