VIGIL

FROM PAGE AT

brance was a project she wanted to personally organize. In addi-tion to the thousands who lost their lives on Sept. 11, the event will include a special tribute involving Skip Rosenthal, who owns Books Abound on Grand

owns Books Abound on Grain River, Rosenthal's son Josh worked and died in the World Trade Center. Jars will be available to collect donations for new high school scholarships, which will be awarded in Josh Rosenthal's

name.
The event will also mark the beginning of a partnership between the Jaycees and the American Legion, Blasiola sald. The American Legion, Blasiola sald. The American Legion, Blasiola sald. The American Legion selected Joe Gagnon, known as the "Appliance Doctor," to be the emece. Gagnon is a former president of the Garden City Clumber of Commerce.

"We were looking for a radio or TV personality," Blasiola said. "He will be doing the transi-tions."

Along with the American Legion, sponsors include a broad cross-section of the com-munity including Farmington Public Schools, the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Multicultural Multiracial Council, Salvation Army and the Farmington
Auxiliary, a retired military personnel group consisting of men
and women, among other

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, August 25, 2002

and women, among other groups.
Congressman Joe Kollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) may attend or will send either send an aide or a personal message. Speakers will also include state Rep. Andrew Raezkowski (R-Farmington Hills), a Michigan State University vice-president and Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield. The rest will be program, Blassioa said. "We don't want records to talk too much. Blass

people to talk too much, that's the point of it."

INVOLVING KIDS

The Jayeees is also hosting a contest for children and is working with schools, library and summer reading programs to summer the second secon solicit entries.

"Anyone through age 18 can write a poem about 9-11 and what it meant to them," Blasiola

what it meant to them, basions said.

"We'll pick the top three poems and have the students read them there."

Judges will be Blasiola, Stephanie Bessen, a Jaycees community development vice president, and a school teacher.

The Jaysees received a large paper roll donation, which it will send uround to all the elementary school for children to draw an utiline of their hands. If kids don't get a chance to draw it at school there will be an opportunity to do so at the event.

The thereof this The Community Coming Together, Blastola said. We to starting with the kids who are our fitter, glictures will be hung at the Farmington (Farmington Hills libraries, Blastola is tooking for messages about pride and the second of the community of the second of the

Hills libraries, plastota is look-ing for messages about pride and unity.

"It's amazing how much the country has come together," Blastola said. "The kids have

Blasiola said. The kids have probably got some of that spirit. At least 1d hope they had. Blasiola, who's been a member of several Jaycees groups, enjoys the opportunity for community service. She works for APB Associates, a consulting firm in Southfield which works on projects for different grants, and for the Southeast Michigan Census Council. For more information, either call Blasiola at (248) 547-1732 or write to her at FAJC91ivigil @aol.com

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MERCHANTS

FROM PAGE AT

pointed out that this is the busiest time of day for them and those who bring trick-ortreaters don't purchase items during this time.

They also mentioned the cost of providing candy, which has to last throughout that period. They'd like to see more options, such as having the DDA purchase candy in bulk that merchants could buy back to save money.

A small change in the

that merchants could buy back to save money.

A small change in the Halloween time might be a good idea, according to Roger Ratkowski, owner of the Pasts Stop on Farmington Road. Ratkowski wasn't able to attend the first meeting of the Farmington Merchants Association because he was hosting the Farmington to Livonia classic car cruise. Though he doesn't hand out

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eandy, he'd support a small change in Halloween hours. "I hand out coupons, buy a meal and get a kid's meal free," Ratkowski said. Merchants want more visi-bility for their businesses, more foot traffic and pedestrian safe-ty.

foot traffic and pedestrian safety.
Traffic is still 45 miles per
hour here, 'said Lauro Osborne
of Spare Parts on Grand River.
Some merchants said Judy
Downey, the Farmington
Downtown Development
Authority director is the only
city official they see on a regular basis in their stores
Better, ongoing communication with the DDA board is
also a goal.
"There is a need for separate
organizations," Part Said Said "It's
the difference between people
who are on the ground
from the outside. We want regsisters to ring." isters to ring."
The goals of both groups,

however, may be overlapping, he said.

Though Mark Persitz, a certified public accountant with a business in the Village Mall at Grand River and Farmington, isn't a merchant, he volunteered to help.

'I'm not a retail merchant but a taxpayer, Persitz said. He suggested more marketing to create the group.

Others who attended the meeting were: Marion Tobkin, Three Oaks Furniture, Anna Mariani, Anna's Cafe & Baskets, Dominic Beleastro, Luigis Trattoria, and Natalie Wright, Christian Science Reading Room.

The next meeting of the Farmington Merchants

Farmington Merchants
Association is at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 4 at Anna's
Cafe & Baskets. The welcome mat is out for anyone interest-

sbuck@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

