

## IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARROLL

**Rubber duckies: Detroit Ducky Derby co-chairs, (from left to right) Randi Simko, Julie Phillips and Andrea Chaness.**

**Rubber Ducky, you're the one: The second annual Rubber Ducky Derby is coming to Kensington Metro Park. Learn how you can raise money for pediatric cancer research and have a chance to win great prizes. See HomeTown Life / C-6**

**On the lam: Farmington Hills police have offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of a robbery suspect. / A4**

## OPINION

**Dog fight: City and school officials should work with dog owners to keep school grounds safe and address the dog park issue. / A10**

## ARTS & LEISURE

**Dance: Raja Jaikumar of Farmington Hills plays Buddha in a dance-drama based on the Four Noble Truths taught by Buddha. / B1**

## INDEX

- Apartments/G3
- At Home/C1
- Automotive/G10
- Classified/E,F,G,H
- Classified
- Index/F5
- Crossword/G2
- Entertainment/B1
- HomeTown Life/C6
- Jobs/G5
- Obituaries/A9
- Opinions/A10-11
- Real Estate/E1
- Service Guide/G10
- Sports/D1

# Community's pride shown in D.C.

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
kbrown@oc.hometown.net

A youth program dubbed the pride of the community got attention last week from senators and congressmen in Washington, D.C.

The Farmington Youth and Family Services program, cited by state juvenile program coordinators as a national model, won attention at two hearings attended July 26 by Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates. Joining her in Washington was program participant David Kinchen, 18.

"It's such a privilege to be able to represent the City of Farmington Hills

and the Farmington youth program at a national level," Bates said. "Our program is truly a national model. Todd Lipa (program coordinator) and the staff here have done



Delegation: David Kinchen and Mayor Nancy Bates testified in Washington.

an incredible job and of course the winners are the kids." Bates and Kinchen were first introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Kyllonen.

At a 3 p.m. briefing before U.S. senators at the Dirksen Senate building, Bates and Kinchen met with U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow. "David and I had 15 minutes to tell about the program. The whole idea is that this is a 'front end' program," Bates said - one where spending early

before the House Appropriations Subcommittee. The program, for youths 11-16, was first funded by a federal Title V grant five years ago. Testimony to extol the program's merits was welcomed by House members who seek to maintain nationwide Title V program funding.

Please see YOUTH, A2

## Book bonanza



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DEESLER

Summer fun: The Farmington Community Library's Summer Reading Program ended with a bang Monday night, as children who participated gathered for a party at the William B. Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Pictured left, Michael Higer picks up two volumes of Scary Stories. Above, The Spoon Man, Jim Cruise, teaches 2-year-old James Basner how to play the spoons.

## Akouri announces state senate bid

BY JONI HUBBARD  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubbard@oc.hometown.net

John Akouri has what one calls a "diversity of friends," and he's counting on them as he campaigns for state senate in District 14.

"I'll bet you're all wondering why I called you all here tonight," the 34-year-old Hills resident joked before announcing his candidacy at Farmington Hills Manor Monday night. "We have a golden opportunity to send a hometown boy from Farmington Hills, the largest city in this district, to the state legislature for the next four years."

In addition to Farmington and Farmington Hills, the district will include Southfield, Southfield Township, Lathrup Village, Pleasant Ridge, Fern-

dale, Oak Park, Hazel Park and Huntington Woods. Akouri, who is employed as director of communications for 11th District Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Township), called the area "large and culturally diverse."

"I like to call this future district the 'crown jewel' of Michigan," he said during a press conference held earlier in the evening.

The crowd of nearly 300 people included a cultural delegation with representatives from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Oman, Tunisia, Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon. Through an interpreter, Mousida Abdellah, a member of the Tunisian parliament, and Kheloud Rashad of Palestine explained

Please see AKOURI, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEESLER

Running man: State Senate candidate John Akouri spoke to the press Monday night.



Re-Bates: Hills Mayor Nancy Bates will seek re-election.

## Bates wants to continue making positive change

BY KEVIN BROWN  
STAFF WRITER  
kbrown@oc.hometown.net

Nancy Bates says she's proud to have helped make positive changes in Farmington Hills during her tenure as mayor.

"There are some things I haven't finished that I started," said Bates. She has announced her intention to seek a final 2-year term.

"I want to make sure the Mayor's Youth Council is solidly underway," said Bates, mayor since November

1999.

Other projects she wants to see through to completion include the 14 Mile Road-Northwestern Highway project, and the Eleven Pines development, which includes placing an environmental cap on a former dump site. Current plans for the property include construction of a golf course, clubhouse, condominiums and an industrial research office.

"I'm really proud there's been no tax millage increase for six years. I've worked really hard to keep Farmington

Hills family friendly and business friendly," Bates said.

She cites her work to form community groups including the Commission for Children, Youth and Families; and the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation.

On the issue of 1-275 noise raised by some freeway neighbors, Bates said she has testified in Lansing before the State Highway Commission to seek legislative support for neighbors' sound

Please see BATES, A2

**CHEVY 1998**  
Blazer LS - 4WD, 4dr., load ed, exc. cond., 103K miles, \$7,500.

I sold it through your paper. Thanks.

5 M Farmington Hills



6 63174 10005 4