

Friendly fair

Art in the  
Park helps  
crisis  
agency, D1



# FARMINGTON Observer

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THURSDAY

September 19, 2002

75 cents

VOLUME 115 NUMBER 104

www.observerandcentric.com

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## Our Towns

### Amy turns 102

Farmington Hills Inn resident, Lois Amy will celebrate her 102nd birthday on Monday, Sept. 23. She was born in 1900 in Franklin, Neb. and at age three moved to Topeka, Kan. with her family where she spent her childhood.



Amy came to Detroit on a visit to see friends in her early twenties and decided to stay. She soon got a job with the Underwriters Adjusting Company in Detroit. After a big tornado hit Flint in 1941, she moved to Pontiac to set up an office for her company and lived and worked there until two years ago when she moved to the Farmington Hills Inn.

Amy continues to be active with her walking club and dance therapy and has been a lifelong member of Bethany Baptist Church in Pontiac. She can be heard frequently praying aloud for God's guidance. She also helps out by straightening the chairs in the activity room.

### Veep honored

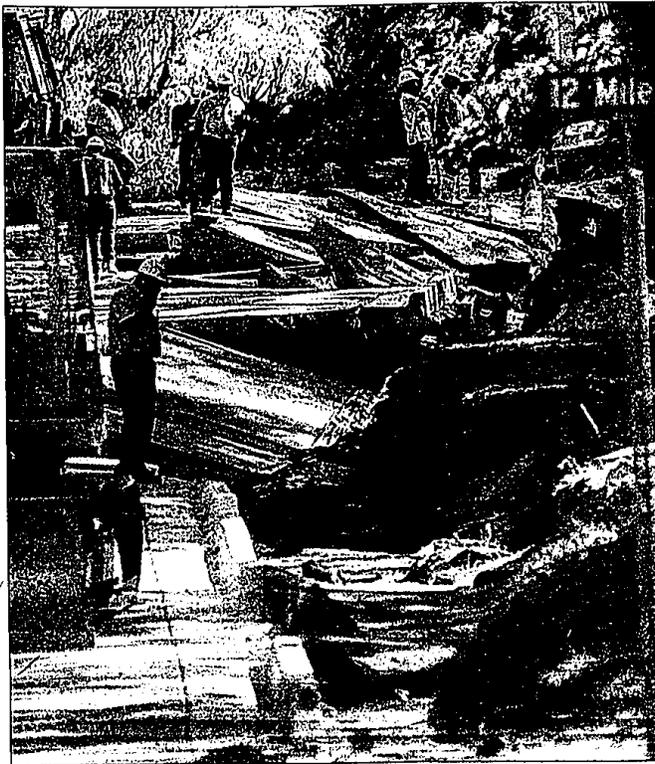
TOCCO Inc., an induction heating company in Madison Heights, recently honored vice president George Pfaffmann, FASM, of Farmington Hills, for his 50 years of service.



Although Pfaffmann is retiring he plans to work for the company part-time. He was granted his 28th patent this year and nearly every vehicle includes technologies invented, designed and patented by Pfaffmann in either the engine or the gear train. He was named one of the 2002 Fellow of the Society which recognizes distinguished contributions in the field of materials science and engineering, and to develop a broadly based forum of technical and professional leaders to serve as advisors to the Society.

### New location

Contemporary Awards, 33409 Grand River, in downtown Farmington has moved and consolidated operations. The new location is 24075 Research Drive, near 10 Mile and Grand River in Farmington Hills. Customers can still use (248) 478-8850 to call Contemporary Awards and the same fax number (248) 478-1430. Customers from the Cooley Lake store should also use these numbers.



DALE BREGLER/OBSERVER

Detroit Water Department crews work to repair a broken sixty inch water main. The break, located on Inkster Road south of Twelve Mile flooded basements on the east side of Inkster Road, in Southfield.

## Main break buckles Hills, S'fld streets

BY DAN WEST AND PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITERS

A massive water main break Sunday morning on the border of Farmington Hills and Southfield fortunately didn't cause major problems for Farmington Hills residents.

Hills and Oakland County Drain Commission officials said the city's drinking water was perfectly safe after workers repaired the 8-inch water main that was damaged when the nearby 60-inch water main broke Sunday on Inkster and 12 Mile.

Six Farmington Hills residents who live near the main break were on a boil water alert until after the Drain Commission tested the water from the repaired 8-inch pipeline Tuesday.

Now the problem will be for motorists who usually travel along Inkster and 12 Mile, as they will need to find a new route for at least several more days.

The massive water main break cracked concrete sections of Inkster and 12 Mile, flooded basements and streets in Southfield's San Marino neighborhood, damaged gas lines, bent telephone poles, moved 12 families out of their homes for the night and forced Southfield residents to boil drinking water for 24 hours.

Water began gushing from Inkster just south of 12

Inkster traffic between 11 and 12 Mile will remain limited until work crews assess the damage, order equipment and make repairs. The 12 Mile leg of the intersection remains closed because water blasted so hard from the main, it ... eroded a chunk of the road.

PLEASE SEE MAIN BREAK, A7

## Farmer's Market relocates

BY SUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

No one expected such a bounty when the Farmington Farmer's Market moved for one day Sept. 7 because part of the Village Commons parking lot on Grand River was being paved.

"The market moved into the Farmington Downtown Center near Dress Barn at Grand River and Grove.

"One farmer told me he had three times the business he does across the street," said Judy Downey, Farmington Downtown Development Authority Director. "People discovered it, even though it was there for nine years, half a block down. Great Harvest Bread Company said their business was the best they ever had. That's a good sign for moving the market over."

Farmington City Council decided to permanently keep the market at

PLEASE SEE MARKET, A9

## City, DDA snag Main Street grant

BY SUE BUICK  
STAFF WRITER

The City of Farmington and the Farmington Downtown Development Authority heard good news Wednesday. They received the long-awaited, much-coveted Main Street Oakland County grant which will provide \$50,000 worth of technical expertise in a three-year program.

The City of Pontiac received the only other award, which involves in-kind services, but no cash. This was Farmington's second application and Pontiac's third. "It will be a new experience," said DDA President Ron Oglesby, adding, "We still have to have someone take the reins of the DDA."

Judy Downey, who's been DDA director for 10 years, retires Jan. 3, 2003. Oral examinations of DDA candidates are

scheduled beginning at 9 a.m. Sept. 24 at Farmington City Hall. The interviews will be open to the public.

What does Oglesby call the clincher for securing the grant?

Without a doubt, he said, it's been the rejuvenation of the Downtown Merchants Association of Farmington.

He advised the group to stay organized

PLEASE SEE GRANT, A9

## City considers tax abatement

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Akebono company officials want a tax break in Farmington Hills, but they ended up being the whipping post for city council members angry with state officials eager to snap away local tax dollars.

The automotive brake company with headquarters in Japan is considering a \$32 million investment in Farmington Hills to expand its existing 80,000 square-foot American headquarters and engineering facility on 12 Mile Road.



The Akebono Corporation on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills is seeking state and local tax breaks to expand its operation by another 42,000 square feet for office space and 43,000 square feet to house new testing equipment.

PLEASE SEE ABATEMENT, A7

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Nearly squash  
In Sunday's Taste section:  
Chefs and farmers offer advice on how to prepare the healthy dish.

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OPENS TODAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCKWELL HILLS

# PARISIAN

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