

FARMINGTON Observer

**Curb
appeal**
Nostalgic
look at the
drive-in
diner. B1



Sever says mailing misled voters

BY JOMI HUBER
STAFF WRITER

Farmington and Farmington Hills may not have Terry Sever to kick around anymore, but he wants to clarify a few points made by one of his primary political opponents.

Sever, who will end his term as Oakland County Commissioner after November's election, was the target of a

brochure sent out by the Valerie Knol for State Representative Committee late in the week prior to Tuesday's election.

Mailing that arrived Friday and Saturday pointed out Sever's wages as an Oakland County commissioner had been garnished, accused him of failure to pay Single Business Taxes and sales taxes as far back as 1996 and made the claim he is currently delinquent over \$9,000 in state taxes.

"What annoys me is that she took old information," Sever said.

He provided documentation showing all of his taxes were paid in full when he refinanced his home in March.

Additionally, Sever has a receipt for money he got back from the state for taxes he overpaid.

"The fact is, I got an income tax refund. The state does not send you money if you've got a tax lien," Sever said.

He acknowledged that in the mid-1990s, he owned a company that went bankrupt, leaving him with some large financial bills. In addition, his accountant had suffered from cancer for a number of years, but never told him.

He learned of her illness when her daughter told him the woman had died. "I wrote to the state and asked them to review my records," Sever said. "I asked

PLEASE SEE SEVER, A4

Our Towns

Borregard ready

Perennial Green Party candidate Eric Borregard will make the field of challengers seeking U.S. Senator Carl Levin's post a Farmington Hills sweep this fall.

Borregard announced this

week he

will seek

the seat

held by the

veteran

Democrat.

Their

Republican

opponent

will be

State Rep.

Andrew Raczowski (R-

Farmington Hills), who is

term-limited this year.

Green Party candidates for

higher office also include:

Governor-Doug Campbell, Lt.

Governor-Adrianna

Buonarrotti, Secretary of

State-Ray Zarno, Attorney

General-Jerry Kaufman, as

well as a number of other

state house, state school

board and local positions.

For more information

about Borregard's platform

and candidacy, go to home-

town.aol.com/eborregard

■ Jordan joins PCIA

Professional Concepts

Insurance Agency (PCIA)

announced that Sharon

Jordan, account executive and

a Farmington Hills resi-

dent, has joined their firm.

With 16 years of experience

in the lawyers' professional

liability insurance arena,

Jordan comes to PCIA with

just the type of industry

background that agency

President Kim Frick looks

for when adding staff to that

department.

Lawyers' insurance expe-

rience is a narrow focus in

the

insurance

world,"

stated

Frick.

"When

you can

add

some-

one who

already

knows that line of business

inside-out, it really benefits

us and our clients."

Jordan

knows that line of business

inside-out. It really benefits

us and our clients."

Jordan holds a property

and casualty license and a

life and health insurance

license. In 1980, she received

a Certified Professional

Insurance Woman (CPW) des-

ignation. She is actively

involved in the Village

Players theatre in

Birmingham and is a member

of the Detroit/Windsor Jazz

Club.

Professional Concepts

Insurance Agency was found-

ed in 1988. Its founding con-

cept is to provide specialized

insurance products and cus-

tomized risk management

services for design profes-

sionals. PCIA's successes led

them to develop programs

for accounting and legal pro-

fessionals. They can be con-

tacted at 800-969-4041 or via



DAL BREKNER / OBSERVER

Making a difference

Phil Dennis of Farmington Hills (foreground) and Gary Laplander of Mt. Clemens rake woodchips at the base of the refurbished playscape. The utility employees from DTE annually spend a day during this week at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home doing painting, fix-up and playing games with the kids.

Judicial winners take time

Candidates plan to
relax before fall

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Candidates who succeeded in moving to the next round in last week's primary election said that their people skills were key reasons why people voted for them.

The two top vote winners in the Tuesday, Aug. 6 primary in the 47th District court judgeship race were Jim Brady, currently a magistrate, and Annette Raczowski, an attorney. Farmington Hills logged a 31 percent voter turnout, and in Farmington, 35 percent of registered voters cast their ballots.

Brady made sure potential voters became accustomed to his face during the campaign. He received 4,353 votes from Hills voters, and 810 from

PLEASE SEE JUDGES, A4

Teens talk about their experiences with drinking



BY CHRISTINE BRODA AND GREG MIGLIORE
STAFF WRITERS

At about 11 p.m. on July 19, four cars rolled into the parking lot of a Sunoco gas station in Canton.

"This was not a typical Friday night for the dozen teenagers who piled out of the vehicles, talking on cell phones. Usually by this time they would have found a place to hang out, a place where they would be free to party and drink with friends.

"Everything went so wrong - it'd be off the hook at my house right now," Casper, 22, said, lamenting the evening's dire partying prospects.

Casper's original plan to throw a bash at his house was foiled when his parents didn't leave town as expected.

While others repeatedly dialed numbers, trying to

reach someone who might know of something going on, Drew, 17, leaned against the hood of his friend's car. Although he had come all the way from his home in Port Huron to hang out with friends, he was apparently unfazed by the lack of party destination.

Rather, Drew was looking forward to enjoying the fifth of E.J. Brandy V.S.O.P. he was about to split with his friend, Matt, 18, of Plymouth.

"That's my s...," he said, explaining that E.J. Brandy chased with Pepsi is his favorite drink.

Although he is well under the legal drinking age, Drew has developed a preference for liquor since he started drinking at age 12.

"I've been hanging out with an older crowd all my life," he said, explaining that many of his initial drinking experiences stemmed from the influence of his brother, who is three years older.

"My dad knows (I drink) and my mom probably has her suspicions, but I tell her I don't like it," he said. "My dad doesn't mind and my mom probably wouldn't care - she's an alcoholic."

Drew dropped out of high school after 10th grade and started working 60 hours per week at a restaurant. He says he plans to go back to school for his GED after he turns 18.

'THE CAPTAIN MAKES IT HAPPEN'

Joe, 16, of Canton, shares Drew's taste for liquor. His favorite is Captain Morgan's rum. "The captain makes it happen," he said.

In a pinch, however, he said he will drink just about anything and usually gets alcohol from older friends.

Joe dropped out of Wayne Memorial High School after the ninth grade because of "weed and dumb stuff" and is now home-schooled. He said he was athletic in middle school and played on the basketball team.

Joe started drinking after getting caught with marijuana and said he would probably stop drinking for the same reason.

Mark, 18, of Canton graduated in June from

PLEASE SEE DRINKING HABITS, A7



ILLUSTRATION BY KATY BAIKOFF / OBSERVER

High school students and drinking have been happening for years. But today's students are finding more ways to get alcohol and more places to drink it.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Summer school
A different kind of summer school: Read more about what goes on during Vacation Bible School in Thursday's Observer.

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Protect Your Furniture From Fading**
...With Vinylsqueezing
...on Your Home

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