



# Farmington Observer

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## IN THE PAPER TODAY

**Pets and kids:** Kids and their cuddly and not-so-cuddly pets turned out in force at the 25th Annual Festival Pet Show at Shiawassee Park and walked away with trophies./3A

## COUNTY NEWS

**Time for action:** About 90 people turned out at Groves High School to sign up to work for local pro-choice candidates./5A

## SPORTS

**Baseball champ:** The NFWB I Reliable baseball team captured first place in a Connie Mack tournament Monday night in Jackson./1B

**Golf champion:** Farmington Hills professional golfer Steve Brady won the Michigan Open for the second straight year./1B

## ENTERTAINMENT



**Eating out:** Todd and Heather Spittler are earning a reputation for great ribs at T.S. Martin's in Redford Township./5B

## BUSINESS

**Opening dialogue:** Hellen Walker of Southfield takes over at the helm of the Women's Economic Club, hoping to provide a forum for business leaders that they may not find elsewhere./10B

## SUBURBAN LIFE

**Kids Kab:** Parents, who don't have time to chauffeur, arrange for their children to get around in a cab that's especially for kids. Kids Kab is headquartered in Birmingham./1C

**Malcolm X:** People are wearing hats with "X" for Malcolm X, but what message are they trying to convey?/1C

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# Downtown director departs



After five years as Farmington's first Downtown Development Authority director, Wendy Strip-Sittsamer is headed for a new set of challenges in the same role for the city of Southfield beginning in August. She will continue to live in Farmington Hills.

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

The executive director of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority resigned her appointed post Tuesday, with plans to take on the same role in neighboring Southfield.

Wendy Strip-Sittsamer, the first director hired for Farmington's DDA five years ago, plans to leave her job in mid-July and take on her new responsibilities in Southfield in early August. The move offers her a chance to work with a bigger city and a different set of challenges, she said.

Still, she said she will miss Farmington.

"The hardest thing is I really have developed a great fondness for Farmington, both for the people and the place," she said. "The five years have been very good to me. I gave a lot, but I also gained a lot."

"If I didn't feel the way I do about leaving downtown Farmington, something would be wrong."

Work nearly done

The 30-year-old Farmington Hills

resident leaves Farmington as the city's \$1.5 million streetscape improvement program enters its fifth and final construction phase this summer. A new Farmington director will, no doubt, focus heavily on maintenance and various marketing avenues to keep the downtown vital. The Farmington DDA board plans to begin immediately advertising and interviewing for a new director.

Farmington DDA board president Robert Heinrich lauded Strip-

See DIRECTOR, 2A

## Crowning glory



Pageant winner: Amber Joy Arbuckle, 21, was crowned the new Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Wednesday at the 19th annual Scholarship Pageant at Vladimir's. For more, see Monday's edition of the Farmington Observer.

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Folks relive history

Editor's note: History is best told by those who have lived it. In this two-part series, Nora Ragland, who is promoting the Founders Day Festival for the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, talked with two lifelong residents for their stories.  
BY NORA RAGLAND  
STAFF WRITER

Much of Farmington's history is unrecorded. The lifestyles and events that

## FOUNDERS DAY

centered around the average person are etched in the memories of those who lived them.

As Farmington celebrates 125 years since its incorporation as a village, it's enlightening to share a few nostalgic memories with the sages of the community to give a refreshing account of what life was years ago.

Through the eyes of Harley Walters and Mary Bush, both lifelong community residents, the history of Farmington comes back to life.

Here's a glimpse of yesteryear from Walters, who was born in Farmington in 1905.

"In 1910, there were nearly 600 people in Farmington Village. Fred M. Warner was serving a third term as governor of Michigan and William Howard Taft was president of the United States.

"Homes were lighted with kerosene lamps and cooking was done on oil, wood or coal stoves. The only thing automatic was the fire going out if it wasn't replenished with the necessary coal or wood.

"Milk was delivered direct from can to pan. The milkman dipped out the amount desired and covered the pan to keep the flies out. Drinking water was brought in from the outdoor pump in pails and a collapsible tin drinking cup was a necessary piece of equipment.

See HISTORY, 8A

# Judicial hopeful has name support



Jack McDonald

This is the third in a series of stories about candidates vying for an open seat on the 47th District court bench.

BY CASEY HANS  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills attorney John "Jack" McDonald has a list of heavy hitters backing him up in his run for the 47th District Court bench.

People like Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols, the mayors of Farmington and Farmington Hills and Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson

— who McDonald challenged for that seat — have all signed a letter of support for the former Oakland County Commissioner.

The easy-going McDonald, 52, believes the endorsements are a big help, but that his qualifications will be strong enough to earn him the seat. Still, he said, he's as nervous as when he has run for past public offices.

"I've been around a long time," he said. "I think I have a good chance and I feel, obviously, people must know the

name. But I'm as scared as everybody."

McDonald and six other Hills attorneys are vying for an open judicial seat in the court. The seat will be vacated later this year when Judge Margaret Schaeffer retires. There will be a run-off of the seven candidates during the Aug. 4 primary; the two top vote getters will square off in November.

The court, on 10 Mile, serves the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

See CANDIDATE, 6A

## Food pickup

The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency will distribute commodity food — butter, cornmeal, flour, peanut butter, pears, pork and tomatoes — 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, at St. Alexander's Catholic Church, 27835 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills.

If you are income-eligible but not registered you must bring Social Security cards of household members and picture identification to receive the commodities. Senior adults, aged 60 and older and all people with handicaps will be served first.

For more information on the program and income guidelines, contact OLHSA's community service department at 658-5139.

## FARMINGTON FOCUS

### Drier golf

Thanks to recent renovations at Glen Oaks Golf Course, on 13 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, golfers will find wet playing conditions are a problem of the past.

The improvements were a part of a major restructuring of the Farmington Hills drainage system, including the Pebble Creek drain, which runs through a portion of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission-owned golf course.

### Leukemia radiothon

Farmington Hills resident George Baler, co-host of "J.J. and the Morning Crew," will co-host the show's third annual Radiothon for Leukemia July 30-31 on 98.7 WLIZ radio.

Baler is the voice of "the bruiser" and a variety of other characters on the popular morning drive show. He will co-host the live 28-hour marathon radiothon with Jim Johnson — alias J.J.

The Leukemia Society anticipates the event will raise more than \$100,000 to help find a cure for cancer.

Portions of the marathon broadcast will be on location while other portions will be live from WLIZ's Farmington Hills studios.