

## Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

# IN THE PAPER

Labor of love: Everyone loves parade. This year's cavalcade of floats and marching bands highlighting the 28th annual Founders Festival proved it again./3A

Miss Farmington: Amber Arbuckinnss ranumgion: Amber Arbuck-le was crowned at the Miss Farm-ington/Farmington Hills scholar-ship pageant Wednesday at Vladimir's./8A

#### COUNTY NEWS

Democratic battle: Democrats Walter O. Briggs and Michael Meyer air their views as the Aug. 4 primary draws near./2A

Draining job: What exactly does the Oakland County drain com-missioner do and why do these men want the job?/5A



Dublin your pleasure: James Joyce isn't the only Irish literary artist with roots in Dublin./6A

Flying solo: Traveling alone doesn't have to be lonely./6A

#### OPINION

Beggar's banquet: Visiting downtown sometimes means an official welcome — from a panhandler./10A

#### TASTE



Winner dinner: Make-ahead meal perfect for casual, al fresco dining features recipes from the Southfield Senior Arts League Cookbook./1B

Budget gourmet: Caterer shares tips for preparing wholesome, ele-gant meals with style./1B

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## 2 blame battle over lot on Hills



A neighbor and a developer who are at odds with each are putting the blame for their continuing battle over lot sizes on the city of Farmington Hills.

sion.

Schwartz wants to build a house on a
60-foot-wide parcel — next door to Wilk
— which is not permissible in the area
where 80-foot-wide lots are required. So
he recently petitioned for a 14-foot vari-

BY BUE BUCK STAFF WRITER

Robert Wilk doesn't want to live on a

scluded lot.

But the roofer and builder wants to know how the city of Farmington Hills could have allowed a non-conforming lot owned by Michael Schwartz of United Homes, Inc.

### City to start letter

By Casey Hans Stayf Writer

Farmington residents can expect more news from city hall this year. The city will begin publishing a newsletter this fall in addition to the

#### COMMUNICATION

informational year calendar the city has traditionally published at the beginning

traditionally published at the beginning of each year.

The newaletter will be distributed twice each year — in the fall and again in the spring/summer season.

The idea had been discussed by the city council for several years but was raised sgain during council goal-setting seasions in recent months. Mayor William Hartsock, who has made public participation and communication with residents a goal, is taking the attitude "the more the better."

"If we have better communication

residents a goal, is taking the attitude "the more the better."
"If we have better communication with our residents and tell them what's expected of them, you don't have the subsequent problems," he said.

The newalters are to be done, initially, by Marketing Communications Counsel Inc. of Southfield, which aided the city in an informational campaign aurrounding the city's recent sever bond issue. The city has decided to try the newalter and measure its results before making it pernanent.

Countilwoman Joanne McShane was the lone volce speaking against the newalteter, saying that ahe's "not against the newalteter list!" as a tool to communicate with residents.
"I'm not completely opposed to it,"

See JOURNAL. 4A

See JOURNAL, 4A

ance, which the city denied. Schwartz's response was a lawsuit against the city in Oakland County Circuit Court. Twenty-five neighbors signed a petition opposing Schwartz's variance request. Most of these people reside on West Street, a few live on Elm Grove. "His (Schwartz's) problem is self-created, by the way he divided the lots." Wilk said. Wilk lives on an acre lot on Watt Street, east of Middlebelt, north of Nine Mile Road, in the Elm Grove subdivi-

Wilk sald.

Wilk and his petitioning neighbors told the city their property values would by affected — something Schwartz vehemently denies. Schwartz says he proposes to build a house of equal quality to others that he has built on the

street. Size would be the only difference.

Schwartz acquired nine lots in November, 1988, at which time the properties were zoned RA-4 (single-family residential) and it was permissible to build on 60-foot lots. At that time all nine lots were buildable.

In late 1988, however, the planning commission and city council decided to rezone part of the Elm Grove subdivi-sion to an RA-3 zone, which requires 80-foot lots in order to build a house.

## 2 relive town's history

Editor's note: History is best told by those who have lived it. In this sec-ond of a two-part series, Nora Ragand of thospan series, too that land, who is promoting the Foun-ders Day Festival for the Farming-ton-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, talked with two lifelong residents for their stories.

By NORA RAGLAND SPECIAL WRITER

As Farmington celebrates 125 years aince 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 wear age.

life was years ago.

Through the eyes of Harley Walters and Mary Bush, both lifelong community residents, the bistory of the Farm-

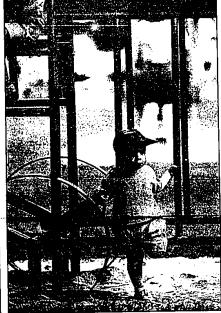
#### - ANNIVERSARY

ington area comes to life. Here's a con-tinuing glimpse of what life was in the Farmington area throughout the years from Harley Walters, who was born in

"BIB Groves' blacksmith shop at the northwest corner of State and Farmington, installed horse shoes for 25 cents each or four for 90 cents.

The Farmington Town Hall — now the Masonic Temple — built in 1876, was the focal point of the social and political life of the town.

"Home talent shows, lectures, Eastern Star dances, political meetings and basketball games were all held there. It was there, at 16, I learned to dance and



Circus wagon

GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids day: Two-year-old Mark McGraw studies the circus wagon play equipment at the annual Kids Day in the Park—the traditional Tuesday kickoff for the Founders Festival, which concluded Sunday.

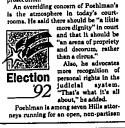
## Judge candidate cites experience

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

#### By Carey Hans Stapp Writer

Richard Poehlman has made his mark as a 25-year trial attorney — something he believes makes him the best qualified person to sit on the

bench.
"I have more experience than anyone
running, or anyone who could run for
the job," said Foehlman, 52, a former
Farmington Hills city attorney who
lives and practices in the Hills. "I've
been there and I think I belong there.
I'm not really soft on crime at all. I be-



seat on the 47th District Court this year. The seat opens with the retirement of Judge Margaret Scheeffer. Located in Farmington, the court serves both Farmington and Farmington the court serves both Farmington and Farmington and Farmington and Farmington the court serves both Farmington and Farmington the court serves both Farmington and Farmington the like when the an acticut."

Also, he advocates more recognition of personal rights in the judicial system. That's what it's all Pochiman is among seven tillis attorned as the University of Detroit, the

See CANDIDATE, 11A



James Poehlman: Says experience makes him the best qual-ified for the job.

#### **Animal tips**

If you've ever wondered what to do if you come across abandoned or injured young wildlife, the answers are waiting for you at the Farmington and Farmington Hills branches of the Farmington Community Library.

Sheets of information for rabbits, raccoons and birds, for example, are available thanks to Farmington Hills resident Beverly Cornell, a well-known wildlife rehabilitator, licensed by the state Department of Netward Recourses.

widdite remainitation, newned by the state Department of Natural Resources.

The data is available in the information files in both the adult and juvenile departments at the Hills branch on 12 Mile, and the Farmington branch on Liberty. You can also ask for assistance at the information details.

#### Permanent home

Farmington's Heritage Quilt found its permanent home at Farmington City Hall, July 1.

#### FARMINGTON FOCUS

The quilt was made in commemoration of Farmington's incorporation as a village in 1867.

Under the supervision of co-chairwomen Laura
Myers and Kathleen Brickner, the quilt blocks were created by 20 machine and the comme created by 22 needlewomen and the quilt was quilt by hundreds of children and adults ranging in age from 5 to 100 years of age from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The 125th anniversary celebration committee ex-

The 125th anniversary celebration committee ex-tends special praise and thanks to the project co-chairwomen and to all the school children and adults who worked on the Heritage Qullt, said Farmington Mayor Shirley Richardson.

The celebration committee invites the public to stop by Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, and see the Heritage Quilt.

#### **My Vote Counts**

The Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Vo-I ne ramington mills Committee to Increase Vo-ter Participation invites cable television viewers to tune into its next two monthly shows "My Vote Counta" — on Channel 12 MetroVision.

July's show features an interview with Oakland County Commissioner Lawrence Pernick of South-field on home rule in Oakland County, Vicki Barnett is host.

August's abow will feature an interview with Elea-nor Whitson, president of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, about the federation on state and national levels. Committee member Julieann Hovanesian will host the show.

"My Vote Counts" can been seen at 8 p.m. every Wednesday, 2 p.m., Thursdays, and 7 p.m., Fridays.