



Judges: Brian Golden, vice president of the Farmington Historical Society, and Bob Rebtov, Farmington Hills Fire Department assistant to the chief, compare chili samples at the cook-off.

Chili from page B1

Staff photo by **BRADLEY LORING**
 Roger Ratkowski, owner of The Pasta Stop, enjoys supporting local causes.
 "I've participated the last couple of years," he said. "We're all on a first-name basis here and Dennis (Page) and I have been friends for years."
 Though it didn't garner an award Sunday, The Pasta Stop chili snared recognition Saturday at a chili cook-off at Grand River Baptist Church in Livonia.

Joe Lesnick was getting a dog license at city hall when he heard about the cook-off. He brought wife, Janet, and kids Scott, 16, and Yelena, 10.
 "The chili is pretty good," Scott said.
 His sister, weary from a recent sleep-over birthday party, just smiled and nodded her head as she snatched a sample.

Bush from page B1

I call it community service, not politics."
 Encouraged to run for council in the summer of 1993, she won her first seat in the November election that year. In an interesting quirk, she tied votes with incumbent Dick Tupper and in a run-off, she won the four year term. He served the two-year term.
 Her strategy for organizing campaigns was learned "by the school of hard knocks, and also by talking with other council members."

"I decided to not go on a campaign basis to raise money. I decided to do it myself. That worked because of the size of the community. It wouldn't work in Farmington Hills."
 Bush finds local politics very rewarding.
 "It's unlike anything I have ever done," she said. "It gives you a keen insight into how local municipal government works."
 She believes that women have an edge in local government. And she feels lucky to be part of such a cohesive community as

Farmington.
 "You don't have to look far around the state to see how not to do municipal government," Bush said. "Here in Farmington, from the city manager to the department heads to the council and staff, there is such cooperation. That's the best part."
 In the future, she sees herself as staying connected politically to the local landscape.
 "You never know what lies ahead but most likely, I will continue to stay connected," she said.

JVS Women to Work program focus: Homemakers returning to job force

Homemakers who have been out of the work force for an extended period and need a job are invited to attend a Jewish Vocational Service Women to Work information meeting. It is free, open to the public and scheduled 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 14, at JVS, 29699 Southfield Road in Southfield.
 The meeting will provide an overview of the JVS Women to Work program, designed to help those who have lost their source of income following separation, divorce, death of a spouse, or disability of a spouse. The information meet-

ing will also highlight services that are offered through the program to identify skills, provide an introduction to computer operations, teach resume writing and effective interviewing techniques and offer job referrals.
 JVS, a Jewish Federation and United Way agency, offers a

wide variety of vocational services for those requiring career development and employment services, vocational rehabilitation, work activity and specialized senior adult programming in the tri-county area.
 For further information, please call JVS at 659-6000.

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For more information or a brochure, call (248) 887-4533
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Chat room from page B1

phrases skillfully help defuse your children's negative feelings. Remember to describe the feel-

ing you believe your child is experiencing. If you get it wrong, your child will be quick to correct you. Should you say, "Oh you sound so disappointed" and disappointed is not the feeling your child is experiencing, she may be quick to say, "I'm not disappointed, I'm mad!"

Genie in a bottle
 It can be hard to hear your children say unpleasant things about each other. So many of us then forbid such talk reasoning that if they don't say it, they won't feel it. If let the negative stuff out, it will overwhelm and destroy, like letting the genie out of the bottle. Fear not. By letting out the worst of their feelings and having a parent listen with empathy, the child is then free to think clearly. When a child is angry, he cannot think clearly or reason and certainly cannot problem solve. Do you make your best decisions when you're angry? But once those feelings are out, the child feels understood, relaxes inside and is ready to move forward toward better feelings and problem solving. Parents can teach their children that their hurtful actions must stop and show them how to defuse angry feelings acceptably. "This family doesn't hit each other. Tell him with words how angry you are!" would be a helpful phrase. By acknowledging your children's negative feelings about each other, you allow them to work toward a more peaceful co-existence.

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