

Farmington couple 'foster' lots of love for their puppy

A few months ago, Kris and Ken Kossak of Farmington were in the market for a new puppy. They were lucky to find a special little chocolate Labrador retriever named "Donnie."

Donnie — better known to the Kossaks as "D.J." — is not just your average Labrador, he is a dog being raised as part of the Paws With a Cause "Foster Puppy Program."

Kris Kossak said that when they were looking for a new dog, she met Sharon Joseph, a Paws field trainer, who told her about the Paws Foster Puppy Program. She and her husband decided to become D.J.'s foster parents.

As foster parents, the Kossaks are responsible for D.J.'s care until he is about 16 months old. The Paws Foster Puppy Program is designed to give families

such as the Kossaks's, an opportunity to raise, train and socialize a puppy.

By taking D.J., who is now eight-months old, to beginning basic training classes, giving him lots of love and socializing him in public places, the Kossaks are giving D.J. the head-start he needs to someday become a Paws Assistance Dog.

Paws trains dogs to assist physically challenged and/or hearing impaired people.

All Paws Assistance Dogs have legal public access, so it is important for them to feel comfortable in all situations.

Kris Kossak is making sure that D.J. gets as much public exposure as possible. She takes him to work two or three times a week.

Kossak works for her aunt

D.J., like all of the other foster dogs, will be taught to help move a wheelchair, retrieve fallen objects such as keys, open and close doors and many other tasks that will assist his new owner in gaining independence.

DJ socializes well with people and he also gets along well with other animals. Her aunt has lots of animals... like a farm environment. D.J. gets along with all of the animals, Kossak says. "He even plays with the macaws and gets his tail bit occasionally."

All of the socialization D.J. is getting now is going to be beneficial to him when he is returned to Paws Training Center in Wayland, Mich.

gaining independence.

Once he has completed his training, he will be placed with a new owner and a Paws Field Trainer will do in-home work with the dog and owner to make sure the new working team functions together.

Paws Hearing Dogs alert their owner to sound in the home or work place such as the doorbell, a TTD telephone, an alarm clock or even the sound of a baby crying.

Paws is a nonprofit organization that receives funding from United Way, civic and community groups, as well as private donations.

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For more information about Paws or the Paws "Foster Puppy Program" call 1-800-263-PAWS, or contact the regional office at 693-9789.

Kurzeja from page A1

for three years. She and her husband Walter have four children and seven grandchildren.

One of the experiences she believes has helped her on council has been the 10 years she spent on the ZBA.

"Zoning is crucial," she said. "And it is something where you have to make a decision."

Zoning is important in protecting property values and use, she said.

"Timbercrest (the development on 12 and Middlebelt) was a black eye for the city," she said. "The people were looking for a more compatible develop-

ment. You can't guarantee a business will be here in a few years, but people are forever."

That resident advocacy is what Kurzeja tries to bring to the council, she said.

"I don't think you need to develop every blade of grass," she said.

She said Farmington Hills boomed in the 1980s thanks to a lot of development in a short time. But unlike Livonia, which built infrastructure ahead of development, some areas of Farmington Hills have been missed.

She said the Clairview area of 14 Mile, Orchard

Lake and Northwestern is once where residents do not have city water and sewers and are surrounded by commercial development.

"That's something we'll have to deal with," she said.

As more traffic comes with development, road improvements, such as left turn lanes and widening of intersections will become more important.

Kurzeja said she was pleased that on the second try, the city council was able to hire Dan Hobbs as the new city manager.

"I don't think we were all looking for the same thing," she said.

The council compromised to offer the job to Rich King of Upper Arlington, Ohio. When King declined the job, the council offered the job to Hobbs, Kurzeja's first choice.

Kurzeja faces Ellis in the Aug. 6 election. The winner will serve out Vagnozzi's term which ends in November of 1997.

Dusseau from page A1

of the parking lot since May on a trial period.

Dusseau pays the owner of the shopping center a monthly fee, which in turn is donated to the Uptown Plaza Business Associa-

tion for advertising and promotion. Business owners and city officials see it as a win-win for everyone involved.

"I noticed the parking lot across the street," said Frank

Buban, who is sales manager at Dusseau Lincoln-Mercury.

"Though it's a large shopping center, there wasn't much parking at the Mooney and Grand

used to handle overflow of inventory as a result of cars being returned by customers who lease. Potential customers are not asked to cross the street," Buban said.

"Crossing Grand River would not be a great idea," he said. "I'll see customers get out of their cars and browse and look at the ones parked there."

Dusseau Lincoln-Mercury is situated next to The Winery and backed by a ravine, leaving no room to expand.

Ford Motor offered Dusseau the option of building a new dealership and relocating in Novi eight years ago.

The exodus of Grand River dealerships west has included Tom Holzer Ford, which moved to 10 Mile and Haggerty, and Farmington Hills Chrysler/Plymouth, which kept its name though relocated on Haggerty Road in Novi.

Dusseau remained, seeing a 10-percent increase in sales during the past two years. The dealership also won Ford's North American Customer Excellence Award for 1995.

"They decided they've been in business for 41 years here; Mr. Dusseau feels this is a good, viable area and there was no need to leave," Buban said.

Farmington Observer

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48030-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48030-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48030-0910. Telephone 844-1100.

Subscription Rates: \$42.00 per copy, 75¢ per copy, one year, \$55.00

Home Delivery Service: per copy, 75¢ per copy, one year, \$55.00

One Year in Oakland County: \$42.00

Newsstands: per copy, 75¢

Carriers: per copy, 75¢

Mail: per copy, 75¢

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Festival from page A1

allows for many potential first-time buyers.

Metro Trend, which specializes in exclusive skateboards apparel such as D.G. shirts and Adidas shirts, plans to wheel out its best for the fest.

"We're supposed to be getting a bunch of new stuff in," said Eric Early, manager of the Farmington Road outlet.

While Metro Trend uses the Founders Festival to lure new customers, folks at Cowley's Village Inn count on renewing old acquaintances. Many former regulars make a return visit during festival time, said Cowley's owner Pat Cowley.

The Irish pub, a well-known Farmington watering hole, plans to keep with the "Music, Music, Music" theme with a live band on Thursday through Saturday. There is no cover charge Thursday.

Nobody's Business performs Thursday night while Celtic songsters Stone Circle plays Friday and Saturday. Cover is \$3.

Cowley's will have a soda pop stand out front during the festival. More importantly, the owner said the place has a new air conditioner, bearing in mind last year's blistering heat.

"It will be the coolest place around," Pat Cowley said.

THE Observer & Eccentric

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