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Festival offers cool new twists

Building on a tradition of success, this year's Farmington Area Founders Festival promises three days packed with activities, entertainment and fun for area residents.

The biggest news for those who visit the Oz Roast Test is that the tent will be air conditioned, rather than having the air circulated with fans as it was last year. The cooling touch will be delivered by AGGREKO.

Among this year's new events, the

Founders Film Festival, featuring free showings of the movie classic, "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, at the Farmington Civic Theatre. Film enthusiasts will also want to participate in the Dorothy Look-Alike contest, held Thursday at 6 p.m., just before the first showing at 6:30 p.m.

Grand River between Orchard Lake and Gill Roads will close at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday morning and re-open at around 1 p.m. for the Botsford Founders Festival

Parade.

Those with questions about delivery of the Farmington Observer or who just want to cool off with a cookie and a glass of lemonade, may stop by the Farmington Observer office from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 20, during the parade.

Home delivery manager Nikki Smith and circulation manager Michelle Austin will be on hand to answer questions. They will have details about special promotions

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL, A2

farmington area

July 19-20, 2002



FOUNDERS FESTIVAL

Kelly Zander begins reign as Miss Farmington

BY JONI HURD
STAFF WRITER

Kelly Marie Zander was surprised to be crowned Miss Farmington/Oakland County during ceremonies held Saturday night, but for her, that wasn't the evening's most stunning moment.

"What really shocked me was when I won the talent award," she said, noting she'd performed a tap dance routine. "It's probably one of my favorite things to do. I've been dancing since I was three."

In the audience then and at the William Costick Center in Farmington Hills were her parents Alan and Janet, cheering her on with younger sister Laura.

"I could hear them," Zander said. "When I was in the middle of my tap routine, I could hear them cheering."

She's been perfecting her routine since her appearance in last year's pageant, which was held at the Farmington Civic Theatre. Zander appreciated the additional stage space for her performance, as well as the roomier dressing room facilities.

"From the girls' aspect, we all enjoyed it," she said. "It was wonderful."

Zander's platform for the coming year is "Mentoring," a topic close to her heart. She enjoys going back to work with elementary school students at Wooddale, where she attended classes, and plans to meet soon with Superintendent of Schools Bob Maxfield to talk about program ideas. Ultimately, she'd like to see more high school juniors

PLEASE SEE REGION, A2



Tracey Finlayson crowns Kelly Marie Zander the new Miss Farmington/Oakland County.

Bill Bresler/OBSERVER

Time limits are back

Hills re-sets the speaking clock

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said Monday it's time to reinstate the time limit rule for public comment during city council meetings.

The rule has been ignored for the past several years. "I try to treat citizens with respect," she said.

Bates said the rule needs to be imposed as a reaction to recent personal attacks on council members and in an effort to limit the length of meetings to a reasonable hour so people involved with issues on the agenda have time to speak.

The mayor said she will reinstate the three-minute rule for a single person to address the council and five minutes for a group representative to speak. The mayor said anyone wishing to speak longer than the allotted time may wait until the end of the meeting for another three or five minute time slot.

The council meeting may not be an appropriate forum for longer discussions, she said, and such issues could be addressed by the city administration during work hours.

Bates said Mayor Pro Tem Christopher McRae will be the time keeper and will give 30-second warnings when the limit

PLEASE SEE LIMITS, A2

Akouri backs local control, Prop A

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

John Akouri, 37, believes his ties to the community make him the best person to represent the Farmington area's 37th House District when voters to the primary polls August 6.

The longtime volunteer for the Republican Party and former press secretary and director of communications to U.S. Rep. Joe Knollberg has been a lifelong resident of the district.

During college, Akouri said he got involved in the

PLEASE SEE AKOURI, A5

Family background encouraged Knol

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Valerie Knol, who is seeking the Republican nod for state representative August 6, grew up in a family in which politics and religion were nightly topics of discussion.

That encouraged Knol, 31, a Farmington resident and Republican to run for political office. She's a communications manager for the automotive systems group at Johnson Controls, Inc. in Plymouth Township.

PLEASE SEE KNOL, A5

Sever banks on local experience

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Terry Sever is giving up his spot on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, which he's held since 1998, to run for state representative.

Sever, 51, and a 28-year Farmington Hills Republican, sells real estate for Century 21 in Livonia. He's banking on his local political experience to win the three-way primary August 6.

Sever says he's someone who can build consensus.

PLEASE SEE SEVER, A5

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We recommend...

Who do we recommend in the upcoming Democratic and Republican primary races for Michigan Governor? Check the OPINION PAGE in this section.