

REVIEW

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Pasta Stop and an organizer of the Monday night Cruise on the Grand held every summer, hosted the first Classic Car Cruise. A 188-car caravan started in the city parking lot behind his restaurant and traveled down Farmington Road to Jack Roush's garage in Livonia.

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills both took action to halt the spread of an Asian beetle that was killing ash trees. Hills officials spent \$45,000 on the effort; Farmington was forced to take out 25 trees this summer and would eventually take out 95 trees over the next two years.

A last-minute campaign flier distributed by State House primary candidate Valerie Knol drew harsh criticism from the opponent she targeted, Terry Sever. Sever said claims that he owed back taxes to Oakland County were false. Knol and Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi won primary victories, as did 47th District judicial candidates Annette Raczkowski and Jim Brady.

Farmington began a project to line aging sewers this month. Officials said the refurbishing would cost substantially less than replacing the pipes.

SEPTEMBER

Longtime city manager Frank Lauhoff surprised many when he announced he would retire in January, due to health concerns. City officials hired a consultant from the Michigan Municipal League to begin the search for his replacement.

Mercy High senior Emily Gruber is one of four Michigan students to have a perfect score on her ACT test.

Hundreds of area residents attended a Sept. 11 vigil at Farmington High School, sponsored by the Farmington Area Jaycees in cooperation with the American Legion. The ceremony honored the memory of those killed in the terrorist attacks of 2001 and marked the start of a scholarship fund in memory of victim Joshua Ridenhill, whose father, Skip, owns Books Abound in downtown Farmington.

Hillside Elementary School, which suffered from bad press in August when it was labeled a "failing" school under the federal "No Child Left Behind" program, scored exceptionally well on state standardized tests in science. Last year, Hillside was designated a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, which is also a federal program.

Moving the annual Farmer's Market one block down Grand River, onto Grove Street, made a huge difference in sales, vendors reported. The move is expected to become permanent.

The city of Farmington and Farmington Downtown Development Authority were notified they would receive an Oakland County Main Street grant. The grant will provide technical assistance for downtown development for three years.

A water main break at Inkster and 12 Mile didn't cause major problems for Farmington Hills residents, but construction to repair the line and street provided a major inconvenience for weeks afterward.

DaimlerChrysler unveiled its new facility in the former Michigan National Bank headquarters off Inkster Road,

north of 11 Mile. The 300,000-square-foot building will house the company's North American financial services.

Betty Nicolay became the official chairwoman of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition and Farmington Families in Action joined with the Coalition to form its Family Sector.

Magistrate Paul Komives administered the oath of citizenship to 279 new Americans during a ceremony held during the annual Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

OCTOBER

New Our Lady of Sorrows Principal Jim Watson considered improving technology at the school one of his primary goals. He also faces the divisive issue of shared time, an agreement that would put public school teachers in art, music and physical education classes.

Teens began using the new Teen Center at the Farmington Area YMCA, a facility they helped to design.

The Southwest Oakland Cable Commission opened the doors to its new studio on 9 Mile and Farmington roads. In addition to expanding its operation, SWOCC's facility has recent technology for public access and local government cable productions.

The search for a Downtown Development Authority Director ended with the hiring of Brent Morgan, community development director for Davison.

The Commission for Children, Youth and Families launched an effort to create a Family Night in Farmington and Farmington Hills. They'll work with local organizations, churches and schools to schedule one night with no activities, which would allow fami-

lies to spend time together.

The Boys of Botsford unveiled their 2003 fund-raising calendar, which combines their handsome faces with the physiques of young body builders. The Girls of Botsford have also banded together to form a Red Hat Society.

Holocaust survivors participated in a brick-laying ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial Center under construction at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Bargain Books moved into long-vacant retail space in the Downtown Farmington Business Center mall, to the chagrin of some residents who believed the center is becoming a "discount store" haven.

U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg announced money has been allocated to improve conditions on 12 Mile near Harrison High School. Students were credited with lobbying for assistance after the death of Harrison student Daniel Lee in March, 2000.

African American parents of North Farmington High students were invited to take part in an effort to improve student achievement, sense of belonging and develop support systems. School officials emphasized this was not in response to any identified problem at the school.

A steering committee charged with creating a model for diversity in Farmington and Farmington Hills held its first meeting at the Farmington Training Center. More than 120 volunteers took part.

NOVEMBER

General election turnout was high as area voters elected Aldo Vagnozzi to the state House, David Moffitt and Mike Rogers to Oakland County Commission and Jim Brady as 47th District Court Judge.

Gilda Jacobs won her state Senate race over Hills resident Marc Wilkins; U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg also won his reelection bid.

Farmington High celebrated a winning football season and made history by going farther into the play-off season than longtime powerhouse Harrison.

Steven Joppich was appointed Farmington Hills city attorney. He will replace long-time attorney John Donohue, who died unexpectedly over the summer.

Hills city council members Vicki Barnett and Jon Grant both indicated an interest in running for mayor in 2003. Although the rumor mill also pegged Farmington Area Republican Club vice president Chris Cummins, he said his goal is only to find the best Republican for the job.

Republic Bank, which has a branch in Farmington Hills, was honored by the editors of Working Mom magazine as one of the 100 best U.S. companies for working mothers.

Oakland County Commissioner David Moffitt of Farmington Hills found himself in the middle of a huge political flap, as conservative and moderate Republicans battled over control of the Oakland County party. Eventually, Farmington Republican Paul Welday was named party chairman, and Valerie Knol was elected party secretary.

DECEMBER

Farmington Public Schools was honored for its Safe Schools Initiative. Farmington Hills was ranked the 25th-safest city in the United States by Morgan Quitno Press, an independent research and publishing company.

The family of Farmington High student Jason Starling,



Although few Farmington Hills residents were affected by a mid-September water main break at Twelve Mile and Inkster Roads, traffic was diverted for months.

who died of a heroin overdose, wrote an open letter to his friends and classmates, asking them to stay away from drugs in his memory.

Marco Conte announced he would reluctantly close Marco's restaurant, for financial reasons. He hopes to open soon in another location.

Former Farmington city councilman Bill Hartstock's surprise bid for the post of city manager ended when the city attorney discovered a provision in the city charter that prevented elected officials from applying for city posts within two years after leaving office.

The issue of shared time at Our Lady of Sorrows flared again, as school officials reported most parents who attended meetings on the issue favored allowing public school teachers to take over art, music and physical education classes. However, a parent who opposes the move commissioned an independent survey, which found most parents are against it.

A man was struck and killed on Middlebelt after wandering away from Sunrise Assisted Living Center. The 86-year-old victim was not using the crosswalk; no charges are expected against the driver.

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