

Your hometown newspaper  
serving Farmington and  
Farmington Hills for 116 years

SUNDAY  
June 15, 2003  
75 cents

VOLUME 119 NUMBER 77

# FARMINGTON Observer

www.hometownlife.com

©2003 HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

**Distinctive**  
"Premier Fine  
Homes," inside  
today's *Eccentric*,  
features a collec-  
tion of distinctive  
homes.



## Rouge volunteers clean and learn

BY KIM KOVELLE and LAURA COLVIN  
STAFF WRITERS

Volunteers donned grubby clothes and protective gloves last Saturday morning to celebrate and clean the Rouge River and its watershed.

Friends of the Rouge's 17th Rouge Rescue/River Day attracted more than 1,000 volunteers to 23 sites in Wayne and Oakland counties, accord-

ing to FOTR Managing Director Carolyn Foster-McCaughy. "All feedback has been really positive," said Foster-McCaughy. "Volunteers had a great time and were really enthusiastic."

### REDEFINING REMOVAL

For the second year, log jams and woody debris were selec-

tively removed from the Rouge. "It used to be that when there were trees and log jams in the water we'd send in groups with chainsaws to take them out," said Bob Patterson, a community development specialist for the City of Westland. "What we found was that by clearing everything out the water was flowing too fast and eroding the banks of the river."

Woody debris is now man-

aged and left in as natural a state as possible. In Livonia, 80 volunteers worked at Thrush Creek, where a 25-foot long by 10-foot wide channel was cleared through fallen logs and brambles.

"They have to be very precise in breaking it open (and) redistributing the wood along the banks where there's signs of erosion," said Sharon Sabat, Livonia Recreation supervisor

for community resources who has coordinated the project for 15 years. "The actual habitat was being disturbed."

### DUMP NO WASTE

Another goal was the posting of new signs throughout neighborhoods reminding residents: "Dump no waste. Drains to

PLEASE SEE ROUGE, A8



Dr. Pat Robertson greets Tessie Wilson and Gene Oster during a reception for students and supporters.

## Hopes high at Tyndale

Grant depends on matching funds

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Pat Robertson visited William Tyndale College Friday to celebrate a new beginning for the recently financially troubled private Christian college in Farmington Hills.

"I'm delighted to be here and looking forward to a beneficial relationship," Robertson told reporters before a ceremony.

Robertson, well-known as the founder and broadcaster of the Christian Broadcasting Network, is also president, regent and chancellor of Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

PLEASE SEE TYNDALE, A7

## Moffitt up for SEMCOG vice chair position

BY KIM KOVELLE  
STAFF WRITER

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments will fill two vacant vice chair positions this month, and an Oakland County commissioner has emerged as the prime choice for one.

David L. Moffitt (R-Farmington Hills), Oakland County Board of Commissioners vice chairman, received the backing of SEMCOG's four Nominating Committee members May 7, as well as that of all 24 members of the board's Republican and Democratic caucuses.

If Moffitt attains the position, which will be decided June 26 by all 150 SEMCOG members in a General Assembly, it will mark an important return to leadership for the county.

"I fought for Oakland to retain its voice among the SEMCOG officer roster," said Moffitt, a practicing attorney and SEMCOG Executive Committee member of more than nine years. "This was a cooperative effort among many people to (select) a candidate who would be able to obtain region-wide support."

Previously, Oakland County Commissioner

PLEASE SEE MOFFITT, A7



This year's Founders Festival art will be seen all over town between now and mid-July.

## Founders Festival promises food, fun

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

This summer's upcoming Founders Festival in downtown Farmington is shaping up to be the best yet, with plenty of sponsors, arts and crafts, entertainment and food on hand.

And thanks to input from last year's festival attendees, there will be more

activities for young children. Farmer Jack is sponsoring a tent strictly for children's activities all three days of the festival, said Suzanne Lichtman, executive director of the festival.

The FestivalFUN Children's Activity Tent will have craft activities like sand art and "ink" candy and even a stuff-

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, A6

## Former Farmington city manager Dinan dies at 77

BY M.B. DILLON  
SPECIAL WRITER

As Farmington's new city manager in 1961, 35-year-old John D. Dinan faced a challenge.

"The community had initiated a downtown redevelopment project, and it was going only modestly well because of finances," said Bob



Mr. Dinan

Deadman, who succeeded Dinan as Farmington city manager. "John came in in the middle of that. He had to somehow find the money to finance the projects, which included the redoing of road systems, parking lots, lighting and landscaping. He had to convince the business community to fund the vast majority of it, and he did."

"John really was a good manager."

PLEASE SEE DINAN, A7



### A father's love

Patrick Miller, pictured with son Parker, who is now 5 years old, is the winner of our Father's Day contest. For details, photos and letters from loving children, see page A3.

**4 YR. OLD DROP-IN**  
Electric stove, side by side  
fridge, patio table set...  
"I was able to sell all my items with my ad  
in your paper - Thanks!" K.A. Carlton  
CALL 480-8778-8811  
PUT YOUR CLASSIFIED AD WORK FOR YOU

**CONTACT US**  
Newsroom - (248) 471-5400  
Newsroom fax - (248) 471-4722  
Classified - (800) 579-5211  
Home delivery - 1-866-85-PAPEE  
Hometown  
COMMUNITY LIFE PAPER

**INDEX**  
Apartments E2  
Automotive F3  
Classified D.E.F.  
Classified Index D2  
Crossword D3  
Eccentric Life C1  
Health E2  
Jobs F3  
Obituaries D1  
New Homes D1  
Service Guide D3  
Sports C1

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Big business C6  
In Thursday's Taste section, learn more about Michigan's crops and seasonal foods before you take that trip up north. D7  
E7  
B1

**4 YR. OLD DROP-IN**  
Electric stove, side by side  
fridge, patio table set...  
"I was able to sell all my items with my ad  
in your paper - Thanks!" K.A. Carlton  
CALL 480-8778-8811  
PUT YOUR CLASSIFIED AD WORK FOR YOU

CITY WIDE GARAGE DOOR