

# Power student nets big trout

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Pouring rain forced the cancellation of this spring's trout derby, an annual Rouge River event co-sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

But that didn't deter aspiring young fisherman Eric Peterson

one bit. Eric, who soon will attend eighth grade at Power Middle School, came back to the Rouge at Shiawassee Park the following day. He was determined to catch something.

Eric is the first to have caught a trout and he prized catch during Tuesday night's Farmington City Council meeting.

The youngster - holding his

long.

"Both the cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington are very pleased that Eric caught the fish that he did, against all odds," said Farmington Hills city naturalist Joe Derek, who introduced Eric and his prized catch during Tuesday night's Farmington City Council meeting.

The youngster - holding his

mounted rainbow trout - was officially greeted by Mayor Mary Bush and recognized as the 1999 Trout Derby winner, even though the actual event was rained out.

"We're proud of you," said Bush, who pointed out that Eric used a key-needle of corn to catch the fish. "We hope you keep fishing in Farmington."

According to Derek, catching such a big fish from an inland river or stream is a rarity.

"It's going to be tough to outdo that one," Derek said. "We're making history here."



Proud: Power Middle School student Eric Peterson displays the trout he caught in the Rouge in Shiawassee Park in Farmington. Eric's parents had the 21-inch trout mounted. Eric was honored by the city council recently.

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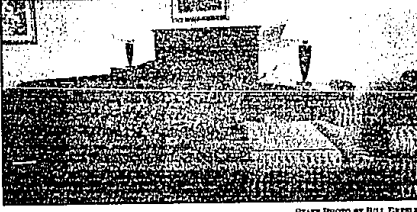
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## Hotel from page A1

The Holiday Inn hosts an average of 12,000 guests a month.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DANKER

in this area."

Others such as Motel 8, Red Roof Inn and Radisson Suites sprung up around the beige and green-trimmed structure in the M-5, 10 Mile and Grand River corridor.

The Holiday Inn, which is owned and operated by Farmington Hills Motel Associates, hosts an average of 12,000 guests a month.

"I think in general there is a robust economy and there is a lot of business travel," Koziatek said. "We're also getting more people who are making three- and four-day weekend getaways instead of taking a two-week vacation."

A Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman sees the renovated hotel as a place to hold events. In August, a chamber event will include a tour of the refurbished

Brand new: Here's a peek at a refurbished room at the Holiday Inn, the Farmington area's oldest hotel.

facility.

"With the addition of Pompano's restaurant, I think they have an excellent opportunity to get tourists in the area as well as business travelers to utilize the facility," said Carleigh Flaherty, chamber president.

As new companies open and expand, the hotel industry is also getting innovative.

For instance, Extended Stay offers long-term arrangements geared for employees, who are in transition after being transferred or on temporary contracts. Apartment complexes such as Citation Club and Village Green are providing similar arrangements.

"We've got a good selection of hotels here," Flaherty said. "I also think they are all strategically placed along the travel corridor."

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