



The parade moved north on Middlebelt to the Jain Temple on Twelve Mile Road.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER / OBSERVER

## Jain Society celebrates with parade

The Jain Society of Greater Detroit celebrated the Twenty-Four Tirthankars (Jain Gods) idol installation ceremony August 16-18 at its temple in Farmington Hills.

A Sunday afternoon parade began at Mercy High School on 11 Mile Road and concluded with a celebration at the temple. The mile-long procession left at 9:30 a.m. and included a number of religious leaders from the U.S. and India.

Temple officials estimated

1,500 people attended.

There are 6 to 7 million all over the world, the majority of whom live in western India.

The tenet of their religion is absolute non-violence and utmost reverence for all forms of life.

Most of the Jains in the metropolitan Detroit area and in the U.S. are highly educated professionals who are active and highly regarded for the work they do in their communities.



Dancers stepped to the beat of Indian music played on traditional instruments.

Meena, Manjari and Shal carry idols representing goddess dreams.



## CHASE

FROM PAGE A1

11:40 a.m. According to the report, the mother and son brought a large plastic bag into the store and proceeded to pack it with numerous bottles of fragrances and clothing items and left without paying.

A store security officer tried to stop them in the parking lot, and the mother attempted to run over the man with the car.

Ebony P. Bates, 31, was arraigned in 47th District Court Saturday on four counts: assault with a dangerous weapon, a four-year felony; fleeing and eluding police, a

A store security officer tried to stop them in the parking lot.

five-year felony; retail fraud, a misdemeanor punishable up to one year and fines and possession of marijuana, punishable by up to one year and fines.

A not-guilty plea was entered on her behalf. She is scheduled for a preliminary exam on Aug. 23 in 47th District Court. The son is awaiting charges in juvenile court, Dwyer said.



The video of the escape made for popular viewing on local television stations, noted Police Chief William Dwyer.

## ROGERS

FROM PAGE A1

accident data for the development of the Road Improvement Program.

"I go to every single community, talk with officials and determine what transportation projects are necessary," Rogers said. "I go back and we prioritize."

He wants to be visible, accessible and engage the public in county issues. "I want everything to be as open as possible."

Rogers holds both a real estate and builders license. A Farmington Hills planning commissioner, he's not sure whether it would be necessary to give up his job if he won. He said he could abstain from any conflict of interest vote.

If necessary, however, he would give up his job so as not to miss out on any important votes. He's leaning toward that decision. Besides an overall concern for water rate increases, Rogers is concerned about maintaining water quality. He calls for more accountability.

Though Rogers supports pub-

lie transit, he doesn't see the potential riders. "You have more people working in Troy now than you do in downtown Detroit," Rogers said.

Public transportation in Washington D.C. didn't eliminate the congestion there, he added. Because every household contributes about 10 trips a day, having communities plan better can help, he said.

Rogers holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in construction engineering from Lawrence Technological University. He is a member of the Oakland County Business Roundtable, a former Zoning Board of Appeals member, a former parks and recreation commissioner for Van Buren Township, sits on the Board of Directors for the Detroit Omega Foundation, is a supervisory committee member for the SMD Federal Credit Union, former Advisory board member for the Salvation Army, member of the Oakland County Republican Party and is 11th Congressional District Chair of Outreach for the Republican Party.

"My parents instilled public awareness in me," Rogers said. Rogers and his wife, Kristin have three children.

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## GESUND

FROM PAGE A1

Hills resident is employed in his family's car-wash business, which affords him the time he says he'll need to serve as an active commissioner. As he did in his last campaign, Gesund has come up with several specific measures he'll bring forward as soon as he's elected.

Extending the environmental infrastructure fund, dollars cities can tap into

in order to deal with costly improvements required by federal law.

■ That's what we need at the county. Citizens coming up and saying "Try again," Gesund said.

He'd like to see more "town hall" meetings and would host informational meetings so that citizens could learn more about day-to-day issues like road construction and salting roads in winter.

Gesund is also concerned about the county mental health authority, where he says commissioners are making appointments based on political reasons, rather than qualified candidates.

"The county commission can do hardly anything in county mental health, except the power of appointment," he said, pointing out how important those decisions are.

That's also the only influence the county commission has over the Road Commission,

Gesund added, noting, "There's such a wealth of talent in Farmington Hills, people who would make great road commissioners."

But the biggest issue he sees facing the county commission is improving access to citizens. The commission meets during the day, which makes it difficult for people to attend.

"Where there's public hearings, I would like to have those at night," Gesund said.

He points to the example of Farmington Hills, where city officials often spend a great deal of time listening to public comment.

In the case of the 11 Pines development, he said, that comment made the project even better as citizens pushed officials to come up with a better development plan for the city-owned property.

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Gesund said he would host more public meetings in his first year in office if elected than the county has had in the past six years.

But he's also clear about the role he would play if elected. He sees the county's major role as being a conduit for information and a conduit between different levels of government.

"I've studied the issues," he said. "I know what I can and can't do."

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