

## Festival thoughts

### Suggestions for future shindigs

**H**and out the bumper stickers and T-shirts — "I SURVIVED THE 32nd ANNUAL FARMINGTON FOUNDERS FESTIVAL." Those of us who were in town for the festival have certainly earned them.

We did survive the recent renewal of this old standby of small-town merrymaking, didn't we?

Of course we did, and we enjoyed (almost) every minute of it. We're looking forward to the 33rd annual next July.

Just a few thoughts on the festival before it becomes part of Farmington history:

■ Hats off to the cleaning crews, be they from the city or volunteer groups, whatever. Saturday the streets were clogged with trash-making festival-goers. Sunday morning you couldn't find even one crumpled sno-cone holder on Grand River.

■ The parking situation during festival seems to get worse every year. Some of us who work and live downtown speaking of enduring the festival. "Good time to be out of town on vacation," says one merchant. How about a shuttle service from the acres of unused asphalt at Farmington High School to downtown? That's how it's done at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Maybe that's the answer here. Now who's going to be the first reader to write or call us with the opinion that a shuttle would

cost too much?

■ Great all-beef hot dogs at a stand in the Downtown Center just off Grand River. We ate a bunch of them during the festival, and we were missing them come lunchtime on Monday.

■ How about some more interesting entertainment at future festivals. A small-town shindig up in Oxford or someplace had the Flying Wallendas trapeze act? Too expensive, right? Just a thought.

■ We never notice how narrow the sidewalks of downtown Farmington are until festival is upon us. Considering trees, fire plugs, signs, planters, benches and thousands of people, those sidewalks can be tough to navigate.

■ The Miss Farmington Pageant was great, as always. But people keep asking us, why not a pageant for guys?

■ We hope the Elks Club Ox Roast remains part of future festivals. It's where old friends get together at informal high school reunions. It also helps the festival reach beyond the downtown area.

■ Festival poobahs must come up with a way to put more of the "founders" back into the event. More emphasis should be placed on local history. After all, the original intent of the festival was to honor the community's storied past as Michigan's first Quaker settlement.

## Back Patterson in GOP primary

**H**is name is synonymous with Oakland County. Over his first four-year term as County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson has reinforced our county's stature as a global marketplace and a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Based on his overall accomplishments since taking office in 1993, Patterson, 57, deserves to be renominated as the Republican Party candidate for County Executive in the Aug. 6 primary.

His primary opponent is Timothy Hughes, 35, of Rochester Hills, a system engineer at Kmart headquarters in Troy.

Hughes says the incumbent isn't a true conservative committed to lower taxes, less government and traditional values.

The primary winner will face Democrat Edward Hamilton, 53, of Troy, a new-vehicle launch manager at Chrysler Corp. in Auburn Hills, in the Nov. 5 general election. The job pays \$117,792 a year.

A Waterford resident, Patterson effectively and efficiently administers a budget of nearly \$500 million and a county work force of 4,100 employees.

Home to 1.1 million people, Oakland County boasts a larger population than 11 states, greater effective buying income than 17 states and total retail sales greater than 15 states.

It's accountable for 44 percent of the state's total export activity and 51 percent of all U.S. robotics sales.

Patterson doesn't take credit for these super-charged numbers but his outgoing demeanor makes him ideal to serve as the county's worldwide ambassador.

Patterson avoided a budget shortfall through aggressive spending controls, including retirement incentives, privatized services, a department merger, and a hiring and wage freeze.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners rejected his bid to slightly reduce the county tax rate.

Patterson reached out to older communities through appointment of a county liaison to south Oakland. He invigorated Oakland's trade relations with Mexico.

His Business Roundtable, which includes representation from the education community, produced economic support services like the One Stop Shop and Export Assistance Center. And under his watch, the county's computer system and bond rating were upgraded.

Patterson also has a softer side — he's the founder of The Rainbow Connection, a popular charity that grants wishes for terminally ill kids.

Hughes says Patterson has looked past conservative values in endorsing countywide tax increases, in rapping prosecutor Richard Thompson's latest prosecution of assisted-suicide crusader Jack Kevorkian and in rallying for the Michigan Jobs Commission/School-to-Work program.

Like the majority of voters, we also endorsed tax increases for Oakland Community College and the SMART bus system.

Like many Michiganders, we opposed Thompson's latest prosecution of Kevorkian, preferring that the Legislature develop enforceable, reasoned guidelines for physician-assisted suicide. We also support the School-to-Work program.

In terms of urban sprawl, Patterson seems by his actions to favor new development over aging infrastructure.

That's a philosophy we urge him to change because it ultimately destroys farmland and blights older areas while growing the tax base. He also needs to work harder to get more state tax dollars returned to Oakland County, especially for road construction and mental-health care.

Still, based on his skills as an administrator, ambassador and leader, we see no reason why Republican voters shouldn't renominate L. Brooks Patterson on Aug. 6.

### MEMORY LANE

This week in history as reported in past editions of the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Enterprise.

■ 40 YEARS AGO — JULY 19, 1956 (ENTERPRISE)

New 1956 Fords were sold for \$169 down and \$52.20 per month at the Berling-McHugh dealership in Farmington.

The Oakland County Road Commission advised Farmington Township officials that a traffic light would be installed at Orchard Lake and 12 Mile roads.

■ 5 YEARS AGO — JULY 18, 1991 (OBSERVER)

Al Wander, owner of three Maple Village Drug Stores in Farmington, challenged the city's new sign law that restricted advertising signs in store windows.

Pork steaks were advertised at \$1.59 per pound at the Orchard-10 IGA.

■ 1 YEAR AGO — JULY 17, 1995 (OBSERVER)

Barbara Reams, 54, was named principal of Highmeadow Community Campus in the Farmington District. She has been principal of an elementary school in the Pinckney District for two years.

Lunch prices increased to \$1.75 from \$1.60 for Farmington elementary school students, and to \$2.20 from \$2 for middle and high school students.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:  
What's on  
your mind?



Preparing for my  
tutoring lesson. I  
teach English.

Richard Murray,  
Farmington



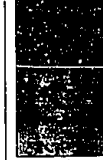
Books... mysteries. I read a  
lot in my spare  
time.

Jackie Sauer,  
Farmington



Not much... just  
looking for a  
book.

Annette  
Abdour,  
Farmington



Working. I'm a  
substitute  
teacher in Livonia  
and Plymouth  
Canton.

Robin Dedrich,  
Livonia

### Letters to the Editor

#### Fly more flags, please

**O**n July 4 I was appalled at how few flags were flown. Some commercial establishments did their parts, but not as many as should have.

Wake up Americans. Fly the flag of freedom and rejoice the fact that we still have a free country. Who of us would like to live in another country? Anyone? You bet not!

Fly the flag and remind yourself that you still have your freedom... and give thanks to our war heroes, living and dead.

The wake-up call is sounding. Do you hear it? Don't wait until it is too late.

A.B. Dillon,  
Farmington

#### Thanks, stranger!

**I** was just about to lose my faith in humankind when a kind gentleman in a Fayo shirt stopped to help me when my car broke down on Shiawassee.

He drove me and my two sons, clearly out of his way. Thank you for your random act of kindness.

Carol A. Snodgrass,  
Farmington Hills

#### Support the pageant

**O**ne year ago my daughter had the wonderful experience to become a Pageant Princess in the Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant.

Her involvement with the pageant, as well as mine, has continued since that time. Because of this involvement, I have become acutely aware of the great commitment of time, energy and heart given not only by pageant contestants but all the pageant volunteers and supporters.

The important distinction is, the commitment continues throughout the entire year, not just during the time of annual selection of a new queen.

I would like to take this occasion to compliment the individuals and businesses who have supported and/or contributed in any way to the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant and its contestants.

The pageant affords motivated young women the opportunity for community service and involvement while being recognized for their talents, poise, and education. At the same time, they become role models for our children.

The winner of the scholarship pageant begins a full year of commitment to her community by taking part in fund-raisers, holiday programs and festivities, entertainment of, and building relationships with, children as well as senior citizens and other groups.

She will also have the opportunity to implement programs and speak in support of her chosen "platform." For example, this past

year's winner, Chernauckas, spent many hours educating children on the harmful effects of smoking.

Lastly, the winner will represent Farmington/Farmington Hills in the Miss America-sponsored Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant in Muskegon.

The planning, organization, and direction of the pageant itself (which provides high quality entertainment in a sophisticated and elegant atmosphere) and pageant-related events, requires tremendous resources of time and financial support.

Ms. Ginny Morris, executive director of the pageant, deserves considerable credit for organizing these events, many of which coincide each year with the Founders Festival.

Since the pageant and related events are such a positive force in our community they deserve much greater recognition and support than they currently receive.

Many of the functions and activities could be enhanced by greater acknowledgment from business and public alike.

Our community and its citizens, both young and old, would benefit greatly from this support. If interested, please contact the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce or pageant headquarters.

Tora Haglund,  
Farmington Hills

#### They say thank you

**T**he French Back to Back program at O.E. Dunkel Middle School was successful. We would like to thank those who helped. The Farmington Public Schools School Board and Superintendent Dr. Bob Maxwell were supportive and encouraging from the beginning when the program was just an idea that might work.

Pam O'Malley and Mary Green of O.E. Dunkel Middle School were the two staff members who saw what could be and made it happen.

Patty Reff, parent and bilingual counselor, gave us all the understanding and translation help we needed and then some. Her employer, Dana Corp. of Farmington Hills, was flexible and understanding about her time commitments to the program.

The following community businesses or individuals were supportive in a variety of ways:

Farmington Historical Society, The Gap, Prism Performance Systems, Visibles, Contemporary Awards, Kramer Food Company, Discovery Business Systems, Roger W. Black D.D.S., Focal Point, Love From Michigan, Mr. Pita, Ron & Donna Berman, Delphi Interior and Lighting Systems Plant and The Mercy Mimes.

Sue Williams,  
French Back to Back,  
parent group secretary

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— Philip Power