

# Miss Farmingtons do well at Miss Michigan pageant

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Tracey Finlayson, 2011 Miss Farmington who handed over her crown to the new Miss Farmington Saturday night, ranked in the top 10 at the Miss Michigan pageant.

The pageant was recently held at the Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon.

Finlayson, 23, who finished a busy year representing Farmington, also juggled a time-consuming career working as a pharmaceutical representative for Pfizer. A typical work week is 60 hours, she said.

Finlayson expanded her platform after winning the local crown.

"Originally this was Earth awareness," said Finlayson, a Farmington resident. It became "Nurture With Nature, Alzheimer's Disease Awareness."

"She used her business expertise to increase the public's knowledge of Alzheimer's, a disease that affects memory."

"They take pleasure in simple things in life which improves their quality of life," Finlayson said of sufferers. "What I do, every citizen can do. I am just more visible. Anyone can volunteer and make a difference."

"With Finlayson's help, 6,000 seedlings were delivered to Farmington district schools. They included a variety: Eastern White Pine, Black Walnut, White Oak and Sugar Maple. All are native to Michigan."

A May, 2000 graduate of the University of Michigan Business School, Finlayson played piano for her part in the talent competition.



Tracey Finlayson



Angela Corsi

According to pageant tradition, Finlayson, a scholarship winner, was to learn about the amount of her scholarship after she gave up her crown to the new Miss Farmington. She plans to use the scholarship money to pursue a master's degree and take a Dale Carnegie course.

She shares the philosophy of her grandmother who worked as a psychologist: "Enjoy the journey. What you put into life, you get out. What goes around, comes around."

## Local connections

Two other local women with Miss Farmington connections did well in the state-wide pageant.

"We have wonderful news about the placements of local girls in the recent Miss Michigan Scholarship pageant the preliminaries to Miss America," announced Penny Corsi, mother of former Miss Farmington Angela Corsi,

who was the youngest in the top 10 at Miss Michigan at 20 years old.

Angela is the current Miss Great Lakes. The Farmington Hills resident and a 2000 graduate of Mercy High School, is a junior at Michigan State University.

Her platform was "Countless Histories, One Future: Diversity Outreach." In the talent competition, she performed lyrical ballet.

Madonna Emond, a Livonia resident and the current Miss Washtenaw, was the first runner-up in Miss Farmington 2000-2001 and the Miss Michigan pageant.

Emond, 21, a 1999 Mercy High School graduate, attends Eastern Michigan University.

Her platform was "Education and Recreation for the Special Needs Community." She performed a jazz dance in the talent competition.

## DDA from page A1

A meeting of the full board would be open to the public, under the Open Meetings Act. Interviews were not open in the past, he said.

The DDA was formed in 1986 and its first executive director Wendy Strip Sittman was hired within the first year, Oglesby said.

When Downey was interviewed the first time, she said it was before Farmington City Manager Bob Deadman and two DDA members.

As she recalled, she was one of three candidates then. The second interview was before the full DDA board but she couldn't remember if there were any other candidates.

## Expert advice

Bill Richards, Farmington assistant city manager, is processing the applications, at the request of the board and city manager Frank Lauhoff.

Richards said he has expertise in the personnel business and also works as a consultant for the Michigan Municipal League. He added that he will do this for the city of Farmington at no additional cost. Consulting pays more than his job as assistant city manager, Richards said.

Oral examinations will be in

mid-August, with Richards and two professionals he will select. These professionals are experienced and work outside the Farmington area, he said.

Richards will narrow the field of candidates, now at 26, to eight by the end of July.

The search selection committee will not see the original pool of applicants, Richards said.

To have a "genuine dialogue," Richards hopes that neither the oral exam or the interviews of the three finalists before the search committee will be public.

"The number one fear in America is public speaking," Richards said. "It's difficult for most people to do."

Add the stress of an employment interview and neither the applicant nor the questioners can freely discuss topics, he said. "It has a chilling effect on interviews," Richards said.

The three-member DDA search committee will interview the three finalists, Richards said.

"It's about chemistry," Richards said. "It's about fit in the organization and alignment."

He's hopeful that people will respect the fact that open interviews are not productive to the process. "I hope I don't have to ask that legal question."

He acknowledges that open interviews are done in some communities.

At least one business owner asked to have input, Richards said. "The time to have had input was prior to development of the job position," Richards said.

He expects the final candidate will be presented to the DDA board in September.

## Plymouth interviews

In Plymouth, which is also looking for a DDA director, more than 100 applications were received.

The DDA board and city officials interviewed eight top candidates for the position. When the eight finalists were chosen, their names were released to the press and the interviews were open to the public.

That number was whittled down to three after interviews held June 26-27. Plymouth has 9,300 residents; Farmington about 10,000 residents.

The Plymouth DDA position will pay between \$46,800-\$56,160.

To apply for the Farmington DDA position, call the city manager's office at (248) 474-5500.

## Business center partners with Chamber

The Michigan Small Business Development Center at Eastern Michigan University and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce entered into an agreement to open a MI-SBDC satellite office at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce to provide no-cost counseling and low-cost training to new and existing Oakland County small businesses.

"In our first year as host of the Oakland, Wayne and Monroe County MI-SBDC program, we have sought to establish strong partnerships that will enable us to provide meaningful service throughout the metro area small business community," said Dean Earl Potter of the Eastern Michigan University College of Business.

"We are especially excited about this relationship because the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce has embraced the MI-SBDC mission with enthusiasm. We expect this office to be of great service to a wide range of small businesses in Oakland County."

Carlleigh Flaherty, President, of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce agrees. "The Chamber sees this partnership with MI-SBDC as a natural fit because we find small business owners often require stronger business planning skills necessary to start or expand their own company. MI-SBDC's expertise is in developing those abilities and helping the small

business community prosper."

Specifically, the MI-SBDC/FFHCC partnership will offer the following services:

■ Individual Counseling: A professional business consultant will be on the site at the FFHC to provide free guidance on a one-on-one basis.

■ Research: The gathering of secondary information to aid market analysis and business planning at no-cost to small business clients.

■ Training: Nationally priced workshops will be held monthly at the FFHC on starting, operating, marketing and financing of small business.

For more information call the Chamber at (248) 474-3440.

## CAMPAIGN CORNER

■ The Executive Committee of the Farmington Area Republican Club, acting on behalf of its board of directors, announced the group is making a stand on two ballot proposals in the Aug. 5 primary election.

"The group is encouraging members to support Proposal 02-01, which would require the state Legislature to vote on its

own pay increases before such recommended increases could go into effect. The group said it believes the measure will help to create a more responsive breed of elected officials.

The group is encouraging a "no" vote for the Oakland County Transportation millage, however. Members said their primary contention is it is a tax

increase and that property owners in the city of Farmington Hills can anticipate a small tax increase this fiscal year and there is a looming assessment facing property owners for repairing the sewer system. Also, people are facing increases in their water bills, members stated.

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