

## Business, fund-raising combine at Pasta Stop

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@homecomm.net

With Farmington Road construction grinding business to 70 percent of what is normal, one restaurant owner is looking to pump business back into his establishment and also help the community.

"We've been doing some busy one, get one," said Regur Ratkowski, owner of The Pasta Stop on Farmington Road. "In the five years we've been here, we've kicked back into the community over \$30,000. We're looking for the community's help because we are starving back there. It will help us to survive because right now we are not."

To combine his continuing commitment to the community with trying to kick-start business a little, Ratkowski has come up with an idea that will also help non-profit groups. Those interested in holding a

fund-raiser downtown should send a letter to Ratkowski expressing interest.

"After we get the letters we will pick and choose and set the dates for those organizations," he said. "We will sit down with those organizations and tell them those dates are available. They can go out and pre-sell tickets as a fundraiser. The people they sell their dinner tickets to can come to The Pasta Stop to redeem them."

The Pasta Stop will give back 10 percent of the total cash value of all the tickets turned in for that organization. "It's not hard on them and it will help us continue," he said.

"We cater to the community," Ratkowski said. "By doing this, we feel we are part of the community."

Write Ratkowski at The Pasta Stop, 23631 Farmington Road or call him at (248)477-7600.

## Brownfield from page A1

brownfield redevelopments are vital for America, and President Bush is devoting more federal funds for the projects.

"It's a win-win for everyone involved," she said.

She noted for every federal dollar invested in a Brownfield, \$2.50 comes back in return to the community.

The same can be said for land preservation, Whitman said.

"For every one acre of brownfield redevelopment there are four acres of open spaces saved," she said.

Dennis Toffolo, community and economic director for Oakland County, said the \$1 million will go toward low-interest loans to companies seeking support. It will also help the county develop contaminated properties for

future use.

The county recently launched its own Brownfield Initiative to help communities lacking their own redevelopment authorities tackle such projects.

Earlier this week, the EPA announced it will be spending \$21.5 million in a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund across the country, on top of the EPA's Brownfield initiative program, Whitman said.

Brickner said brownfield developments are good for Farmington Hills because they offer a way to remove blight and help the city compete with underdeveloped communities for business and housing.

"It allows us to compete on an equal footing," he said.

## FARC endorses Knol for state representative

The Board of Directors of the Farmington Area Republican Club announced it is formally endorsing State Committeewoman Valerie Knol to be the area's next state representative.

The 37th District consists exclusively of the two communities, Farmington and Farmington Hills. It is currently occupied by Andrew Raczowski, who is prevented from seeking re-election due to term limits.

FARC invited all three publicly declared candidates, John Akouri, Valerie Knol and Terry Sever, to apply for endorsement. Akouri declined the opportunity

to participate, said FARC members. The endorsement Committee met with Knol and Sever.

Members said in a statement that Knol best represents the values and goals of the organization. Her involvement with the party at the local, county and state level are unmatched by her opponents, members said.

The FARC consists of more than 300 members, who are primarily GOP voters and grassroots activists, who generally support conservative causes. The endorsement was approved by board members April 15.

## Grand from page A1

Orchard Lake Road.

Ratkowski recalled the Farmington City Council was at first a bit skeptical when he and Page approached them with the idea years ago.

"We explained it would be a static display not a moving, tire-burning, hot rod event and we would be able to draw classic cars as well as concourse cars," Ratkowski said. "It's a high-scaled venue."

Since then it's been "sort of a slam dunk," he said.

Guests have included representatives from The History Channel, who brought down a 1939 Ford convertible and The Great American Race Winner, a modern day replica of the 1930s

Indy race cars.

Cruisers sign up for their cruiser pass and get a bottomless beverage cruiser cup that night from The Pasta Stop. The pass also gives a 10 percent savings on food purchases.

In addition to being a restaurateur, Ratkowski is a retired, professional auto show judge.

"When I started this restaurant five years ago, I looked for ways that I could still be involved," he said. "I also found that Monday nights were absolutely dead in this town, so I started Cruise Night. We draw people from as far away as Tecumseh, Monroe and Saline, South Lyon, Brighton and White Lake."

### Arena hosts 'Color Me Skating' ice show

The Sixth Annual Ice Show titled *Color Me Skating*, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday May 17 or 4 p.m. Saturday May 18 at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

The show will feature Learn to Skate students and the Figure Skating Club participants.

A sell-out has been the tradition of this show, so get your tickets early. Tickets are on

sale now at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena and the Recreation Department at the Costick Center. If seats are available, they will be sold at the door on the day of the performance.

The cost is \$5.50 for students and seniors, \$7.50 for adults and free for children five and under.

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