

## Tell us why your dad is best!

We're celebrating Dad this year with a special contest. Tell us why your Dad is the best Dad around in 75 words or less and The Farmington Observer will choose one winning letter and reward that Dad with two tickets to the Ford Senior Players Championship golf tournament at the Dearborn TPC, July 9-15. The tickets include a free shuttle bus ride to the front gate of the TPC. To enter, send your essay to Joni Hubrod at 33421 Grand River, Farmington 48170. All entries are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, June 7.

Even if your essay isn't chosen for the big prize, you'll still have a chance to show your father how much he means to you. We'll have a special page on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, where we'll publish the essays we receive. If you have a special picture you'd like to share, send it along.

Among the typical participants are Jack Nicklaus, Leo Trevino, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Tom Watson, Tom Kite, Hale Irwin, Raymond Floyd (defending champ) and Gary Player.



## AHEAD

**Memorial Day parade:** The annual event featuring veterans and other groups will begin in downtown Farmington at 10 a.m. Monday. For information, call (248) 474-8554.

## WEDNESDAY

**Roundabouts:** Residents can learn more about proposed changes in the area of Northwestern Highway, including the construction of "roundabout" traffic circles, at Farmington Hills City Hall, 7 p.m. See related story / A3

## INDEX

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Apartments/E7    | Malls/C6         |
| Arts/C1          | Movies/C4        |
| Automotive/H2    | New Homes/E1     |
| Classified/E,G,H | Obituaries/A8    |
| Classified       | Real Estate/E1   |
| Index/E5         | Service Guide/G7 |
| Crossword        | Sports/B1        |
| Puzzle/E8        | Taste/D1         |
| Jobs/G1          | Travel/C8        |

CAVALIER 1998  
- 2 dr., auto, air, AM/FM  
stereo, 43K mi. Exc. cond.  
\$9,200.

Call your favorite car dealer today!

HomeTown Classifieds Work!



To place a classified ad: 734-591-0900

# Officials view Center re-make



The Downtown Farmington Business Center is about to undergo a change that will soften its "sea of asphalt" look and create a focal point for the downtown area. A citizens committee has been formed to raise funds for a pavilion.

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

A new look is proposed for the downtown center at Grand River and Farmington.

It's not just window dressing, downtown planners say, but a design that will erase the parking lot's "sea of asphalt" look.

"We're trying to orient this to people and not just for cars," said John Grissim of Grissim-Metz Associates in Farmington Hills. Hired by the Downtown Development Authority, he showed architectural renderings at a recent Farmington City council meeting.

The total project, including the repaving is estimated to cost \$1.8 mil-

lion. Funding sources are still undetermined, however the DDA will pursue grants. Construction could begin in 2002.

"We've added a lot more amenities to the site, to make it more attractive," Grissim said.

The City of Farmington owns the parking lot, which is due for reconstruction in a few years. The plan eliminates six parking spaces, bringing the total to 246.

A safer front entrance will be established off Grand River, Grissim said.

Brick paving, pedestrian walkways and landscaping will be added. Light poles will be repositioned.

"It creates a synergy," said councilwoman JoAnne McShane. "It makes the whole lot user-friendly."

The Farmington Road entrance adjacent to the Merle Norman store is expected to be closed, to eliminate the problem of traffic stopping when drivers turn into the shopping center.

A pavilion is planned on the west side of the fountain area that can be used for the Farmington Farmer's Market. The fountain would be removed, and parking would also be available under the canopy when it's not in use.

The pavilion is expected to cost about \$114,000; community groups will work

Please see CENTER, A3

## Best of the Best



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

The few, the proud: Officers honored by the Farmington Public Safety Dept. are: PSO 1 James Madigan, Cndr. Robert Schulz, PSO Vincent Ziegler, PSO Aaron Malawski, PSO Jeffrey Brow, PSO-1 Frank Demers. Also pictured are City Council members (in background) Arnie Campbell, Mary Bush, JoAnne McShane, Jim Mitchell and Bill Hartscock.

# City honors public safety officers

Officer of the year closed cases by getting suspects to confess

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

In honor of his outstanding service to the community, Frank Demers has been named Farmington Public Safety Department Officer of the Year.

At a ceremony held Wednesday at City Hall, he was also awarded two department citations and a five-year longevity award. Public Safety Director Gary Goss said Demers' work has been crucial in solving several difficult cases.

"Officer Demers consistently displays his skills and dedication to

law enforcement," Goss said. "He is an individual who puts forth 100-percent effort each and every time he wears his badge. He is concerned for victims and the community he serves."

In two cases, Demers obtained complete confessions, one involving criminal sexual conduct and another a major building fire at apartments at Shilwassee and Mooney. The fire caused \$200,000 in damages.

But Demers believes he was only part of those successes.

"This is really an award for all the

Please see DEMERS, A2

Praise, awards delivered at city ceremony Wednesday night

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

There was no shortage of kudos and praise for Farmington Public Safety officers who reaped the fruits of their labors at Wednesday's Awards Ceremony.

The event was held at Farmington City Hall with city officials, families and friends looking on.

"In the Year 2000, we experienced the lowest crime rate in the city that anybody can remember," said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

A retirement and several resigna-

tions resulted in officers working longer hours and double shifts, Goss added.

"All of our officers are worthy of special recognition this year," Goss said.

He also thanked the families for their understanding. "Even under normal conditions, they work long hours, holidays. And we call them back unexpectedly often at the most inopportune moments."

PSO-1 Frank Demers was awarded officer of the year, two department citations and a five-year

Please see AWARDS, A2

## Sirens set off rash of calls

BY ALICE ASHMORE  
STAFF WRITER

When a tornado siren sounds, do you know what to do?

Lt. Mike Garr of the Farmington Hills Fire Department is worried that many residents do not.

The three tornadoes that skipped through the area on May 21, setting off warning sirens throughout Oakland County, gave him plenty of evidence that Hills residents are unprepared.

"We got calls from 12 day care centers and two schools on our administrative lines. They were wondering what to do. People need to know that those sirens mean take shelter immediately."

He said that people without basements should seek shelter in an interior room or hallway away from all win-

Please see SIRENS, A3

## Award leaves Brandon 'speechless'

BY JONI HUBROD  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubrod@oe.homecomm.net

Bernice Brandon had no trouble getting through her acceptance speech at Wednesday's ATHENA Award luncheon - until she got to the end.

When it came to thanking her parents, Fricellia and Richard Bird of Garden City, Brandon started off with an apology for breaking down, then asked them to stand as tears streamed down her face. Thanking them for their words of wisdom, she said, "You also gave me the vision to help people."

That vision played a large part in

Please see BRANDON, A5



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLER

Athena winner: Bernice Brandon is flanked by award sponsors Bob and Kevin Mechigan, of sponsor Bob Saks Olds.