

FARMINGTON Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 115 years

THURSDAY
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Revvin' for kids

Dream Cruise isn't just for Adults. B1

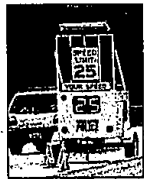


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Our Towns

Shiawassee speed

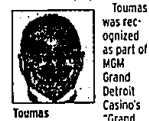
Motorists traveling down Shiawassee in Farmington this week got a look at the speed they were traveling, courtesy a speed trailer parked in front of Farmington High School.



The trailer uses radar technology to gauge and display the speed of on-coming traffic. Public Safety Director Gary Goss said his department regularly moves it around the city and chose Shiawassee as a way of reminding motorists that school will be starting soon. "It's a prelude to kids coming back to school to try to slow them down," Goss said, adding the trailer will also be placed along feeder streets like Brookdale and Power. In some cases, the department follows up five days of trailer posting with a period of selective enforcement, where officers patrol using radar equipment. "We've found since we've done that...it's really reduced the number of complaints," said Goss, who serves on the city's traffic board.

Celebrity honored

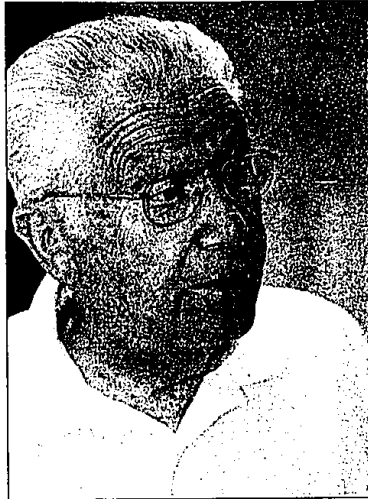
Weesam "Sammi" Toumas of Farmington Hills, Marketing Representative for MGM Grand Detroit Casino, has been named one of the casino's outstanding Cast Members (employees).



Toumas was recognized as part of MGM Grand Detroit Casino's "Grand Celebrity Award" program, designed to reward Cast Members for work achievements above and beyond the call of duty.

Toumas has proven herself as a role model for other Cast Members by performing exceptional acts of Grand Class Service, said casino officials.

Winners of the Grand Celebrity Award are the shining stars of MGM Grand Detroit Lasino, said Scott Snow, President and Chief Operating Officer, MGM Grand Detroit Casino. "They exemplify and convey our mission statement, core values and 'Grand Class Service' standards." Toumas is among six Cast Members honored each month and four management staff members honored each quarter as part of the "Grand Celebrity Award" program.



Aldo Vagnozzi's opponent didn't run a strong campaign. He'll face Valerie Knol in the November election.



Valerie Knol won the Republican primary race and faces veteran Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi in the fall campaign.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER / OBSERVER

Issues, weather drive turnout

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Pleasant weather, active campaigning and pocketbook-impacting issues on the ballots all helped encourage a 31 percent voter turnout in Farmington and Farmington Hills Tuesday, Aug. 6. Voters sent Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, and Republican Valerie Knol into the November race for the State House seat being vacated by term-limited Rep. Andrew Raczkowski. Raczkowski's sister-in-law Annette and Magistrate James

Brady will face off then for the 47th District Court Judgeship created by the retirement of Fred Harris. "I am humbled and overwhelmed at the strong show of support I received in the August 6 primary election," Vagnozzi said. "By giving me more votes than the three Republican candidates, the residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills have indicated that they have faith that I am the person to represent the two cities in Lansing."

PLEASE SEE TURNOUT, A7

PRIMARY RESULTS

Editor's note: Following are unofficial Farmington and Farmington Hills-only vote totals from selected races in Tuesday's primary election. Overall winners are identified in bold type.

FARMINGTON		Democratic Party	
Republican Party Congress (Optional)		37th district	
5th District		Aldo Vagnozzi	8,522
Joe Knollenberg	6,28	Charise L. Ivish	2,172
6,541			
Representative In State Legislature		Non-Partisan Judge of 47th District	
27th District			
Valerie Knol	3,473	Jim Yelso	1,548
Terry Sever	2,243	Paul J. Blizman	1,659
John Alvari	1,332	Jim Brady	5,163
		Barry Brackner	2,627
		Sidney Kraizman	282
		Larry Leib	2,017
		Kenneth T. Raczkowski	3,367

PLEASE SEE SEWER, A4

Local voters kept polls busy

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Hotly contested races brought voters to the polls Tuesday with the governor's race coming out on top in terms of interest at Precincts 2 and 6, located at the Farmington Training Center, and Precinct 1 at

Farmington City Hall. The Rev. Brian and Leah Brewer, Farmington residents, both cast their ballots for Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus. "I like his Christian values," Brian said. "I liked Engler's legacy," wife, Leah, said. "I hope he will continue on with it."

Ralph and Clester Lewis, along with Sylvia Tillman, all of Farmington, were steadfast supporters of former Gov. Jim Blanchard. They came together to vote. "Everything has to have a pinpoint and controls," said Ralph, who works as a

PLEASE SEE BUSY, A6

Third Hills bank robbed

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

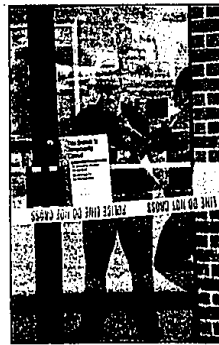
Farmington Hills Police believe a series of armed robberies in southeast Michigan, Ohio and Farmington Hills may have been committed by the same man.

At 10:28 a.m. Monday, Aug. 5, the Standard Federal Bank at Orchard Lake and 14-Mile Road became the third Hills bank to be robbed within the past month.

"We have some tips that came in overnight," said Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer. "We're working on this and working with the FBI."

Two banks in Monroe and a bank in Lima, which is in northwestern Ohio, may have been robbed by the same man who robbed the local bank, according to Dwyer. "In one of the bank robberies, the MO is the same. He goes in the bank, displays a weapon and orders the employees into the vault," he said.

Also, the clothing worn by the robber - coveralls and sunglasses - appears to be the same in all the robberies.



Bill Bresler/Observer

Late morning on Monday, Farmington Hills officers stand inside the lobby of the closed Standard Federal Bank, which had been robbed by an armed man earlier in the day.

PLEASE SEE ROBBED, A5

City posts 35 percent turnout

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Magistrate Jim Brady and attorney Annette Raczkowski were the two top vote-getters in the Farmington Primary Election Tuesday in the hotly contested 47th District Court race. Judge Fred Harris'

upcoming retirement creates an open seat.

Percentages are reflected in parentheses. Brady was the top vote-getter with 810 votes (36.9 percent), followed by Raczkowski with 454 votes (20.69); Larry Leib, 280 (12.76); Barry Brackner, 246 (11.21); Alan Vosko, 194 (8.84); Paul Blizman, 179

(8.15); Sidney Kraizman, 29 (1.32) and three write-in votes.

Farmington City Clerk Fatsy Cantrell said she was pleased with the voter turnout.

Of 7,206 registered voters, 2,551 voters (35.40 percent) cast ballots.

PLEASE SEE CITY, A6

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LOOKING AHEAD
Teen drinking
Sunday, The Observer talks with area teens about drinking and why they do it.

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Teen drinking
Sunday, The Observer talks with area teens about drinking and why they do it.

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