

# Farmington Observer

VOLUME 109 NUMBER 82

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1998 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 106 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER  
**TODAY**

**A day for kids:** *The Farmington Founders Festival is in full swing. As in past festivals, Farmington's Shiawassee Park was given over to kids and their pets at Kid's Day last Tuesday.* /B9

**OPINION**

**What a race!** *That Republican State House primary features four strong candidates. Who will win is anybody's guess.* /A8

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Art Fairs:** *Three fairs in one, the Ann Arbor Art Fairs showcase a number of local artists including Maureen Voorheis, a West Bloomfield sculptor.* /B1

**Fine arts and Crafts:** *Weaver Sue Walton of Bloomfield Hills is one of 115 artists in "Art at the Pavilion" July 19-21, Southfield Civic Center Pavilion.* /B1

**SPECIAL SECTION**

**Suburban sidewalks:** *West Bloomfield is hosting a sidewalk sale. Read all about it in the special supplement in the inserts of today's Farmington Observer.*

**INDEX**

A&E	B1-5	Obituaries	A4
At Home	Section D	Opinion	A5-9
Cable Connection	C9	Police & fire	A6
Comm. Life	A11-13	Real estate	Section E
Employment	G8	Recreation News	C9
Movies	B6	Sports	C1-6

## Millage benefits kick in



BY TOM DAER  
STAFF WRITER

You gave us the money. Now see how we're spending it. That was the message that Farmington Hills police and fire officials delivered to residents — especially those who voted for a public safety millage last year — during a ceremony and program in (and near)

Remember that public safety millage? Hills voters passed it by a wide margin last November. Now police and fire officials are showing residents what they're doing with the additional money.

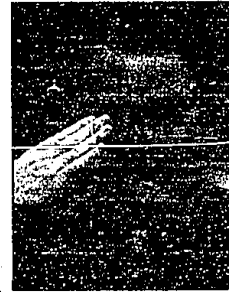
City Hall Monday morning. In the city council chamber, nine new police officers were handed their badges and officially sworn in before a large audience of relatives, friends and city officials. "This represents the largest single new hiring in the department's history," said Police Chief Bill Dwyer, whose 111-member operation serves

and protects the largest city in Oakland County.

Two Oakland County cities — Southfield (166 members) and Troy (137) — have larger police departments, according to Dwyer.

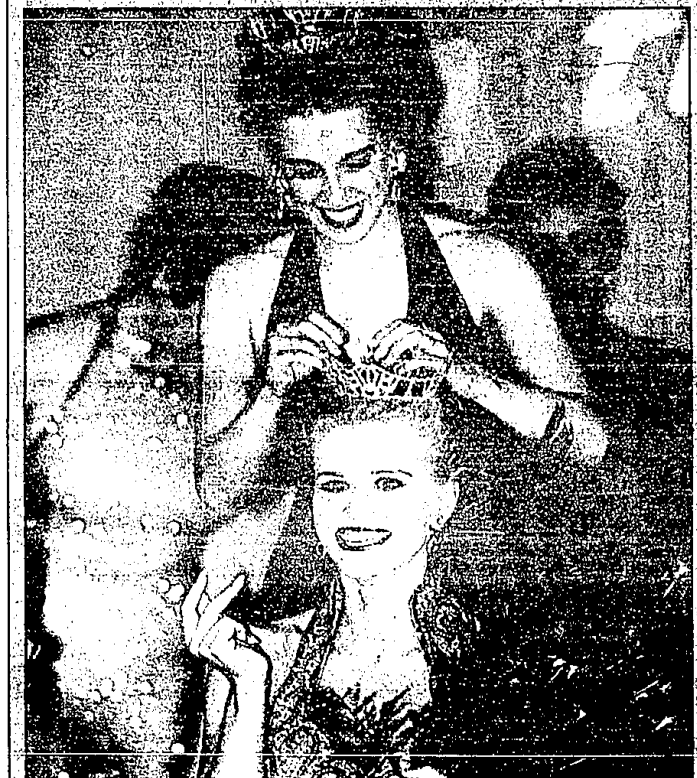
In addition, two current Hills officers were promoted to sergeant, and a police cadet was introduced. Later that morning, the Hills Fire Department deliberately burned two abandoned (but furnished) houses just south of City Hall on the site of the future Central Fire Station, also made possible by the passage of the

See CEREMONY, A3



Hills Officer Brian Bastianelli salutes

## Here she is — the new Miss Farmington!



Crowning glory: Audri Chernaukas crowns 20-year-old Annette Hohl, the new Miss Farmington / Farmington Hills, during the annual Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant last night at Vladimir's banquet hall. For a story and more photos of the pageant, see the Community Life section of next Thursday's Observer.

## Condo plan has residents concerned

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Residents near a proposed condominium development on Freedom Road had ducks, frogs and trees on their minds.

Farmington Planning Commission members were concerned with site plans and zoning changes. The developer just wanted approval. Two out of three: left Monday's Planning Commission meeting satisfied.

Planning Commission OK'd the zoning change from RD1 to RD and approved the site plan. The zoning change makes the site conform with Farmington Hills, where the 16 to 17 units will be located.

Hills Planning Commission has already approved the site plan. The developer, Southfield-based Sam Yaldo, will appear before Hills City Council seeking its approval July 16.

Nearly residents are not happy with the proposed development, which calls for 32 single family detached condominiums.

People representing Heritage Village, Green Briar and Chatham Hills associations contend the building site will wreak havoc with the natural setting, which includes wetlands and a wooded area.

They spoke out during a public hearing.

"Sitting from my back porch I hear a lot of negatives until I'm enlightened otherwise," said Jim Venetis, who lives on Smithfield Street.

Added another Chatham Hills subdivision resident Gene Sutton, "It sure doesn't fit the type of house and lots in Chatham Hills. I don't care for it myself. It's a wilderness and a commons area.

Great pains have been taken to preserve the natural setting, said Yaldo.

See CONDO, A3

## New cars give mall 'feeling of prosperity'

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Uptown Farmington Plaza merchants to Duseau Lincoln-Mercury: Park it here, pal.

Several Uptown business owners spoke in favor of continuing to let the longtime Farmington car dealer park vehicle in their lot. Farmington Planning Commission agreed and granted an exception use permit for one year at Monday's meeting.

Since May, Duseau has parked 30 vehicles in the lot across from its Grand River dealership on a trial basis. No one has objected within the center, said Seymour Serling of Ludwig and Karas Inc., which owns the Uptown Plaza.

"I love seeing those cars there," said Dr. John Richardson, who owns Plaza Veterinary Clinic. "It kind of gives the area a feeling of prosperity."

Added Charles DuQuet of DuQuet Jewelers: "If it helps Bob Duseau and his business does well, our business does well."

The space is needed to handle excess inventory brought on by leasing, Sales Manager Frank Buban said.

Duseau has no room to expand at its current spot, but has resisted offers to move.

"So far, business here has been very good to us," Buban said. "All we're trying to do is keep a Lincoln-Mercury dealership in Farmington."

Planning commission's approval to the parking permit came with conditions:

- No sales can take place.
- No vehicle maintenance be allowed on the premises.
- No vehicle advertising.

Planning commission will review the arrangement after one year. Commission members pondered extending the permit to three or four years, but the city attorney urged a wait-and-see approach.

"One has to look at this as a temporary problem and it should be dealt with as a temporary problem," Attorney John Donohue said.

## He vows tight rein on finances

BY WILLIAM COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

County government can't do it all, but it has an important role in giving services federal, state and local governments can't deliver.

That's why former Farmington Hills Mayor Donn Wolf wants another term on the Oakland County Commission. Wolf, 61, is a 20-year Hills resident who has prided himself on fighting tax increases.

## COUNTY COMMISSION RACE

Wolf is running in the Republican primary against JoAnne F. Molin in the 19th District. He is in his fourth term.

Like many local officials, Wolf said he will continue to push for a better return on the Oakland County tax dollar.

"We're 78th (out of 84 counties) in the return on our tax dollar," he said.

Wolf said that it is tough to swallow for a county that has made serious cuts in its work force and made operational efficiencies.

See WOLF, A2



Donn Wolf

### Artwork on display

Maybe you noticed them as you drove or walked past the Farmington Historical Museum on Grand River Avenue last week.

Some 12 artists were asked to paint or draw the historic Warner home, which now serves as a museum, and its surroundings. "They were working with different mediums and from different perspectives," said Dick Carvell, museum director. "We at the museum convinced them that we would like to see how they saw the museum."

Their renderings will be on display 1-8 p.m. Friday, July 12, and from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at the museum, 33805 Grand River, northwest of downtown.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### BINGO! for music

A Bingo fund raiser for the Farmington High School Music Department will be part of the Farmington Founders Festival.

Sponsored by Colonial Car Wash, the event will take place 6-10 p.m. Thursday, July 11, 5-11 p.m. Friday, July 12, and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 13, in a large tent next to MetroBank on Grand River.

Winners will keep 60 percent of the take in each game. The remainder will go to the FHS Music Department.

### College wants teachers

William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills is looking for "committed evangelical Christians" with master's degrees to teach Spanish and African American literature this fall.

Anyone interested should send resumes to: William Tyndale College, 35700 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48331, or fax them to 563-5963.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the college at 563-7200.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address: packy@oconline.com.