

# Scarecrows sought for downtown event

Drive through downtown Farmington and it'll be hard not to notice what's hanging from every post and tree. Park your car, take a stroll through town and enjoy myriad decorated scarecrows lining the sidewalks.

As one of many exciting events planned for next month, the newly formed Downtown Business Association invites all local businesses, community groups and residents to participate by creating a scarecrow that will greet visitors as they shop in downtown Farmington throughout October.

Scarecrows can be dropped off the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 3 in the parking lot of the Village Mall, the southeast corner of Grand River and Farmington Road.

Members of the merchants

association will hang them throughout town and provide each one with a sign bearing the name of the business, group or family that created it.

On Oct. 4, the merchants association will kick off "First Fridays" a festive evening of entertainment and shopping in downtown Farmington, to be held 5-8 p.m., the first Friday of every month.

"First Fridays" will offer area residents a chance to become acquainted with the many unique businesses in downtown Farmington.

Many stores will stay open until 8 p.m., while others will sell their wares at a European-style marketplace in and around the Village Mall.

While parents shop during "First Fridays," children can get crafty at Fun With Plaster,

33405 Grand River. Drop off kids ages seven and older 6:30-8 p.m. and for \$10, each child will get one piece of his or her choice to paint.

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Downtown Merchants Association for future events. The harvest festivities will continue the rest of the month, culminating Saturday, Oct. 26 with the Downtown Development Authority's annual Trick-or-Treat.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, the Downtown Merchants Association invites adults and children alike to bring a pre-cut or painted pumpkin to Memorial Park for our

Decorated Pumpkin Contest. Prizes - gift certificates from downtown shops and a downtown Farmington Merchants

Gift Basket will be awarded for the scariest and the most creative pumpkins.

Local crafters will offer a festival-like atmosphere and farmers from the Farmington Farmers Market will sell apples, pumpkins and corn stalks.

Among the entertainment will be 10 lucky entrants who will provide some good old-fashioned fun as they scarf down delicious pies from Farmington Bakery in our Pie-Eating contest.

The following Saturday, Oct. 19, Memorial Park will be the site for an adult Halloween Costume contest, as well as an Apple-Bobbing contest. The Downtown Merchants Association is looking for crafters to set up in Memorial Park on both Saturdays.

For more information call (248) 476-3886.

# Construction's done, landscaping begins

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Now that the Farmington Road project is done, new landscaping will be planted along the boulevard.

Marie Donigan, landscape architect for the Farmington Hills planning office, said,

"We'll plant through October until we can't plant any longer. Cleanup will be in the spring. This road has commercial properties. It has residential properties. It has all kinds of different subdivisions. We want

to make sure when it's all done everybody is happy."

Donigan spoke at a Sept. 15 Farmington City Council meeting. She is also a Royal Oak City Commissioner.

As far back as 1996-97, the Beautification Commissions for Farmington and Farmington Hills met with landscape architects Cristin Metz to devise a landscape plan for Farmington Road, said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauthoff.

The trees and flowers are expected to enhance the corridor and serve as a pleasant

gateway from Eight Mile to Slocum. Steinkopf Nursery on Farmington Hills was the low bidder on the contract, which will be paid with grant funds.

The Farmington Road Landscape Plan, which will be on both sides of the road, consists of 152 shade trees, 24 ornamental trees and about 3,600 shrubs and flowers.

Magnolias, tree lilacs and honey locusts are included. "All of them have to be hardy for road salt," Donigan said. "As it turns out, road salt sprays 30

feet into the air and we have to make sure our trees live through all that."

When Councilman Arnold Campbell wondered about watering, Lauthoff said these types of plants don't require irrigation. "What they are putting in is drought tolerant," he said.

"One of the good things about having Steinkopf on this project is they have to look at this every single day," Donigan said. "They have to drive up and down that road."

Sue Buck HomeCenter Inc. (248) 477-5450

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Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor (248) 477-5450 srosiek@oe.com

High Gallagher, Managing Editor (248) 953-2149 hgallagher@oe.com

Jonel Rubrod, Community Editor (248) 477-5450 jrubrod@oe.com

Sue Buck, Reporter (248) 477-5450 sbuck@oe.com

Paul Pace, Reporter (248) 477-5450 ppace@oe.com

BRI Bresler, Photographer (248) 477-5450 bbresler@oe.com

Dan O'Neare, Sports Editor (248) 953-2141 dooneare@oe.com

Acna Lipar Leslie, Ad Representative (248) 953-2157 alipar@oe.com

Nikki Smith, Delivery Manager (248) 953-2242 custserv@oe.com

Katie McNamus, Receptionist (248) 477-5450 kmcmamus@oe.com

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**Vagnozzi endorsement**  
State Representative candidate Aldo Vagnozzi has received his second endorsement from a small business group - the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. Earlier, Vagnozzi had been endorsed by the Michigan Association of Convenience Stores, representing gasoline station owners.

"I am encouraged by the strong support from small business groups in our community," said Vagnozzi. "This confirms my strong support for small business. I opposed the action of the Legislature in stopping the reduction of the single business tax. If elected, I would support a fairer approach to small business. I would also favor giving tax assistance to small business that create jobs."

**Republican Club Forum/Debate**  
The Farmington Area Republican Club will hold a forum and debate at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, in the Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

The final two candidates for the 47th District Court will start the evening with Retired Circuit Court Judge Barry L. Howard moderating.

The public is encouraged to attend because much of the forum will be devoted to public questions and answers. Candidates for Oakland County Commissioner, Ryan Gesund and Michael Rogers, will follow the judicial candidates.

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