

Farmington Observer

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Finals: *The Farmington Founders Festival is over for another year — its 32nd. Some final facts and photos are offered.* /A3

It's about integrity: *Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer formally questions the integrity of an Oakland County judge who took the word of a convicted drug dealer over that of one of his own officers.* /A5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Let the music play: *An Oakland County community's fourth annual Jazzfest offers a heavy-hitting lineup of Detroit-area jazz all-stars.* /1B

SPORTS

Road race winners: *Rich Stark and Patricia Bagley were the men's and women's winners Saturday in the Farmington Founders Festival Road Race.* /1C

High-speed challenge: *Rob Dabrowski of Farmington Hills will be one of the speedboat drivers Sunday in the 79th Annual Sylvan Lake Regatta.* /1C

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They're ragging on Andy



Andrew Raczkowski, called by some the front-runner in the four-way Republican State House race, has drawn fire from some of the other candidates for his tactics in a past election.

BY WILLIAM COYBART
STAFF WRITER

The campaign for state representative is getting intense — and a little bit nasty — according to some Republican candidates.

Andrew Raczkowski called charges that he misrepresented him-

self five years ago "a desperate attempt to get at me because I am the front runner."

But that charge and concerns by other candidates trying to succeed Jan Dolan as 37th District representative came to the surface over the weekend.

Cathleen Webb, Terry Sever and Linda Jolicœur are also running for Dolan's seat.

Webb said Raczkowski's style this year and five years ago, when he campaigned for John Pappageorge in his bid for Congress, are an indication of the type of representative he would be.

"He misrepresented himself," she said of an incident in which Raczkowski represented himself as a member of the Bush-for-President campaign in order to get detailed personal and financial information

HOUSE RACE

about Pappageorge's primary opponent.

Raczkowski, 28, said at age 23 he made the mistake of letting "the end justify the means," adding that he worked again for Pappageorge two years ago.

"It's sad that she has to use something I did five years ago, when I was a young man, against me," he

See RACE, A2

A stroll leads to the Ox roast



STAFF PHOTO BY SIBBON LESTER

A festival favorite: Terri Haas (left) and Lauren Sanko seem to be enjoying the Farmington Elks Ox Roast Saturday, the last such event to be held at that location. The event is part of the annual Founders Festival. They walked there with their husbands, Ed Haas and Jim Sanko. In the photo below, Zachary Welti, 8, nibbles on an ear of corn.



Ox roast needs a new home

BY LAURIE HUMPHREY
STAFF WRITER

The exalted ruler of the Farmington Elks Club is disavowing rumors that this year's Farmington Hills Ox Roast was the last in Farmington Hills.

"It's just a matter of finding another location," said Stan Chavey, the Farmington Hills resident responding to concerns that because the group sold its building

at 23666 Orchard Lake Road, future Elk's Ox Roasts will be prohibited by the city. "That is not true," he said.

Rumors started two weeks ago that the city has prohibited the Elk's Club from hosting future ox roasts due to new ordinances. Because their former location was established in 1967, the gatherings fell under an earlier set of ordinances which were not as strict. With the move however, the group

and their ox roast would be subject to new, more strict rules, some said.

Chavey, leader of the group, is not sure who passed on the bogus information, but he is determined to ease those concerned saying, "this was only the last one to be held here."

The group packed up Sunday, just hours after the last day of this

See OX ROAST, A2

Truants will pay with a Saturday

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

David Simowski and Harold Makinen are so determined to get Clareneville High students to attend school that they're willing to give up Saturday mornings overseeing a new class for truants.

"We feel that it's worth it," said Makinen, assistant superintendent of Clareneville High. "We spend a lot of time anyway dealing with parents and kids on absences. This will put it in one time block."

Nine Saturday mornings each semester, Makinen and Simowski, Clareneville principal, will man a special "redemption" class at the school as part of a new attendance policy expected to be approved shortly by the district.

The Clareneville Board of Education aired the new policy in a June 28 special meeting and gave it first reading Thursday.

Under the policy, a student who slides along with a lot of excused absences will be penalized the same way a student would who accumulates a string of unexcused absences.

A loss-of-credit penalty kicks in after 10 absences of either kind in one class. But students may redeem themselves, or earn back their credits, by doing school work in a special class at the high school on Saturday mornings.

"Saturday is a difficult time for them to come to school, but there's really no good time, not even after school," said Tom Tattan, Clareneville's new superintendent who attended his first board meeting Thursday. "If they don't want to attend school on Saturday, then they shouldn't miss class."

The policy tackles excessive excused and unexcused absences, two problems bedeviling school administrators.

"Kids get very creative coming up with excused absences," Makinen said. "We believe school is like a job, and students need to be there. Parents are asking for this kind of support. Parents today can't make their kids do things."

Here are the highlights of the new policy:

- Parents will be notified in writing after the fourth absence.
- Parents will be notified in writing after the seventh absence, and the student's counselor will be

See TRUANTS, A3

Here's what school candidates spent

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Nothing says friendship to a school board candidate like penmanship on a personal check.

Fricilla Brouillette raised \$2,670, mostly from friends and acquaintances she's met at her children's schools and her church.

Even those who know Brouillette through women and book group s

he belongs to also chipped in to her successful run for the Farmington Board of Education, according to campaign expense reports filed at the Oakland County Elections office.

"It's overwhelming," said Brouillette, who was the top-vote getter in the June 10 school election.

Brouillette and incumbent Joe Svoka were sworn in at Tuesday's board of education meeting. Brouil-

lette spent \$3,300, Svoka \$1,149. "I was budget driven," said Svoka, who finished second with 893 votes.

"Part of that was for selfish reasons, but I also wanted to demonstrate to qualified people out there that you don't need \$5 or \$7,000 to run."

Unsuccessful candidates Ellen Buschard and Monica Schultz reported spending less than \$1,000,

and subsequently, were not required to file expense reports.

In hindsight, Brouillette admitted she didn't need to spend that much. Between her name recognition in the school community and her church, she cruised to an easy election victory with 42 percent of the vote.

"I was following an election (1995

See SPEND, A2

Election events listed

Farmington-area voters take note: Two meet-the-candidate forums are coming up this week.

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, the two Farmington Hills City Council candidates, Massie Kurzeja and Jerry Ellis, will participate in a debate at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The event is sponsored by the Farmington Area Democratic Club.

On the following Tuesday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m., the six candidates in the 37th District State House race — Republicans Terry Sever, Cathy Webb, Andrew Raczkowski and Linda Jolicœur, and Democrats Carl Christoph and Steve Dibert — will debate in a forum at the Farmington Hills City Hall. Sponsor is Oakland

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Area League of Women Voters.

The events are open to the public, and both are broadcast live on Channel 8 on Time Warner, the cable TV system for the Farmington area.

They will be rebroadcast several times before the election, a cable official said. The elections — the Democratic and GOP primaries and the Hills Council race — will be settled Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The band plays on

The Farmington Community Band, directed by R. Paul Barber, will continue its 30th season with a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 18, at Farmington Hills Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads.

For more information on the Community Band and its activities, call 465-3412.

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: pachy@oeonline.com.