## Jacobs announces bid in 14th Senate race

Hills council member Barnett says she may decide soon about her own candidacy

STATY WHITE!
STATY WHITE!
State Representative Gilda
Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods,
has announced her candidacy
for the newly created 14th
District State Senate seat,
which will include Farmington Rills.
"Two been talking to voters
all summer about this new
Senate seat, and their
response has overwhelmingly
been, "Run, Gilda, run!", said
Jacobs. "With the support of
family and friends, I'm ready
to take on that challeng."
Her 14 years in local government have included service
on the Huntington Woods City
Commission and Oakland
County Commission. Since
2000, Jacobs has served as
Democratic Floor Leader, the
second highest ranking Democrat in the Michigan House of
Representatives.

"My colleagues elected me
as Floor Leader because of my

reputation as an effective law-maker who can work with all sides to get things done," 'said

maker who can work with all sides to get things done," said Jacobs.

Republican John Akouri, formerly a press aide for Congressman Joe Knollonberg and a Hills resident, has already announced his candidacy. And Jacobs may well face a primary challenge from Farmington Hills City Councilwoman Vicki Barnett.

"It's no secret that I have been seriously looking at a run for the 14th District Senate Seat," Barnett said Friday. "I am no stranger to the 14th District. The largest community that makes up the 14th is Farmington Hills." She said people have been asking her to run – business and community leaders and citizens across the new district – because she has a reputation for building coalitions and consensus around different issues.

entissues. While she isn't ready to

announce her final decision, Barnett said that would come

"I had hoped that with more "I had hoped that with more than a year before the elec-tion, we could get through the local elections first before can didates started throwing their hats in the ring ... even before the governor has signed the redistricting bill," she said, but apparently State Repre-sentative Jacobs is being very active in her campaign. active in her campaign."

If Barnett does decide to

If Barnett does decide to run, she's already got support. Late Friday, State Rep. Nancy Quarles (D-Southfield) issued a press release indicating she will not run for the 14th District seat. Rep. Quarles said that she will, instead, throw her support behind Barnett. "Vicki has an excellent track record as one who has a keen grasp and appreciation for the issues and challenges that will face the new district," Quarles said.

# Farming Hills Farming Hills Farming Hills FARMER SOMMER

Open for business: Chamber President Carleigh Flahanty thanks everyone who

# Home, sweet home

### Chamber moves to the Hills

BY KEVIN BROWN STAFF WRITER

Friends of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday cele-brated a move to bigger and bet-

brated a move to bigger and bet-ter offices.

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates cut the ceremonial ribbon. Guests and the members of the chamber board of directors shared coffee, cake, and a festive

shared coffee, cake, and a festive thmosphere.
Chamber Director Carleigh Plaharty said there are several benefits to opening the new offices at 30903-B W. 10 Mile, just east of Orchard Lake Road. First, the office space is now 2,400 square feet, up from 676 square feet at the former cham-ber offices in the Farmington Training Center downtown. We have training and confe-ence facilities available at a dis-

semmars and meetings, Flanar-ty said.

"There's more visibility for the chamber; that's important for the members," said Laura Cat-termole of Remtech, who also serves on the chamber board of directors.

"This is a much piece facility."

serves on the chamber board of directors.

"This is a much nicer facility," added Barry Brickner, Hills mayor pro tem and member of the chamber governmental affairs subcommittee.

"In the old office it felt like you were in a school. I think this will give them much larger exposure," Brickner said.

The new offices also house a community service room that contains information on schools, businesses and other features of the community.

"We've given all the employees a private office; it helps in terms of productivity," Flaharty added.

She thanked the Farmington Public Schools for providing the former chamber office space. This allowed the chamber to save money to pay for a move to more spacious offices.

Flaharty said the decision to seek more office space, in a more visible location, was sparked by the schools' renovating the Farmington Training Center.

Other people and firms who helped make the move possible included contractors Jeff and Joc Dompierre of A.J. Dompierre Construction Inc.; interior designer Catherine Anderson.
Brayton International; phone system organizer Craig Isaacs of Ultracom; move coordinator Carric Vance of Organized Solutions; David DePodesta, Paragon Corporate Realty; Inndiords Oliver and Sally Marcotte; and Keith Wilson of Bob Sellers Pontiac.

### Seminar offers employers help with drug problems in the workplace

Employees who take drugs or drink too much hurt productivi-ty. They are more prone to work-place injuries, absenteeism and theft.

To address the problem. Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer is presenting a Drugs in the Workplace seminar from 7:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the Costick Center.

It features four prominent speakers addressing a problem that affects 40 percent of employees nationwide.

"Over \$100 billion per year is he estimated direct and indirect test to businesses from drug and alcohol use and addiction," said Dwyer, the president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and a former comman-der of the Detroit Police DepartDwyer organized a Drugs in the Workplace seminar 10 years age, "It was extremely well received; there were around 300 people in attendance," he said.

"I just felt it was time again to talk to the business people about the problem." Duyer said, adding the information can be useful for small and large busi-

The conference moderator is WDIV reporter Roger Weber. Scheduled presenters include Wayne Circuit Judgo Timothy M. Kenny; Maplegrove Nurses Assessor and patient educator Gayle Sturt; and professional interventionist Rence Gerger.

Topics will include how employers can intervene with courts on behalf of employees, symptoms of abuse and depen-dence, recognizing enabling behavior, and treatment and aftercare.

Presenter Michael McLean is scheduled to discuss his own

intervention and subsequent efforts as a company vice presi-dent to assist employees with drug or alcohol problems. Author and interventionist Jeff Jay will discuss workplace con-ditions, an intervention check-list, treatment and afterare.

A panel discussion will feature area business leaders with first-hand stories and strategies for employers.

The seminar is paid for through narcotics forfeiture funds collected by the Farming-ton Hills police.

"Nationwide, almost 10 per-cent of employees use drugs in the workplace," Dwyer said. "It is estimated that one out of five workers 18-25 years of age and one out of eight workers 26-34 years of age abuse drugs on the job." "Nationwide, almost 10 per-

The event is free. To register, call Laura Varga at (248) 473-9614.

There could be a lot of money hidden under the roof of your house. Get a great rate on a home equity loan or line of credit, right now.



### Web site from page A1

munity. It's free but we are a for-profit business."

profit business.

Though may businesses already have Web sites, the idea is to link these sites to get more activity. The company makes money by selling primarily regional and sational advertising, Blank said.

DDA members were open to

the idea.
"I think everybody in this

the idea.

"I think everybody in this room agrees this is a wonderful opportunity for Farmington," said Judy Downey, executive director of the Farmington DDA.
Following further examination by its Executive Committee, the DDA will decide whether to recommend the company to the Farmington Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which has about 5,000 members.
There are 150 businesses in the DDA district.
Network sites were started in January in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Northville and West Bloomfield, Residents in those communities have a high rate of computer use, Blank said.
About 20 to 25 percent of their cumulative populations visit the sites during a month, he added.
A local Web site could create an awareness about city department like the sanitation department in the usentless of the senting of the present of the sanitation department in the sentiation department in the deded.

ments like the saintation to part ment, for example, or display meeting schedules and include frequently asked questions.

### A question of coverage

a question of coverage
"None of those communities
have their own local newspaper
specific to those communities,"
Blank said during the maleies,"
Afterwards, and the said answare of the dreuthetion of the
Observer and Eccentric and
Hometown Newspapers, which
distributes editions in those communities.

"My God, if I heard that I would have immediately said something," said Chris Wynans, executive director of the Birmingham/ Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. "Jeanne Towar would have my head."
Towar is the Birmingham Publisher for the Observer & Eccentric Newsnappers.

would have my head."
Towar is the Birmingham Publisher for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.
Wynans called americantowns.com a "cute site, nice and clean" but not a site either she or other chamber members use. The company is also a chamber member. Information on the site is largely about the school district and community groups and organizations, Wynans said.

"It's a nice Web site, but nobody knows it's there," she said. "Ve have to make a conscious effort to update it. It (the company) is on the up and up. There's nothing scammy about it. They tend to be more into the schools. The schools take advantage of it for their calendar."

"We get a lot of local interest," Blank said. "If ed we have the opportunity in the right kind of town. It would be ideal if we had a commitment from the business community to do a fair amount of advertising. We could launch this in 30 days. The money is not hugo. We are looking at a \$10,000 commitment. That's \$1,000 for 10 businesses. This could be positioned as a gift to the community on behalf of the business community."

Almost every community has a city and school Web site.

"We link them no matter what," Blank said. "Nobody has ever objected. It just brings traffec to them."

The World Wide Web is a great thing to find things far away but the Web isn't a good

way to find things locally, Blank said. "If you create one umbrella where consumers know if they start at the American Town Network they will find exactly what they want."
Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said the plan had potential for community use.
"You are looking for people to site so you can market your advertising," Lauhoff said. "That's what makes the site unique. The Little League, the Farmington Exchange Club, anyone can go in and post a golf outing, et cetera."
The idea is to let people be on the network with advertisers' money footing the bill, Lauhoff said. Though the city has a Web site, American Town is more like an electronic newsletter.

"It's constantly updated," Lauhoff said. Though the city has a Web site, American Town is more like an electronic newsletter.

"It's constantly updated," Lauhoff said. "People are putting things in, they are talking about things coming up tomorrow."
For example, the Swim Club in Birmingham posts its practice schedules, swim meets, and displeas coach biographics.

"We saw they were in Birmingham and the city manager said, "What about Farmington?" Downey said.

Other sites were started with seed capital/venture capital money, Blank said, "We had to go to a certain runcunt of critical goals," he said.

Blank told: 'DDA members thank, as a privately-owned company, American Town could keep extremist groups from cusing the Web site. "We had additional research into other companies that offer a similar service,"