

Farmington Observer

VOLUME 106 NUMBER 77

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1995 • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 100 PAGES

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

© 1995 Leubser Communications Corporation

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Pride of Clarencville: Ninety-two Clarencville High seniors walked across the stage during the recent commencement. /3A

Changes made: The Farmington Hills City Council adopted changes in a zoning ordinance designed to derail development problems. /4A

Rover stays leashed: Farmington's City Council, citing liability concerns, shot down a plan that would let dogs run free in the park. /5A

Passive park abuilding: Construction of a gravel driveway and 24-car parking lot leading into Woodland Hills Park is under way. /8A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Acts of kindness: Read some stories about people who have benefited from the kindness of strangers. /13A

OPINION

C'mon, deliver! There are problems with our water distribution system. Officials should not expect us to live with them forever. /10A

Letter rip! Farmington Observer readers were generous with their opinions delivered in letters to the editor. /10A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Window art: An area artist puts heart and soul into a window in a church. /1B

Playing games: The games people play aren't just for kids anymore. Gaming has become a new favorite with many adults who will be gathering for a convention. /1B

SPORTS

Soccer stars: North Farmington senior Ali Lord is a repeat member of the All-Observer girls soccer team. /1C

Track honors: Farmington schools are well represented on the 1995 All-Area girls track team. /1C

INDEX

Calendar 7C
Community News/13A
Entertainment 1B
Inkwell 9C
Obituaries 7A

Opinion 10A
Personals 11B
Police/ire 7A
Sports 1C
Street Scene 10B

HERE'S HOW TO REACH US

Newroom: 810-477-5450
Newroom Fax: 810-477-8722
Sports: 313-853-2141
Reader Comment Line: 313-853-2042
Classified Advertising: 313-851-0900
Display Advertising: 313-851-2300
Home Delivery: 313-851-0300
Cable/TV Weekly: 313-853-2162



Megan Kate Smith

Cheers for Miss Farmington

Megan Smith, the reigning Miss Farmington, had plenty to smile about after returning from the Miss Michigan Pageant in Muskegon. She finished in the top 10 and was cited for her community work.

By DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills, Megan Kate Smith, finished in the top 10 at the Miss Michigan pageant last Saturday and, more importantly to the people back home, she was recognized for her diligent community work.

Smith won the community service award, which came with a \$500 prize, as well as \$800 for placing in the top 10 at the pageant held in Muskegon where Miss Redford, Coni Lyn Hull, was chosen to compete in the Miss America pageant.

Smith said that, although she feels strongly about community work, she

was surprised to win the award. "By supporting your community with your talents, time and energy, you and those you have touched will greatly benefit from your efforts," Smith said Monday from her Farmington Hills home.

"I wanted everyone to be aware that what we have to give back is inside of us and every little investment really makes a difference," Smith said. "I've really realized that with Miss Farmington. It was a great, great year. It's my city and the benefits of investing

See MEGAN, 2A

Daniels is an island of sanity in WRIF's morning madness

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Shock-jock morning radio runs on the three Rs: Risque, ribald and (if that doesn't rouse still-weary listeners from a drivetime slumber) it can be downright raucous at times.

What? WRIF-FM morning newscaster and Farmington resident Trudi Daniels role in this? She's a bystander or a sometimes co-conspirator, depending to whom you talk.

With her headphones on and perched in front of the mike, Daniels is trying to keep a straight face. Her on-air colleagues won't let her, though.

Drew Lane and Mike Clark implicate her on a number of transgressions, namely a spat with Motown legend Martha Reeves and an odd spectacle involving listeners and Daniels' toes.

"I do want to live in Farmington. I don't want to be run out of there," Daniels mockingly pleads with them on the air. "They have standards there, you know."

Daniels reads the news in a rock 'n' roll conversational, sardonic sort of way on the "Drew and Mike Show" 6-10 a.m. weekdays.

Her newscasts provide journalistic meat, but it's the sardonic dishes that she and her cohorts feast on. Two-minute news segments can turn into 20 minutes of commentary in the form of banter and ridicule.

In a recent Ann Arbor rape case, Daniels includes a tidbit about the defendant wearing a purple coat and tan shirt in the courtroom. She and her colleagues spend several minutes wondering about the convicted rapist's fashion sense.

"There's hard news stories and you have to respect that," said Daniels, sitting in an office with a computer and fax machine. "Sometimes there are side issues that evolve, and that helps takes the sting out of it."

Breezy is not easy.

Daniels gets up at 3:30 a.m. and turns on CNN. She combs the wires, daily newspapers and the "purple section" of USA Today for items when she arrives at the station.

She then rewrites those nuggets to fit the informal news block. Her serious newscaster voice punctuated by sarcastic quips and a girlish giggle lightens the load.

Newsanchors — at least by tabloid standards — have appeared on the show. Kate Kaelin, John Bobbitt and Jennifer Flowers to

See DANIELS, 6A



Trudi faces life: Trudi Daniels, morning newscaster on WRIF-FM, sometimes finds it hard to keep a straight face when with the antics of on-air colleagues Drew Lane and Mike Clark.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBERT

Shocker: Grant out of mayoral campaign

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills City Councilman Jon Grant decided he had taken enough slings and arrows and announced he was pulling out of the race for mayor Monday.

Grant, serving his second term on the council, had earlier announced he would run for mayor in the city's first race for a directly elected mayor. The City Council had previously chosen the mayor.

Grant dropped the bombshell at the regular meeting and with it, the information that an anonymous writer had sent faxes to the Farmington Observer and two other newspapers in an attempt to show that Grant had improperly gained financially by his ties with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

"This story never appeared in any of these papers," he said. "I can only assume that they (the newspapers) found no basis for a story."

The fax, which was received by the Observer June 6, charged that a high-tech trade show, Flight Paths, sponsored by the chamber and planned by a committee chaired by Grant, had lost \$30,000. Grant's publishing company, The Reliance Group, had made \$5,000.

Chamber Executive Director Jody Soronen said the event did lose about \$23,000, but Grant had offered his services at cost.

Grant confirmed that he made no money on the show.

"If I am involved with a committee that is putting on the event, everything is at cost," he said. "Otherwise, I make a small profit."

Grant pointed to his long service with the chamber and the city, both as a planning commissioner and city councilman, as testimonials to his integrity. He said the latest attempt to discredit him, along with attacks by some citizens during a recall attempt late last year, were a and commentary on public service.

"Other than the personal satisfaction, and that I have made many friends, I have gained nothing personally from the sacrifices my family and I have made for Farmington Hills," he said. "I never expected or wanted anything other than that."

"I will not expose myself to this type of dirty politics, nor will I, after spending 12 years showing my children what good things I have been able to do for our community, expose them to the chance of picking up a

See GRANT, 6A

Water restrictions stay

Hot, dry weather has led to mandatory water restrictions for most Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

Curbs on outdoor water use, imposed last Friday by state health officials, will remain "until they say otherwise," said Tom Blasell, director of the city's Department of Public Services.

The restrictions: If the last digit of your address is an odd number, you may water lawns and gardens, wash cars and fill swimming pools on odd-numbered days. If the address ends in an even number, you may turn on outdoor spigots on even-number days.

Farmington Hills has definite hours for water use — on the proper days, of course. Hours for watering are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8-11 p.m.

There are no hours specified in the city of Farmington, just the odd-even, address-date setup.

Hills residents may use hand-held hoses for watering gardens and so forth anytime, officials said at Monday's City Council meeting.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The problem is that people are using water faster than the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department can pump it to places like Farmington Hills and Novi, which are near the end of the water lines.

Automatic sprinkler systems, on both residential and on commercial property, are the main culprits, said Hills City Manager Bill Costick. Restrictions apply only to those Farmington Hills residents connected to the municipal water supply. Those with private wells — yes, there are still some wells in Farmington Hills — are exempt.

Hills officials said that most residents have been complying with the water restrictions. As of Monday, no tickets — at \$100 each — have been issued.

While restrictions are mandatory in Farmington Hills and Novi, they are voluntary in most other

metropolitan Detroit-area communities. The same odd-even watering system will be followed.

Memory Lane

From the June 16, 1955 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Water restrictions went into effect in Section 36 in southeast Farmington Township. An odd-even watering system was to be used.

Sealed bids for the construction of a new pumping station that would allow the expansion of the Farmington water system were received by the City Council. Farmington's water came from municipal wells.

A school census, conducted in May, showed a total of 7,683 students in the Farmington Township School District. It was an increase of 23 percent over the 1954 figure.

From an editorial: "The Class of 1955 will hear many sound words of wisdom before this week is over. We hope they listen carefully . . ."

Short item: "Mealtime is, as one overworked mother put it, when the kids sit down to continue eating."