

FARMINGTON Observer

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THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIAISON
FARMINGTON HILLS BRANCH
32737 West Twelve Mile Road
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Festival time
Artists and performers
head to Detroit
for 16th annual
event. B1

Our Towns

Chamber honored

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce has received the Diamond Award for its website from the Michigan Society of Association Executives. According to information provided by the MSAE, Diamond Award winners are "champions of excellence and innovation" and "offer inspiration to the entire industry."

MSAE, a not-for-profit professional organization.



serves other associations and not-for-profit organizations executives and staff by providing professional development opportunities and other resources.

Representatives from the Chamber picked up their award Wednesday evening during a dinner and ceremony held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn. Ara Touppoulian, Marie Hauswirth and Mary Joyce, President of Nicayla Enterprises, which created the Web site, were present to accept.

Emcee for the event was WXYZ television anchor Guy Gordon, who presented a number of awards to association members.

With an animated introduction, the Chamber's Web site offers resources for members and community information, as well as a calendar of activities and opportunities to pre-register for various events.

Representing more than 850 businesses throughout the area, the Chamber's office is located at 30903 West 10 Mile in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 474-3440 or go to www.fhchamber.com

DNR mini-grants

In an effort to highlight Arbor Day and the value of trees, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be awarding mini-grants to schools, libraries and municipalities. The grants may be used for planting trees at schools, Arbor Day celebrations or purchasing forestry-related materials for libraries. As many as 50 grants will be awarded.

Application forms can be obtained from the DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division at (517) 241-4632, or by visiting the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Applications are due Oct. 31. For more information, call Kevin Sayers at (517) 241-4632.

House candidates diverge on issues

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER



In their first debate of the season, House District 37 candidates Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, and Republican Valerie Knol both came out swinging. Held during last week's Exchange Club meeting at

Brass Pointe restaurant in Farmington Hills, the event drew a room full of club members. "I bring to this campaign three main qualities: experience, experience, experience," Vagnozzi said. He counted protecting home rule among his priorities. "I'm running for those issues that are important to me," Knol said, citing a strong economy, ensuring all children get a proper education and protecting the

environment without trampling on property owners' rights. The candidates diverged widely on a number of issues, although they were only given a few minutes to respond to questions posed by club members.

PROPOSAL A

While Vagnozzi felt Proposal A had created some disparities, Knol supports

the measure, which limits annual property tax increases until a home is sold. Vagnozzi doesn't believe the measure has done much to reduce taxes in Farmington/Farmington Hills.

It has served its intended purpose of bringing up lower-funded school districts, he said, but it creates an inequity as taxes on neighboring homes can vary

PLEASE SEE CANDIDATES, A7

Disease worries residents

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Clive and Patricia Greenwald of Farmington love the big, shady ash tree in their back yard.

It was one of the reasons they bought the house, said Clive.

But news that an Asian beetle is meticulously killing ash trees in Farmington Hills as well as surrounding communities has the couple worried about whether their favorite tree can be saved.

"It's a magnificent tree," said Clive. "It's huge. I'd hate to lose it."

The couple were among 100 people Tuesday evening who attended a Farmington Hills-sponsored meeting at the Costick Center, concerning emerald ash borer disease.

Many folks got the bad news that there is no certain cure yet, but there are efforts already taking place to save hundreds of city-owned ash trees in the Hills by using chemical injections into the roots.

Whether those efforts work remains to be seen, said city officials.

David L. Roberts, Ph.D., horticultural specialist with Michigan State University extension center, has been focusing efforts on stopping the spread of the disease.

He told attendees what the beetle does to the trees, causing them

PLEASE SEE DISEASE, A10



ELIZABETH CANNON/OBSERVER

Best friends Maddie Benisatto, left, and Mollie Franklin, light their candles during the Wednesday's candlelight vigil at Farmington High School.

Hundreds join in 9/11 vigil

BY JONI HUBBED
STAFF WRITER

As the sun set on Farmington High School's athletic field off Shiloh, hundreds of area residents gathered to remember the horror and heroism of Sept. 11.

Organized by the Farmington Area Jaycees, the candlelight vigil held one year after terrorist attacks sent shock waves through the nation provided a time of remembrance and unity. Radio personality Joe Gannon emceed the event.

"I know it's getting dark," he said about half-way through the ceremonies, "but a year ago, it was a lot darker."

Gannon said his only qualification for the role he played was that of an immigrant.

"All that I am and I have is because of this country and its people," he said.

In addition to remembering the more than 3,000 people who died in the World Trade Center's twin towers, in the Pentagon and on three airplanes the terrorists used to launch their attacks, the community remembered one of its own - Joshua Rosenthal, son of Skip and Marilyn Rosenthal.

A 1975 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Joshua died in one of the Trade Center towers; his body was never recovered. He was 44 years old and worked for Fiduciary International, Inc.

His father, Skip, owns Books About on Grand River, and can often be seen playing his banjo at the Farmington Civic Theatre.

To honor Joshua's memory, the Jaycees have contributed \$750 in seed money toward a scholarship in Joshua's name. Ron Oliverio of the American Legion spoke on behalf of the Rosenthal family, relating the story of their son's death.

"We will never forget the loss you suffered and the creation of a scholarship fund by the Jaycees will help perpetuate Mr. Rosenthal's memory," Oliverio said.

Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell and Farmington Hills Mayor Pro Tem Christopher McRae, as well as Linda Enberg of the Farmington School Board

PLEASE SEE VIGIL, A7

Hills remembrance touches many

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Janet Deitsch went to the Farmington Hills ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 as a way to connect with her community.

"There's a hole in my heart," she said after the ceremony, wiping tears from her cheeks.

The former resident of Manhattan said being at the ceremony Wednesday was a way to share the pain of the tragedy with others.

More than 200 people attended the event outside the city hall complex, where city, police and fire officials spoke about the day and remembered the victims, especially the fallen firefighters and police officers.

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Officers. Hills firefighters and police officers lined in formation in front of the American flag. Kitty Miller of Westland and her family were also at the ceremony with American flags in their hands. "I thought it was very meaningful," she said of the event that included the reading of names of the firefighters and police officers

who died in New York one year ago. Optimistically, she said, the year has not dimmed hope. "We came for the meaning of the day," she said, and to also hear her grandson Ben Miller of Farmington Hills play Taps on his trumpet. Vicki Barnett, Hills city councilwoman, said the ceremony that

PLEASE SEE HILLS, A6

City memorial honors heroes

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The City of Farmington Wednesday held a solemn observance of lives lost last Sept. 11 in New York, Washington D. C. and Pennsylvania.

Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss, who organized the remembrance, recalled vivid memories of a day many will never forget.

"The observance today is timed to recall the collapse of the south tower (of the World Trade Center) which occurred at 10:05 a.m. and then the collapse of the north tower which occurred at 10:28 a.m.," Goss said. "The collapse of these two towers culminated in the deaths of 343 New York City firefighters, 60 of whom were off duty at the time. It also culminated in

PLEASE SEE CITY, A6

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LOOKING AHEAD
Grand Opening
Members of First United Methodist Church of Farmington are preparing to celebrate the opening of an expansion. See Sunday's Observer.



THE SPECIAL STORE NEXT DOOR

OPENS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS

P.A.R.I.S.I.A.N