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FARMINGTON Observer

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OUR TOWNS

Flowers for Mom
If you could give your Mom a bouquet of flowers for Mother's Day, what would you write to her on the note? The Farmington Observer is giving away a gift of flowers courtesy of Wesley Berry Florist to a lucky reader who submits the best note to Mom, as selected by Joni Hubred. Remember this note goes on a tiny florist card, so try to keep it around 25 words or less. Entries must be posted by midnight Monday, May 5. The winner will be announced on Mother's Day, May 11. Please submit your note to Mom to: Farmington Observer, Joni Hubred, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335.

Consultants suggest pavilion delay

BY SUE BUCK STAFF WRITER
Construction of the pavilion and related placement of the Farmer's Market in the Downtown Farmington Business Center should be delayed.
That's the opinion of one planner from the Main Street program who spent six hours in Farmington, during a driving and walking tour.
Pavilion construction is scheduled immediately after the Farmington Founders Festival in mid-July. Council members are currently considering a budget that would allocate \$150,000 for the project, which has also gotten a

The Main Street Resource Team's observations and recommendations will be presented today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Farmington City Hall.

place for it. Our first assumption today is to stop and say, 'Where is the heart of the downtown?' That element of the Farmer's Market should be part of the downtown and where's the best place to put it?"
Suggestions may be viewed as harsh at first by city officials, Farmington Downtown Development Authority members and the community, Ferres said. "We've been (thinking) out of the box," he said. "We will be thinking big pictures."
In a series of meetings held since the Main Street grant was awarded last year, residents have suggested the goal of a pedestrian-friendly downtown.

"You have walkable streets right now, really nice ones on these two major thoroughfares as you come into downtown," Ferres said. "Yet you want to put the most obvious walkable pedestrian element - Farmer's Market - in the center of a parking lot. A parking lot is a vehicular place."
Community leaders need to step back and tweak this idea, said Bob Donohue, who's with the Main Street Oakland County program.
Donohue pointed out the location would bring traffic only to a small por-

PLEASE SEE DELAY, A9



Marcia Danner, Leah Russell and Diana Jakoves donate unused business attire.

In style

Event gathers business attire for women in need

BY JONI HUBRED STAFF WRITER
Diana Jakoves knows how important it is to look good in the world of business.
The owner of a public relations agency based in Farmington Hills, she has interviewed many women and sends staff members from her firm out into other businesses every day. When she read about a program that helps women in need "Dress for Success," Jakoves decided to help.
After doing a little research, she discovered a Detroit chapter existed and set about creat-

PLEASE SEE EVENT, A9

Top of the class

Mercy High School has named the valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 2003.
■ Karen Kudelko has been

named the 2003 Valedictorian and has been accepted to Brown, Duke, Georgetown and the University of Michigan. She is the daughter of Conrad and Zosia Kudelko.
■ Emily Gruber has been named 2003 Salutatorian and has been accepted to Boston College, North-western University, the University of Michigan and Yale. She will major in English and is the daughter of Michael and Katherine Gruber.

Golf journey

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club is now accepting registration for their annual Junior Golf Tournament to be held Friday, June 13, at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills.
Boys and girls 11-18 will play separately according to age groups. The cost is \$35 and includes golf, lunch and awards ceremony. Golfers limited to 144.
For more information call Scott Franklin at (248) 855-4949 or e-mail him at 56122@aol.com.

Farmington council gets first look at budget

BY JONI HUBRED STAFF WRITER
Farmington city officials will have to dip into their "rainy-day" reserve fund to do it, but they'll eventually pass a balanced budget without cutting services to residents or increasing millages.
While officials anticipated what City Manager Vince Pastue called a "huge jump" in retirement contributions, they didn't anticipate the huge drop in revenue-sharing.
In their first look at the draft budget Monday night, officials learned retirement contributions will increase \$117,000 over the current budget; health care costs, \$90,000 more. And both will likely grow in the

future, Pastue added.
"It's having a big effect this year, but it could have a bigger effect in years to come," he said.
Interest earnings on city investments have taken a dive and are projected flat for the next three years. Pastue said earnings have dropped by \$223,000 since the 2000-01 fiscal year.
State and federal revenues have also dropped, by \$160,000 since that same time frame, and could be further reduced if the economy doesn't improve. Pastue projected no increase for the next two years.
Those funds account for about 16 percent of general fund revenues.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET, A8

Hills OKs more homes near I-275

BY PAUL R. PACE STAFF WRITER
A proposal to build 61 homes abutting I-275 north of Eight Mile was given site-plan approval by the Farmington Hills City Council Monday.
Residents living east of the proposed development are still wondering who would want a home

even closer to the highway, because their pleas to state officials for noise relief have largely gone unanswered.
In a split decision, however, the majority of officials said the landowner has a right to develop the property, which is zoned for single-family homes.
Despite request from residents to postpone a decision until more

details could be brought forward, the council approved the request.
Council members Vick Barnett and Barry Brinkner voted against, agreeing there were too many unanswered questions.
Both feared lawsuits against the city by future homeowners unhappy

PLEASE SEE HOMES, A9

Family criticizes response to harassment

BY PAUL R. PACE STAFF WRITER
A Farmington Hills parent said her family is living in fear after teens who have a history of harassing her son have resorted to violent acts against the family's home.
Gloria Gaines-Hanna said what started out as bullying against her son,

Najib, has mushroomed into violent incidents - and, she alleges, the schools and police are failing to stop it.
She said that since she and her son have reported attacks and racial intimidation incidents to authorities, certain boys



Gloria Gaines-Hanna points to some of the damage still visible on the front door of her Farmington Hills home.

PLEASE SEE FAMILY, A8

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LOOKING AHEAD
Two Buck Check:
In Sunday's Testis section: The wine phenom, Two Buck Check, and why these wines cost more here in Michigan.

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