

THURSDAY

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FARMINGTON Observer

Unbearable

The colorful,
Polar Palooza
bears relo-
cate to the
Detroit Zoo. B1

City DDA to continue hiring process

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority board voted Wednesday to continue the process to hire a new executive director, though three of 10 semifinalists have withdrawn.

The board instructed DDA Director Judy Downey to contact five executive recruitment/consultant firms. Downey,

who will retire by the beginning of next year, has held her position for 10 years. The DDA director plans and coordinates activities in the downtown area. The position will pay \$47,000-\$53,000.

The search firms are: Municipal Consulting Services, MML, Ann Arbor; Plante & Moran, LLP, Southfield; The Rehmann Group, LLC, Troy; Tom Dority & Associates, Inc., Lansing; and

Langworthy, Strader, Leblanc & Associates, Inc., Royal Oak.

The DDA board first went into a 45-minute closed executive session Wednesday to hear legal opinion by attorney Tom Schultz before opening the meeting to the public.

Board members discussed their options after consultant and assistant city manager Bill Richards withdrew from the hiring process, which down-

town business owners wanted open to the public.

"Should we scrap or start again?" asked Bob Heinrich, a DDA member. "This is fraught with a lot of issues."

Some search firms may not want to proceed with the process because it's changing midstream, said Farmington City Manager Frank Lanhoff. DDA Board

PLEASE SEE DDA, A4

Out
Towns

Topouzian learns

Ara Topouzian, Director of Programs and Events for the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce recently completed an eleven-session program at the Michigan Society of Association Executives Academy of Association Management.

This is the only program in Michigan for association specific training which provides the "big picture" of association management.

The eleven-session format is designed for the new association executive, freshmen CEO's or staff specialists who want to round out their knowledge of association work.

The Michigan Society of Association Executives is a not-for-profit membership organization that serves similar organizations in a variety of managerial and staff specialist roles.

For more information about the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, call (248) 474-3440 or go to www.fhchamber.com

Remembrance

As the anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 approaches, the Farmington Area Jaycees feel that our community should come together to reflect and show the pride

that our citizens still have. The Jaycees invite area residents to attend a Sept. 11 memorial service at Farmington High School, located near Shiawassee and Orchard Lake Roads.

The opening ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. with an "Honorary Salute" to fire, police, auxiliary and military.

There will be guest speakers and a community choir will sing.

To include the children of the community, volunteers will read their poetry and short essays.

Those may be submitted to the Farmington Area Jaycees.

A candlelight vigil will conclude the program. Poetry and short essay contest will run until Aug. 30.

For more information or to attend, contact Lisa Blasola, at (248) 477-JCCS (5227), write to P.O. Box 33, Farmington 48332 or visit the Web site at FAJCSIVigil@aol.com.



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Jains celebrate

Rupali Choksi carries a kumh, traditionally used to carry water from the river to the temple during Sunday's Jain Temple parade on 11 Mile Road. The water would be used to bless the gods. More information and photos, page A5.

Gesund wants more openness

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

"The common thought is when you run for an office and lose, you run for the next office down. The city council is doing just fine. The county commission needs my help."

That's how Oakland County Commission candidate Ryan Gesund explains his candidacy for the 14th District seat, even though he lost out in his last bid for office against David Moffitt. With the district lines redrawn, Gesund faces Mike Rogers for a seat vacated by Terry Sever, who lost an Aug. 5 primary bid for State House. The 30-year-old Farmington

PLEASE SEE GESUND, A5

Rogers brings experience to race

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Mike Rogers, an Oakland County engineer and transportation planning coordinator, is running for Oakland County Commissioner.

Rogers, a Farmington Hills resident, believes his experi-

ence in the transportation planning field will help him in his bid for the county seat. He's running in the 14th District, which includes the whole city of Farmington and part of Farmington Hills.

"I believe I have the background and experience," Rogers said. "There's a direct

correlation between what I do now and have done in the past. This is a very good starting spot based on my experience. As part of my accountability, I will keep people informed."

Rogers is the principal author of the RCOG financial plan, which will drive the nearly \$140 million budget in

2002. He developed the long-range transportation plan in Oakland County and evaluates road network decisions for planning purposes.

He's also project manager for the West Oakland County State Highway Corridor Feasibility Study and analyzes

PLEASE SEE ROGERS, A5

Church celebrates with cardinal visit

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

St. Clare of Assisi Catholic church on 10 Mile celebrated its complete remodeling Sunday and a special dedica-

tion was made by Cardinal Adam Malda. The church, built in 1967, was redone completely, said church officials.

PLEASE SEE CHURCH, A6



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After Mass Cardinal Adam Malda pauses to shake hands with 7-year-old Matthew O'Neil and his dad Rich.

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LOOKING AHEAD
Tasty samples
Culinary extravaganza features samplings from fine area restaurants. Read more in Sunday's taste.

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