

IN THE PAPER TODAY



Ageless Ability Award: At 77, Marianne Wildstrom helps Holocaust survivors through Jewish Family Services. The Farmington Hills woman was recently recognized for her work. Read her story in *Home-town Life*/C5

Letters...we get letters: Local elections have generated many opinions from our readers/A8-10

AT HOME

Winners: Turn to today's *At Home* section for a list of the 12 winners of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Fabulous Furniture 2001 holiday shopping spree*. /C1

Big and beautiful: Homeowners looking for a few good decorating ideas can see how designers have accented homes in Northville for a holiday home tour Nov. 9 and 10. /C1

INDEX

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Apartments/G4 | HomeTown |
| At Home/C1 | Life/C5 |
| Automotive/H1 | Jobs/G6 |
| Classified/E,F,G,H | Obituaries/A7 |
| Classified | Opinions/AB-9 |
| Index/G2 | Real Estate/E1 |
| Crossword/G3 | Service Guide/G10 |
| Entertainment/B1 | Sports/D1 |

Youth program figures add up



After-school program participation last week bore out numbers quoted by Mayor Nancy Bates. But potential donors are usually provided registration numbers, which are higher. Attendance figures are available, if they ask.

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oe.homecomm.net

Is the Farmington Hills Area Youth and Family Services program the pride of the community, or a costly baby-sitting service?

Mayor Nancy Bates is a strong backer of the middle school after-school program, called a national model by state

juvenile program officials. But mayoral challenger Ron Oliverio has repeatedly called for a program audit, to determine actual participation.

At an Oct. 3 candidates' forum at City Hall, Oliverio said he visited a program center and counted just 17 kids on site, even though a long list of kids were registered.

Is program participation misrepresented? Do participation numbers jus-

tify the level of money raised and spent from taxes and from private sources?

Or is the Hills-based program worthy of praise it received in July — as its successes were detailed before U.S. House and Senate committees in Washington, D.C.

While Program Director Todd Lipa touts registration figures to potential program contributors — who range from the city's general fund to businesses to parents — actual participation figures are also presented, in informational folders available to contributors, Lipa said.

Alice Toroyan, program coordinator, said not all who contribute are auto-

matically provided with information folders, as that would be costly.

"We don't have a year-end statement. We'll give them the information if they ask for it," Toroyan said.

"We always try to differentiate between the number of kids registered and the number of kids who actually attend. If the parent asks, I will do my best to give an accurate attendance at all the centers or whatever center they're asking about."

A check of attendance at all four program centers by the Farmington Observer over two days, Oct. 23 and

Please see **YOUTH, A3**

Halloween Hoopla



Not so scary: Six-year-old Luke Hyman, costumed as a New York City firefighter, grabs a sucker out of the mouth of a puppet in front of Daman Haraware during the Downtown Development Association's Halloween event, held Saturday. Hundreds of kids picked up treats at downtown stores and enjoyed free entertainment.

STAFF PHOTO BY EDUARDO CARDESA

Farmington Hills is alive... with beauty

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER
kbrown@oe.homecomm.net

Here's a hint — use lots of scarlet begonias if you want attention.

That tip was offered indirectly at the 16th Annual Farming-

WHO WON AWARDS? SEE PAGE A2.

ton Hills Beautification Awards, moved from the usual breakfast spot to an evening ceremony Oct. 25 at the Costick Activities Center.

"Every good event deserves a shot in the arm now and then," explained Jan Hunt, chairwoman of the beautification commis-

sion. Organizers said the time change paid off in boosting attendance, to around 200.

The event is geared to recognize special efforts to create and maintain beautiful landscapes around the city. Nominations are sought in spring, sites are inspected throughout the growing season and awards are presented in fall.

City officials presented certificates, for outstanding sites, and letters, for sites maintained at a high level.

During a slide presentation of various award winners, Beautification Commissioner Carol Kurth told attendees, "Red begonias really show up." More slides revealed that creative contrasts in adjacent flower beds add beauty to boxy office buildings.



Office award: The Chamber of Commerce award presented by Carleigh Flaherty went to Dennis Yezbick, representing Arboretum Office Park.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRIDGER

WSU professor: Media sometimes overstates risk

BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER
Ashmore@oe.homecomm.net

A group of distinguished physicians, scientists and public health officials gathered to respond to the bioterrorism attacks on the United States after Sept. 11 and the growing concern among the general public.

"I'm concerned as an employee, as a Red Cross first aid instructor, and as a parent," said Daniel Turse Jr., one of a small audience of about 20 people gath-

ered to hear the panel.

"The risks to the general public have been sometimes overstated by the media," said Dr. Alain Couturier, assistant professor of family medicine at Wayne State University.

A climate of fear

"Whoever perpetrated this act knew what they were doing. They sent the letter to high-profile individuals and the media. It was like hitting the optic nerve of the country," said Jeffery Hobden, assist-

ant professor of immunology and microbiology at WSU.

"Had the letter gone to me, it wouldn't have received the magnitude of exposure."

"In terms of attacks, it was not really that effective as a physical attack, but it was enormously effective as a psychological attack," Hobden said. "It disrupted daily life."

"The public needs to realize the incidence of them being attacked is fairly remote," Hobden said. "These terrorists

were not out to generate civilian casualties, but to perpetrate terror."

Couturier said to date there have been 11 confirmed cases and three deaths as a part of the terror attacks.

"We have had no cases, but 97 hoaxes in the state of Michigan," said William Brown, professor of pathology at WSU. "No one had been infected in Michigan. There has been no anthrax isolated in Michigan."

Hobden said the risk of a tainted letter being sent to a residence was "slim to none."

Real risks

"We all need to gain perspective, said

Please see **BIOTERRORISM, A3**



SUNFIRE 1997
SE convertible, 36,000 miles.
Black, like new. \$10,995.

"I sold the car in two days in the OSE."

HomeTown CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

1-800-579-SELL