

Green sale:
Kristen Wolff, 10, of Farmington Hills buys asparagus from Julie Tolly of Tolly's South East Produce of Erie.

STAFF PHOTOS BY
CHRISTOPHER LARSEN



Farmer's Market produces fair share of customers

BY TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Remember that cold, wet spring? Well, that's where to put the blame if you're not finding enough of your favorite fruits and vegetables at the Farmers Market in downtown Farmington these Saturdays.

"It's been a little slow this year," admitted Judy Downey, director of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, which has operated the

market in the parking lot of the Village Commons shopping center the past three summers.

The Village Commons is on Grand River Avenue about a half a mile east of Farmington Road and Grand River. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The farmers market season starts in early spring when vendors truck in flowers for sale, said Downey. More vegetables should be rolling in now.

So far six vendors have participated, Downey said. "I'd like to see maybe a dozen," she added. "Problem is that the Michigan Department of Agriculture puts lots of restrictions on people who want to sell foodstuffs."

Vendors come from as far away as Armada and Coldwater.

Farmington Florist has been the only local vendor. Locals set up shop for free, while out-of-towners pay \$150 a year, Downey said.

"It's always been open to local businesses," she said, "but Saturday's a busy day for them, anyway, and they might not want to hire additional people."

Chuck Massab, owner of Massab Acres, a Taylor nursery, is a regular vendor in Farmington on Saturdays. He sells flowers and "designer pumpkins."

"I like the market," he said. "The people are friendly and it's a nice little town. They could use a few more vendors, though."



Plant life: Terry Melloer of Farmington transports hanging baskets to her car. She bought them from a booth set up by Farmington Center Florist.

York handed the gavel as new board president

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The ceremonial changing of the guard took place at the Farmington Board of Education Tuesday. David York grabbed his nameplate and switched seats with the outgoing president.

York succeeds Joe Svoke, who was also sworn in for a second four-year term. Priscilla Brouillette also took the oath of office for her first term on the seven-member board.

Svoke and Brouillette were elected in the June 10 election.

Second-year trustee Linda Enberg was nominated as board vice-president while Bobbie Feldman and Jack Inch become secretary and treasurer respectively for the 1996-97 school year.

York, who is in the final year of his four-year term, took the gavel by wrapping out praise for his predecessor.

"Thank you, Joe. We've had a



David York

year of steady and firm leadership," York said to his colleague.

Other trustees congratulated Svoke. Cathy Webb commended him for his ability to build consensus while Bobbie Feldman

lauded Svoke for his timing and his willingness to listen.

Added Jack Inch in typically succinct summation: "You've done very well Joe."

Letters on Brouillette's nameplate looked shiny compared to other board members.

She was sworn in by Superintendent Bob Maxfield. Her mother Margaret McDonald and daughters Ann Marie and Catherine were in attendance.

One trustee was concerned about how the board would cover the duties of Brouillette's predecessor.

Helen Prutow stepped down after 20 years as a school trustee and represented the board at various community events. Svoke suggested trustees reconsider what public functions they attend, mainly both city council meetings since the district has good rapport with city officials.

Trustee Jack Inch asked that the matter be tabled until the August meeting.

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