

Farmington Observer

Your hometown newspaper serving Farmington and Farmington Hills for 114 years

Thursday, August 2, 2001



Rubber duckles: 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 Home-Town 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 Ruddha in a dancedrama based on the Four Noble Truths taught by Buddha./B1

INDEX

Apartments/G3 At Home/C1 Automotive/G10 Classifled/E.F.G.H Classified Entertainment/B1

Life/C6 Jobs/G5 Obituaries/A9 Opinions/A10-11 Real Estate/E1 Service Guide/Q10 Sports/01





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Community's pride shown in D.C.

A youth program dubbed the pride of the community get 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

(program coording-tor) and the



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

an incredible job and of course the winners are the kids."

Bates and d

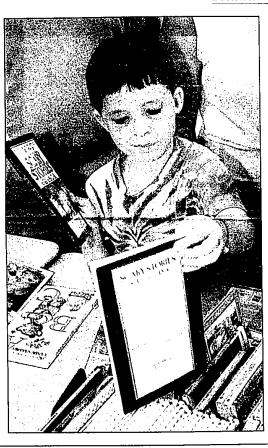
a n d
Kinchen
were first
introduced
by U.S.
Rep. Joe
Knollenberg at a 1
p.m. congressional
briefing

before the House Appropriations Subcommittee. The program, for youths 1116, was first funded by a federal Title
V grant five years age. Testimony to
extol the program's merits was welcomed by House members who seek to
maintain nationwide Title V program
funding.
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 ond" program,"
Bates said -- one where spending early

Please see YoUth. A2

Please see YOUTH, A2

Book bonanza





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 HUBRED STAFF WRITER jhubred@oc.homecomm.net

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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.
"Ill 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 Qutar. Saudi Arabia, Syria, Bahrain, Oman, Tunis, Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon. Through an interpreter, Mousida Abdelli, a member of the Tunisian parliament, and Kholoud Rashad of Palestine explained

Please see AKOURI, A2



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

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

Farmington Hills during the control 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

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 1-276 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

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Please see BATES, A2

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