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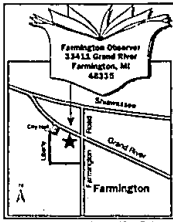
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The Farmington Observer



Kick-off from page A1

"I thought he was fabulous," said Gail Haynes, first vice-president of the Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners. "He certainly inspired the rest of us."

Betty Nicolay, FFIA Chairman of the Board, agreed.

"Sometimes adults forget about how important humor is," she said. "I don't know how anyone could walk and of here and not have a positive attitude."

Nicolay thought that the tremendous turnout gave the FFIA a great boost to begin Sober October.

"It's really encouraging and heartwarming," she said. "Now, we're off and running."

Another highlight was the presentation of an FFIA award to Robert Maxfield, superintendent of Farmington Schools, for bringing the innovative Get a GRIP (Generations Responding to Issues and Problems) program to the area and promoting Zero Tolerance toward substance abuse.

Some in attendance seemed almost star-struck by the array of local figures.

"These are people that you don't see all the time," said Clair Carvell, a Farmington resident. "It's nice when they turn out."

"Even though I was feeling terrible, I wanted to come," said Lenore Kingston, social worker at Eagle Elementary School. "It's very emerging to see these people come together."



Awarding grip: Superintendent Bob Maxfield was honored by Farmington Families in Action for starting the annual GRIP program.

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High tech from page A1

Norris also added that qualified applicants can give Computware a call immediately.
"We have a very active recruiting department," he said, "but we'd be happy to hear from people with a background in data-processing technology."
Soronen said that such a massive influx of employees will trickle down to businesses big and small.

"It makes an impact on other services in town, from restaurants to cleaners," she said. "It will certainly be a welcome addition, no doubt about that."
"We're not another Silicon Valley," she laughed, "but I think Farmington Hills can hold its own, especially around Southeast Michigan."

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