



Mike Tetrick of Farmington works on the 500-piece Jaws puzzle during the finals competition.

## Jigsaw

# Puzzle fans put it together at contest

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Amid thousands of pieces, dozens of contestants and 14 hours of piecing jigsaw puzzles, the first Puzzle Place Jigsaw Contest came to an exciting conclusion in the Farmington high gym at noon Sunday.

Michael Tetrick, 30, of Farmington, paced the singles competition, which involved putting together a 500-piece puzzle within three hours.

Financial analysis manager at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, Tetrick completed "Jaws II: The Revenge" in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 41 seconds to win the \$125 first prize.

Tetrick's winning time is national caliber, said Lou Bonamy, co-owner of the Puzzle Place in Farmington's Village Commons. The puzzle shop sponsored the weekend event.

In Saturday's qualifying round, Tetrick finished a 500-piece puzzle in 1 hour, 38 minutes, midway through the three-hour time limit.

Even though he has worked puzzles since age 5, Tetrick competed for the first time last weekend.

"I always knew I was fast," said Tetrick, who has a master of business administration degree from Northwestern University. "So when the competition came up, I thought it was a nice idea to enter just to see how fast I really was."

WHILE EXCITED about winning, Tetrick said puzzle competition is "a lot less relaxing than doing puzzles at home. You really have to keep plugging away. You can't get hung up on anything."

Coming up on his first wedding anniversary and busy around the house he bought 18 months ago, Tetrick now has time for only two puzzles a year.

The lure to puzzling, he said, is "the feeling of accomplishment — taking jumbled pieces, fitting them together and constructing something nice out of them."

Tammy Lee, 25, of Farmington Hills, finished runnerup, just four minutes and 59 seconds behind the

winning time. A supervising auditor at Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. in Novi, she won \$75.

Sally Herbol of Northville came in third, winning \$50. She had only 17 pieces to go when time was called.

THE DOUBLES competition was a different story.

Teams worked the 1,000-piece Santa Fe Clay puzzle, featuring American Southwest earth-tone clay pottery. At the end of the same three-hour time limit, winners were determined by counting the number of unfitted pieces.

A husband and wife team, Linda and Ron Vedder of Farmington Hills, placed first, and won \$125 each, for assembling 677 pieces.

A brother and sister team, Kenneth and Sharon Kohl of Rochester, finished second. They each won \$75. Both couples practice regularly and have competed in national competition at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Third place, good for \$50 each, went to Nancy Przywara of Novi

and her partner, Rose Phelps of Livonia.

BUNNY ROSS, Puzzle Place co-owner, was delighted by the interest in the competition.

"If American Publishing continues to provide the puzzles, the competition will become an annual event," said co-owner Lou Bonamy.

Their shop staged the competition "to promote puzzle contests, which are gaining in popularity," Bonamy said.

Another incentive was cancellation of this year's nationals at Ohio University, host since 1982.

"It was a lot of work, but it also was a lot of fun. And all of the participants were very appreciative," Bonamy said.

The singles competition drew 40 contestants. Thirty teams entered the doubles competition. Contestants ranged in age from 11 to 65. They kept each puzzle they worked on during the three-day event, which began with a 1-hour warmup Friday night.



photos by THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Lynne Hinshon (left) of Farmington Hills and Madeline Tracht of Plymouth, doubles competition partners, put together the 1,000-piece Santa Fe Clay.

## Councilman leads drive to help community center

Continued from Page 1

with cash flow. She also requested the city council's moral support in working to keep the center an integral part of the Farmington-Farmington Hills community.

"It was at that meeting that Marks started soliciting financial or in-kind help for the center from builders and developers."

DOLAN SAID she has no doubts the executive board will accept Marks' pledges and the conditions he has placed on them.

"The money must be used only for capital improvements to the century-old facility and grounds. Another condition set by Marks is that 'this is a one-time only capital drive. I can't go back to the well again.'"

Marks, a builder, wants to be involved in the center's bid process for needed improvements, though he said he would not use his own contractors for the work. He also wants a financial report from the executive board when money is spent for improvements.

Marks also would like to erect plaques honoring the contributor's name on areas in the house and grounds that have been improved with the pledge money.

He also will suggest to the board that the center be renamed Community Center of Farmington Hills. Whether that particular name will be adopted is uncertain. But Dolan

said a name change will be considered.

Marks admits his idea for the capital fund drive is not original. But as mayor last year, he watched the center's executive board plan new directions for the future, particularly with programming and activities.

"I SUDDENLY got the feeling that with this new intent and new flavor of enthusiasm I was looking at that maybe the only way this thing was really going to get it off the ground was to put the facility in a position physically that would attract the kinds of activities they wanted and make it conducive for people to use," Marks said.

Dolan confirmed that safety improvements must be made. Accessibility for handicapped patrons is needed, as is improvements to the outdoor amphitheater. Improvements in the kitchen and additional restrooms also are needed. The third floor perhaps could be improved for safety and opened for use, Dolan said.

In order to attract residents and participants in programs and activities, the building must be improved. "This is what they need to make it a product they can sell. You got to shine up your car before you can sell it," Marks said.

In the past, capital improvements to the facility have been made piecemeal when absolutely necessary and when money was available, Dolan

said.

The pledges and cash are expected to take the pressure off the executive board when it comes to budgeting for programming, activities and the long-needed capital improvements, Marks said. Future fund-raisers can be targeted purely for operating expenses, he added.

Dolan supports the restrictions on pledges brought in by Marks as well as the intention to improve the facility. "It takes a lot of maintenance just to stay even," she said.

MARKS' ONE-MAN fund drive also takes the pressure off the Farmington Community Library and the city of Farmington Hills. If the community center fails financially, according to the facility's deed, it would first revert to the library. If library board members don't want it or can't afford it, it automatically goes to the city.

"We, the city of Farmington Hills, cannot fund that. You can't expect government to do everything," Marks said. "There has to be a catalyst to keep this thing going."

In fact, while Marks continues gathering pledges from major business in the Farmington area, he and Dolan hope his work serves as a catalyst for others to do the same.

"I hope it creates enough enthusiasm that someone else brings up private donations. It needs a lot of support from outside the board of directors," Marks said.

Britannica, sponsor of the program.

The public safety department is taking the safety theme one step further, by promoting it throughout the month. "We always have a safety awareness program before kids get out of school," said director of public safety, Frank Lauboff.

Scheduled programs include: • bicycle safety at Longacre Elementary Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Department of Public Safety open house Sunday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the station on Liberty Street.

• safety city in downtown Farmington Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• bicycle safety at Flanders Elementary Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Birthday event to stress safety

Birthday celebration for the city of Farmington will feature an annual flower sale and stress safety for children.

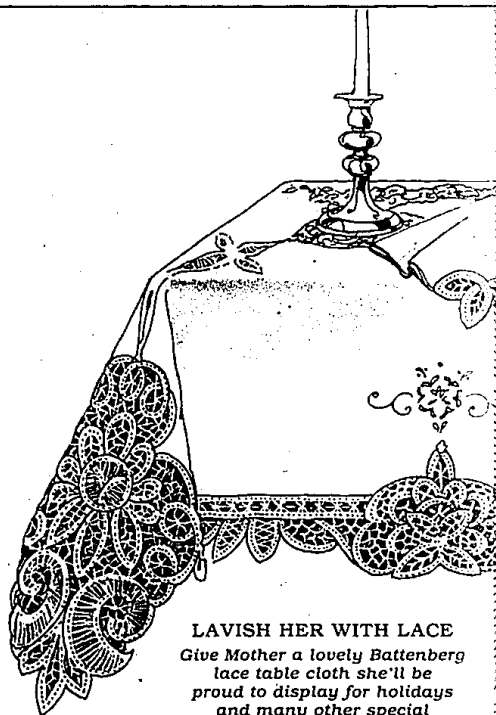
The Farmington Beautification Committee will hold its annual flower sale May 13-14, and the Downtown Farmington Business Association will feature "Safety City" for kids Saturday, May 14, in a joint celebration to be held in the downtown center.

Officers from the Farmington Department of Public Safety will also participate in the "Safety City" program. In addition, the public safety department is planning bicycle safety programs for Farmington elementary schools and a department open house during May.

"This is something we would like to do every year," DFBA president

A FIRE truck and police car will be on hand, as will clowns and refreshments, organizers said.

Each child going through the "Safety City" will receive a safety course certificate and be eligible for a national drawing for Encyclopedia



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