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Farmington Observer

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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Windfall coming?: Farmington and other area school districts could be in for some big refunds if an arbiter's recommendation is followed. /5A

Opinions, please: Farmington's Downtown Development Authority is surveying Observer readers to see what kind of new businesses they'd like to see in town. /10A

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Pocahontas provisions: Every-where you shop these days, she's staring at you from those big brown animated eyes . . . Your kids find Pocahontas playthings irresistible, but what about your pocketbook? /8A

Crafty Ideas: Following a Southern trend to year-round craft malls, local entrepreneurs are opening marketplaces filled with the handiwork of area artisans. /8A

TASTE

Wine Bar: Apollo Wine Bar and Trattoria in Paw Paw is the Michigan wine industry's newest innovation. /1B

June gobbler: Salads with grilled turkey, fresh fruits and vegetables are sure to please on hot summer nights. /1B

SPORTS

Diamond dandles: League champion Harrison High put two players on the All-Area baseball team. /1C

Crazy George: Basketball wizard George Schauer makes a stop at an area youth basketball camp. /1C



Observer carriers collect the last week of the month for that current month. A good portion of the carrier's profit comes from their collections.

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Sowerby has pals in high places



Paul Sowerby seems to be flying high in his bid to be Farmington Hills' first directly-elected mayor. Republican Congressman Joe Knollenberg has endorsed Sowerby for the non-partisan position.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

With one opponent pulling out of the race and the ringing endorsement of a popular congressman, Farmington Hills mayoral candidate Paul Sowerby's campaign is prospering. The Farmington Hills attorney has

pulled in kudos from the likes of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and has county commissioner Donn Wolf running his campaign. But the endorsement of Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, is a big lift.

"He endorsed me back in January," Sowerby said. "It's an important election. I'm going door-to-door, and I've gotten a lot of support."

The endorsement by Knollenberg was unusual in that the congressman has not endorsed in city council races in the past.

"I don't get into council races as a rule, because there are more candidates and many local issues," the second-term congressman said. "But in some selected mayoral races, I will

make an endorsement when I think it's justified."

Knollenberg said he was also endorsing Jack Kirksey in the Livonia mayor's race.

"Frankly, I believe Paul represents the kind of person we need as a mayor," he said. "Although I don't always endorse, it doesn't mean I won't endorse in some race across the district."

See SOWERBY, 6A

It's a big day for the Farmington Area YMCA



TOM HAWLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lots to look at: Plans for a renovated YMCA attract (from left) Russ Reynolds; his wife Betty, who takes Y memberships; and Ruthanne Beyea, receptionist at the Y.

Ground broken for YMCA expansion

BY ALKEN WINGBLAD
STAFF WRITER

It's official. The \$1.6 million expansion for the Farmington Area YMCA is underway following last Wednesday's groundbreaking ceremony at the facility located on Farmington Road and New Market Street.

Dozens of community leaders — including Farmington Hills Mayor

Joanne Smith and Farmington Mayor Arnold Campbell — turned out for the afternoon ceremony, which also commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Farmington Area YMCA.

After jokingly asking if a building permit was on hand, YMCA Board Chairman Gary Jonna, a Farmington Hills developer, turned over a small mound of sand to launch the

official groundbreaking.

Sharing the honors with Jonna, along with the two local mayors, were YMCA board member Daniel Jakson, Oakland Community College Vice Chancellor of Development and Planning and YMCA Board Member Bob Densmore, who co-chaired the project's capital campaign.

"The community has changed

and grown," said Jonna. "To keep pace with the community, we had to change and grow. This is not a project of want, it is a project of need."

"As we serve those people that really need it — teenagers, the physically challenged, seniors and children — we will see our dream has really crystallized."

See YMCA, 4A

Recycling business rakes in the refuge

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

If you drive down any street in Farmington or Farmington Hills on the right day of the week, you'll see those chartreuse plastic bins that have changed the way we look at garbage.

That's because an increasing amount of what we once threw away is no longer garbage, but potentially

a ready source of energy and raw material.

If you live in Farmington, Farmington Hills or any of the other communities in the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility in Southfield is where your newspaper, cans and bottles are going.

See RECYCLING, 2A



JOHN STORMELAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President speaks

Success: Erica Vincent speaks during commencement June 6 at Crisler Arena. Vincent, one of a class of 254, "gave them some words to encourage them and challenge them in the future," according to North Farmington principal Deborah Clarke. Please see page 3A.

Let's talk business

Give them the business . . . or share your opinions on new businesses in downtown Farmington, anyway.

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority has a simple question for Observer readers: What types of new businesses would you like to see in downtown Farmington?

To participate in this survey, readers should fill out the coupon found on page 10A of today's Observer, clip and mail it to the DDA at the address indicated.

"This will be an important guideline for us," said Judy Downey, DDA director. "It'll help us decide what kinds of businesses to recruit."

The DDA will discuss the responses at an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 11,

FARMINGTON FOCUS

the city council chamber of the Farmington City Hall, Liberty and Grand River. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, call the DDA at 473-7278.

Any nice Hills vistas?

Members of the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission are out and about and on the lookout for well-maintained shopping centers, entrances to subdivisions, apartments and condos, and industrial buildings in the city.

There are 1996 Beautification Awards to be given out.

The commissioners are looking for attractive landscapes. They will make several visits over the next two months. Attention to maintenance is a key concern.

Hills residents who think their property is worth a look by the commissioners should call the city Planning Office at 473-9543. A request does not guarantee recognition by the commission. However, commissioners will respond to requests.

An expanded awards breakfast is planned for Nov. 2 at the Farmington Hills Activities Center. In the past, more than 100 plaques and certificates have been presented annually.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335.