

# The Farmington Observer

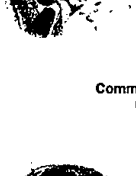
HomeTown News...  
It's all about you!

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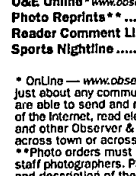
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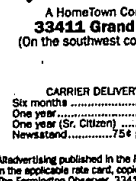
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**The Farmington Observer**  
A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication  
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# Award of Excellence winners named

The following students have exhibited outstanding academic achievement, exemplary citizenship and exceptional involvement in school activities:

**Jodi Bachrach, grade 9, Harrison High School:** Carried 4.0 grade point average, played basketball, volleyball and softball, served as a student tutor and participated in community service activities.

**Shannon Bailey, grade 8, East Middle School:** Charter member of East's National Junior Honor Society, served as a reporter for the Titan Tribune, was on the Good Citizens and Academic Honor Roll in 6th-8th grades and is involved in community outreach through her church.

**Bridgette Beas, grade 8, Warner Middle School:** Winner of the 1999 Optimist Oratorical Contest, a Student Council member for three years, played soccer, volleyball and track, maintained a high grade average and played in the Warner Middle School band.

**Kathleen Bendick, grade 11, North Farmington High School:** A member of North's marching and jazz bands for three years, plays soccer, is a National Honor Society member, participated in Girl's State and is a member of her church youth group.

**Gayann DeSilva, grade 8, Power Middle School:** Maintained a 4.0 grade point average for three years, is a member of the Social Studies Olympiad team, the choir and is a violin concert master, as well as being an award-winning composer.

**Christopher Doughty, grade 9, North Farmington High School:** Co-captain of the freshman football team, member of the wrestling and track teams, maintains a 4.0 grade point average, serves on student council and participates in service projects.

**Heather Friedll, grade 12, Farmington High School:** Art Club President for two years, varsity track team for four years, had art work selected for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, as well as helping to create the Farmington High Empty Bowls fund-raiser for the Salvation Army.

**Rachel Gruetzner, grade 8, Dunckel Middle School:** Recipient of the President's Award for Academic Excellence, on student council for three years, finished 2nd in the Optimist Club's Oratorical contest and sings in her church choir.

**Julie Kimmel, grade 11, Farmington High School:** Class president freshman, sophomore and junior years, student council member, played varsity basketball and volleyball, selected to attend Girl's State.

**Destree Lemon, grade 12, Farmington Alternative Academy:** Member of the District Student Diversity Panel, the School Crisis Team, student council and the prem planning committee and took part in Alternative Education Student Leadership Training.

**Nicole Little, grade 12, North Farmington High School:** Holds a 4.0 GPA while working part-time, baby-sitting and tutoring, being a member of the varsity swim team for four years and on her class board.

**Jillan Mack, grade 12, Harrison High School:** President of the National Honor Society and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, food bank volunteer, scholar athlete and served as a class board officer for four years.

**Michael McIntosh, grade 10, North Farmington High School:** Haver a 1390 on his PSAT and a 4.0 GPA, does community service, is a member of cross country and track teams and plays basketball with the YMCA.

**Mallory Mecham, grade 8, Dunckel Middle School:** Maintains a 4.0 GPA, an academic and citizenship honor rolls, plays in jazz, cadet and varsity bands, winner of regional essay and poetry contests.

**Amanda Mergener, grade 8, Farmington High School:** Member of varsity swimming and junior varsity softball teams, participated in Youth Summit and Student Forum, volunteers with the Special Education "buddy" system.

**Alex Perez, grade 8, Power Middle School:** Maintained a 4.0 GPA for three years, participates in tennis, cross country, football and track, attended Space Camp, served on the Diversity Committee.

**Daniel Prelester, grade 10, Harrison High School:** Maintained a 4.0 GPA, served as volunteer tutor, earned Academic Excellence in Math and a letter for Academic Achievement.

**Kolly Raymond, grade 11, Harrison High School:** Drum major with the award-winning Harrison marching band, member of band and orchestra, plays varsity golf, member of the National Honor Society.

**Katie Rivard, grade 8, Warner Middle School:** In Girl Scouts, plays soccer and volleyball, honor roll for three years, member of the student council and yearbook club, member of the concert band.

**Eric Rosenbloom, grade 8, Warner Middle School:** Honor roll for three years, played football and basketball, member of the Chess Club, active in his Temple and at school, volunteers with a preschool program.

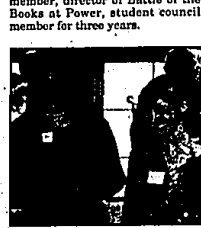
**Carli Schaefer, grade 8, Dunckel Middle School:** Honor roll student, member of the student council, literary magazine editor, plays volleyball and writes

poetry. **Phillip Scott, grade 8, East Middle School:** 2000-2001 8th grade class president, charter member National Junior Honor Society, member of East's concert band, plays travel hockey and baseball, good citizens and academic honor roll for three years.

**Katharine Stiefel, grade 8, East Middle School:** Member of Junior Thespians, concert band and the Mosaic Club, charter member of the National Junior Honor Society, competitive swimmer, good citizens and academic honor rolls for three years.

**Jeff Tosolan, grade 10, Farmington High School:** Student council member for two years, maintains a 4.0 GPA, helped at the school's blood drive, member of the Spanish Club, Technology Student Association and varsity lacrosse team.

**Julie Walls, grade 8, Power Middle School:** Maintained a 4.0 GPA for three years, concert band member, director of Battle of the Books at Power, student council member for three years.



**Honored: FHS senior Heather Friedll thanked Gail Piipenburg, a teacher who made a difference in her life.**

## Letter from page A2

Brouillette had called him before writing the letter to check the accuracy of her facts.

As for the expenditures versus revenues issue, Neuman's literature reads: "Last year, the Farmington School District's expenditure exceeded its revenues by over \$6 million over \$6 million." Neuman said the information contained in his brochure is accurate and that the district did spend more money than it took in. He stands by the accuracy of his statement.

"There was no mention of mis-handling or misappropriation only that the money was spent," Neuman said. "The statement is true."

Neuman cited Maxfield's budget message to board members that state revenues are less than projected. "This will certainly have a negative impact on higher spending districts such as Farmington," Maxfield wrote. In light of potential shortfalls, board members need to consider how best to handle finances, Neuman said.

### Talking millage renewal

Brouillette said such negative talk could jeopardize renewal of the school millage, which is also on Monday's ballot and provides 40 percent of the school budget. "This is millage that has been in place since Proposal A was adopted and allows the district to levy 13,7632 mills on home-stated properties and 18 mills on nonhome-stated properties. It does not represent an increase in taxes or tax rates."

As he has gone door-to-door campaigning, Neuman said he has found the public supports the millage renewal, and he stresses his own support of it. Brouillette's logic on his campaign information is hard for her to hear.

"(My brochure) says, 'If the millage fails, it is your fault,'" Neuman said.

Brouillette expressed her concern to Neuman about his brochure after both the May 16 Farmington Farmington Hills candidate forum and the May 24 PTA Council candidate. She asked if he intended to change it.

The district appropriately used fund equity dollars to supplement \$90 million approved in a 1997 bond election, so buildings would look consistent, she said. During a recent interview, unrelated to the Brouillette-Neuman issue, Farmington Superintendent Bob Maxfield explained the school board decided to spend down Farmington Hills' fund to pay for one-time expenses in bond projects and reduce the cost of the bond to taxpayers over four years.

The school district made cuts in order to balance the budget and so it would not be in debt, Brouillette said. "He accuses us of deficit spending. He doesn't know what he is talking about." This year's budget is \$3 million less than last year's budget, she said. The district has fewer students, she added.

But Brouillette's strongest words of criticism came in her

opinion regarding how Neuman handled his concerns about his son's education.

### Forest facts

Neuman and his wife, together with other Forest Elementary parents, have concerns about a system called "platooning" or team teaching. This was especially the case because their son, Josh, then a fourth grader, was studying under four different teachers.

"We met with Mr. Lewis (the building principal) during the second week of school and with another family and expressed our concern about the amount of switching and the number of teachers our children would have," Neuman said. Though Josh was switched to a different group so that he had one less teacher, their more basic concerns with platooning, its effect on basic skills, were not addressed, Neuman said.

However, the staff at Forest felt demoralized because he "attacked them," Brouillette said.

Neuman wasn't part of the group which organized the meeting at the church but he agreed to speak about the chronology of what had taken place during the course of the year, he said. Brouillette faulted the parents' meeting, which was held independently of the administrators and teaching staff and disseminated information from the Internet.

"You can find anything on the Internet," she said.

"As if there is something sinister about going on the Internet," Neuman countered. One teacher was present at the meeting, he said.

Another parent's independent research for his support for team teaching, he said.

### Destructive

Brouillette continues to believe in order to make changes dialogue must include everyone. To do otherwise was demoralizing to the teachers and principal.

"Our staff is professional. It was destructive to the atmosphere and the positive energy at Forest," she said.

Neuman doesn't understand what the board's role is. Brouillette said, which is "to set policy."

School board members have a responsibility to both parents and taxpayers, Neuman said. If a parent feels answers haven't been forthcoming and has concerns, the issue should be posed to the board.

School board members need to look at what is best for all children and not concentrate specifically on what they would like for their own children, she said.

Brouillette acknowledges it could be uncomfortable for her to what next to Neuman if he is elected. But it is harder for her not to say anything. "He has a lot to learn," Brouillette said.

Neuman said he is thick-skinned. "I can work with the others," he said. "I will look past this. Reasonable people can disagree and it doesn't cause destruction."

## Free

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Limited to the first 30 callers!  
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## VOTE...

**John Goshorn**  
for Farmington  
Board of Education

- West Point Graduate
- Odyssey of Mind Coach
- Adult Leader Youth Group
- Advisor, Senator Carl Levin's Service Academy Selection Committee
- Community Resident for 13 Years

## VOTE

Monday, June 11

Paid for by John Goshorn  
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