

Road now open

Farmington Road between 9 Mile and Grand River is now open and free of construction. "Farmington Road is a major traffic artery for our city which has been under reconstruction from mid March. It's reopening is a



breath of fresh air for our citizens and businesses as well as for those commuters who travel through Farmington daily," said Frank Lashoff, City Manager. "Our downtown businesses have suffered a loss of business during the construction period and all of us have dealt with major inconveniences due to construction." Continued Lashoff, "I want to thank all Farmington Road travelers for their patience during this reconstruction period. I also want to say 'well done' to the Road Commission for Oakland County and the construction contractor for completing the project three weeks ahead of schedule."

Scholar

Erin Simpkins of Farmington Hills accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and will be honored during a campus ceremony this fall at Howard University. She is the daughter of Iris and James Simpkins of Farmington Hills.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars is a highly selective, national, non-profit honors organization, founded in 1994. NSCS recognizes first and second year undergraduate students who excel academically.

Ash meeting

The city of Farmington Hills will host two meetings to provide more information to local property owners about the ash tree decline problem in the Farmington Hills area. The first meeting, for business owners, office building owners, and property managers, will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Costick Center. A second meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. for residential property owners. An expert on the issue will be at both meetings as well as city officials to explain how the city is addressing the ash tree problem and to answer questions.

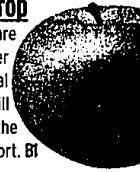
The Costick Center is located on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster. For more information, call the Farmington Hills Planning Office at (248) 473-9543.

# FARMINGTON Observer

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Small crop

Apples are smaller than usual but still worth the effort. B1



## DDA hires search consultant

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority board selected a search firm Sept. 4 to continue the process to hire a new executive director.

The number of semifinalist candidates is now down to six after the Farmington City Manager's office recently asked each of the seven candidates if they wanted to continue if the entire process is open to the public, said DDA President Ron Oglesby.

The board selected a consultant from the Michigan Municipal League. The fee is 7.5 percent of the selected candidate's base annual salary.

"I worked it out and if it is \$50,000, it is \$3,750," said Judy Downey, DDA director.

The DDA will be billed for travel and related out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the search consultant, billed at actual cost, not to exceed \$250.

A meeting with the full board is scheduled for 8 a.m. Sept. 10 in the council conference room with search director Frank Gerstenecker who was a Troy City Manager for more than 25 years. He served on the International City and County Management Association Executive Board and has also served as president of the Michigan City Management Association.

DDA members looked at the proposals distributed by Downey for the first time at the meeting.

"At this meeting you will have to explain what you want," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lashoff. "They will do it anyway you want. Part of this process was confi-

PLEASE SEE DDA, A8



BILL BRASLER | OBSERVER

Mercy High School's Emily Gruber got a perfect score of 36 on her ACT.

## Mercy senior is perfect on ACT

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

It's likely the humble Emily Gruber, a Mercy High School senior, may have kept her accomplishment quiet for a much longer time.

Her friends had to drag it out of her. She was in a computer lab recently setting up an independent study when school administrators finally made the announcement: Gruber achieved the highest possible composite score of 36 on a June 8, 2002 American College Test (ACT) assessment.

"The teacher turned me around and showed me to the class which was there," Gruber said.

Gruber is one of four college-bound students in Michigan and one of 43 in the United States to achieve a 36. About 39,000 Michigan students and 376,000 from across the nation completed the ACT.

"It's rare," said Carolyn Witte, Mercy High School principal. "The ACT, taken by nearly 60 percent of America's entering college freshmen, consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning, said

Nadine Maynard, director of marketing. "Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36 and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores," Maynard said. "For purposes of comparison, the average composite score for the national high school graduating class of 2000 was 21."

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) differs from the ACT, because it measures a student's aptitude in certain areas. ACT measures learning, how well and how much, Maynard said.

Witte commended Gruber. "Not only

PLEASE SEE PERFECT, A8

## Cities plan memorials

BY VAL R. PACE  
AND SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITERS

As the first anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches Wednesday, Farmington Hills Fire and Police departments and City of Farmington will hold a special remembrance ceremony for those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks.

Residents are invited to attend the ceremony at 10 a.m. in the Farmington Hills city hall complex on the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake.

There will be no city business conducted from 10:10-10:30 a.m., so city employees may attend the ceremony.

Fire officials are encouraging people to carpool as parking will be limited due to construction of the 47th District Courthouse.

Cued to the events that affected the World Trade Center buildings, there will be playing of the bagpipes and a tolling of the bells in respect for the fallen firefighters.

Other activities include a lowering of the flag to half mast by the Police Honor Guard, an invocation from the police chaplain, a message from the city manager, comments from the police administration, and a reading of the names of the deceased law

PLEASE SEE CITIES, A5

## Schools to remember 9/11

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

"Since wars begin in the minds of people, it is in the minds of people that peace must be constructed."

That message is not only part of the Farmington Public School preparation materials for Sept. 11 observances, but also one which honors United Nations Day which also occurs in September.

The quote comes from the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations. The United Nations, 50 years old, works for international peace and security.

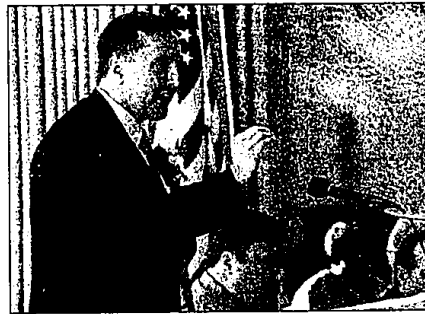
The overall theme in local schools Sept. 11 is caring and supportive relationships.

High schools will focus on global peace and not allowing lessons learned from Sept. 11 to be forgotten. The morning will begin with an announcement focusing on these issues followed by a moment of silence. Students will be encouraged to think about ways to increase peace and understanding within their schools and community.

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

The middle schools will focus on the Patriot Day-World Peace theme. Everyone is

PLEASE SEE SCHOOLS, A5



BILL BRASLER | OBSERVER

Rob Casey, an FBI investigator who worked on the 9/11 Pennsylvania crash site, spoke at the Jaycees Prayer Breakfast.

## Agent witnessed aftermath

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

An FBI agent who was lead investigator in the case of hijacked Flight 93 in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11 talked about the horrific aftermath Thursday.

FBI supervisory agent Rob Casey made his remarks at the Farmington Area Jaycees 34th Annual Community Leadership Prayer Breakfast held at the Costick

Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

"We still don't know what their destination was, either the White House or the Capitol," Casey said. "When Flight 93 hit, it was going approximately 600 miles per hour. The way a 737 is designed, the maximum speed it should be going, under 10,000 feet, is 450 miles per hour."

PLEASE SEE AGENT, A5

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Celebrating success  
Amerisure, a Hills-based company, is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Learn more in Thursday's Observer.

PARISIAN

THE SPECIAL STORE NEXT DOOR

OPENS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS