

# Farmington Observer

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FIFTY CENTS

IN THE PAPER

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**Edison explains:** Farmington Hills City Council members and some residents heard why there should be fewer interruptions in electric service. /2A

**Fatal crash:** An elderly Farmington Hills man died after the car he was driving slammed into another car, leaving its two occupants seriously injured. /3A

### COUNTY NEWS

**Steady growth:** Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield lead the way as Oakland County continues to grow, according to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. /5A

### OPINION

**At home outdoors:** Whether fishing in Chesapeake Bay or in Ford Lake, there's one congressman who knows his way around the out-of-doors. So says columnist Jeff Counts. /9A

### TASTE



**Contest winners:** Find out who won our contest for the most versatile tomato sauce. /1B

### MALLS & MAINSTREETS

**Pinnacle of style:** Clothes make the person, but the Burberrys raincoat builds character. /5B

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**Football opener:** Farmington Harrison took on Dearborn Divine Child on Saturday night. /1C

**Girls basketball:** Farmington-area teams were active as the 1993 season got under way. /1C

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## Post Office plans new building



BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Local postmaster Mark Bate said the U.S. Postal Service wants to build a new multi-operational building in Farmington.

Bate said the current post offices on Slocum Street in Farmington and

12 Mile in Farmington Hills are bursting at the seams. A new building would ease the crowding. Ideally, Bate said postal officials are looking for 7 to 7½ acres or the equivalent of 250,000 square feet as part of its five-year plan to deal with growth. An official search has not

started, but already some possible sites are being discussed.

The question is: Can Farmington deliver?

Property in the city is built up and land is scarce. Bate said postal officials like the northwest part of the city, the Grand River/Drake area.

He informed the Farmington City Council of the plans Aug. 23. A council member even suggested vacant land along Nine Mile Road, west of Farmington.

"If it came down to it, we have to take what we can get," Bate said.

"The problem is if you go too far south is that there is a Livonia postal service branch (Newburgh and Seven Mile roads)."

The current post offices handle 2,000 feet of mail a day between them and have 100 carrier routes. Bate said they're looking at adding 10 more routes in the next few years.

Area growth translates into more mail deliveries.

"It just keeps going," Bate said, "which is good for any business."

See BUILDING, 4A

### A market blooms in Farmington



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMARCA

Out shopping: Teresa Gerhard of Redford Township wheels away her groceries, plants and sorts Jeffrey, 1½, and Daniel, 2½.

## Business buzzing at farmer's mart

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A bushel of visitors have had the pick of the peck at Farmington downtown farmer's market this summer.

The market in the Village Commons area, off Grand River Avenue, had a sluggish start in its inaugural season but looks to finish with a flourish.

The market will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday until the end of October.

"We have been just jumping," said Downtown Development Authority director Judy Downey, who

"I think you get a better quality (at a farmer's market). The flavor seems better. I don't know, maybe it's the ambience."

Joann Tolsted  
farmer's market customer

conceived the idea for a farmer's market. "I had to work myself and help the vendors two weeks ago because we were so busy."

See MARKET, 3A



Veggies: Squash and zucchini are in good supply.

## State aid loss not severe

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

An example of the better-skillet state of school finance: A \$1.6 million cut in state aid brings a sigh of relief from a finance director.

Farmington Public School District loses in the state Legislature's aid package passed Tuesday. That's no surprise.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance Bruce Barrett said the district was bracing for just such a cut.

In fact, the district's \$83.5 million budget for 1993-94 factored in possible losses. Last week, the possibility became reality.

Compared to a \$5 million loss in

### SCHOOLS

recapture two years ago — not to mention the elimination of school property taxes next year — the \$1.6 million cut may seem like a flesh wound.

"We're used to it at this point," Barrett said.

"In terms of round numbers this means we will not have to go in and change the budget because we were very pessimistic in the way we drafted the budget."

The cut actually could have been worse.

A Senate version of the bill would have slashed several millions in state aid to Farmington, Barrett said. Add Barrett: "So, we take this school aid bill and run with it."

Other aspects of the package affect Farmington schools.

Tax-based sharing is gone, which means Farmington gets back a portion of the estimated \$500,000 that was captured from assessment increases on commercial property. The money was supposed to go to poorer districts, but a bevy of legal action thwarted the plan.

"It's not significant in terms of the big picture," Barrett said.

See AID, 4A



U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg

## Freshman rep keeps winning touch

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg just couldn't lose when he spoke at an Exchange Club luncheon in Farmington Hills Wednesday.

Knollenberg, the freshman Republican congressman from Bloomfield Township, began by winning the club's 50-50 drawing and giving the proceeds back to the club, then joked that he wouldn't mind seeing the money next year in the form of a campaign contribution.

Exchange Club president Bill Lew introduced Knollenberg as one who beat the odds and big money of his

opponent, Democrat Walter O. Briggs III, to win with a 59-percent majority.

"I guess today you can get in with 42 percent," Lew quipped.

The congressman didn't waste time or the goodwill of his audience of about 80 at the Elks Club on Orchard Lake. While preaching to the converted on topics like health-care reform and the federal budget, he didn't hesitate to sell his position favoring the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in a district with strong auto-industry ties.

"I support NAFTA," he said. "Our economy can continue to grow with-

out restrictions, or wither under protections."

Knollenberg said the pact would put the United States and Mexico, which now charges higher tariffs on imports, to be on an equal ground thereby helping to eliminate the need for U.S. companies to move their plants south of the border to save money. The agreement would help keep jobs at home, he said.

"I thought he did a good job and covered a lot of points," said retired Farmington High teacher Lloyd Smith, who continues to coach debate

See KNOLLENBERG, 4A

### Donations anyone?

Kegham Tasian, a Farmington-area artist and professor at Oakland Community College, has been commissioned to create an original sculpture to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village.

The bronze eight-foot sculpture will be located near the entrance to the Farmington City Hall. It will consist of five spiral forms about five feet high, each representing 25 of the 125 years.

Placed in the center of these five shapes will be a globe of sculpted faces depicting the community's range of ages and ethnic origins, and reflecting a sense of pride.

The sculpture is made possible in part from

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

funds raised during last year's 125th anniversary celebration. However, a Sculpture Committee is seeking contributions to fund the remaining costs.

While donations will be accepted in any amount, contribution levels are: Supporter, \$10 or more; Contributor, \$100; Donor, \$250; Patron, \$500; Benefactor, \$1,000. Donations will be recognized in the dedication program.

Donations should be made payable to: 125th Anniversary Sculpture and mailed to City Manager's office, Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington 48335.

### Kickoff luncheon planned

The Women of North Farmington's kickoff luncheon will be held Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

A social hour begins at 11 a.m. with lunch set for noon. A fashion show, presented by Divine Knits on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, is planned for that afternoon.

Visitors are welcome. Anyone wishing more information about the club should call Norma Bauman, president, at 583-4207.

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