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**Observer**

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 June 12, 2003  
 75 cents

**FARMINGTON  
 Observer**

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 Icon**  
 Diners offer  
 comfort food  
 and nostalgia.  
 Taste, D1



VOLUME 116 NUMBER 76

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**FOUNDERS  
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**Fest volunteers**  
 Are you looking for a way  
 to have fun, meet new people  
 and enjoy a closer look at  
 this year's Farmington Area  
 Founder's Festival?



Go to <http://www.founders-festival.com/volunteer.htm> to share your time and talents.

**Prophecy, unity**  
 Native American Prophecy  
 and Future World Unity, a  
 presentation by Dr. William  
 Martin, will be given  
 Thursday, June 12 at the  
 Farmington Hills Library  
 Auditorium, 32737 W. 12 Mile.  
 Light refreshments will be  
 served at 6:30 p.m.; the pro-  
 gram starts at 7 p.m. No  
 donations will be accepted.  
 This event is sponsored by  
 the Baha'i Falls in  
 Farmington Hills.

**Seat inspection**  
 AAA Michigan is offering a  
 free child safety seat inspec-  
 tion 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday,  
 June 16, at its Farmington  
 Hills branch, 38751 W. 12 Mile.  
 Reservations are recom-  
 mended. To schedule an  
 inspection, call (800) 646-  
 4222.

**Race for the Cure**  
 12th Annual Women Detroit  
 Race for the Cure® needs  
 volunteers in many capaci-  
 ties before, after, and on  
 Race day June 21 at Comerica  
 Park. Help fight breast can-  
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[www.karmanos.org](http://www.karmanos.org), click  
 "Race for the Cure" or call  
 (800) KARMANOS (800-527-  
 6266).

**Tobacco treats**  
 Tamara Spa has introduced a  
 series of sweet-smelling  
 tobacco spa treatments that  
 are guaranteed to relax the  
 mind and soothe the body  
 without inhaling.  
 The treatments - Relaxing  
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 blend of extracted pure  
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 tobacco, honey, heliotrope,  
 vanilla, rum, velvet, rose and  
 oak moss, to create the  
 lotions and oils. The all-nat-  
 ural products have a calming,  
 relaxing effect on the body.  
 Tamara Spa is located at  
 32520 Northwestern Highway  
 in Farmington Hills.  
 For information, call (248)  
 855-0474.

**Hills PD, FBI hunt suspected killer**

BY PAUL R. PACE  
 STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Police and the FBI are seeking the public's help in finding an international fugitive they say is responsible for the death of a 55-year-old Farmington Hills man in October 2001.

With new forensic DNA evidence of the suspected murder weapon, a knife, Police Chief William Dwyer joined Oakland County Prosecutor David Goryczka to announce Wednesday a first-degree murder warrant has been issued against Edgardo Perez, 21, for-

merly of Beverly Hills. "Perez has people here who know where he might be and we're asking for the public's help," Dwyer said. The department is offering a \$5,000 reward leading to the capture and conviction of Perez, who the FBI says may be living in Mexico at the moment. Books left behind by the suspect focus on tips about hiding from the law and changing identities. Police believe Perez has been on the lam in Mexico, Spain and Puerto Rico since leaving Michigan just a few days after Gordon Machek, a retired



Perez



Machek

designer with DaimlerChrysler Corp., was discovered missing. Police say evidence shows someone killed Machek, stuffed his body in a trunk then used Machek's van to dispose the body. The person returned to clean the carpets, going so far as to

use a steam cleaner to cover up evidence. Dwyer said Machek's credit cards were used by Perez at an area hair salon and restaurants before he forged a student ID to fly out of Michigan. He eventually escaped to Mexico. Machek's body has not been found. The chief said Perez also attempted to withdraw money from the victim's bank account and investment funds, an effort that failed. The FBI has been involved with Farmington Hills Police for the last 20 months in finding Perez, because of illegal use

of the credit cards. Wednesday's issue of a first-degree warrant drives up the importance of the investigation. "He's been nearly captured on three or four different occasions," Dwyer said of the international manhunt. People who know Perez in the area have so far not been helpful in finding the suspect, Dwyer said. "We're confident he will be extradited back here." Anyone with information, may call Farmington Hills Police at (248) 473-9095. [ppace@hometowncomm.net](mailto:ppace@hometowncomm.net) (248) 477-5450



Bill Bresler | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gil School voter Robert Polasky finishes his ballot and heads for the counting machine.

**Bolsen elected to FPS Board**

BY SUE BUCK  
 STAFF WRITER

Karen Bolsen, co-chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multiracial Multicultural Community Council, was elected to a four-year term on the Farmington Public School board Monday. Bolsen took about half of the votes in the nine precincts - 1,004 (49 percent) of 2,051 ballots cast. The candidates and their supporters waited for results in their own groups election night. All three were at Farmington Hills City Hall to wait for vote totals by 8:15 p.m., 15 minutes after polls closed. Bolsen thanked her

supporters for their endorsement, contributions and helping with mailings. "I couldn't do this without your support," Bolsen said. "I appreciate it." Bolsen said she has a vision for excellence which she expressed throughout the campaign. She's interested in student achievement, the safety and well being of students, community collaboration, and fiscal responsibility. "And that's not necessarily in that order," Bolsen said. Cheryl Swaim, co-owner of Falcon Stamping in Howell, earned 565 votes (27.57 percent); John Goshorn,

PLEASE SEE ELECTION, A10

**Big Lots heads for Uptown Plaza**

BY SUE BUCK  
 STAFF WRITER

A Big Lots store is planned for the Uptown Plaza on Grand River and Mooncity, to be in place by

Christmas. Big Lots is a discount store which purchases close-out inventory. The store will occupy 28,000 square feet. It will take the place of the

Yankee Consignment store, which moved out more than a month ago, and the space used by the old Cattleman's store, which left years ago. About 3,000 square

feet of vacant space will remain. The space affected is located at 91630 Grand River. The Farmington

PLEASE SEE BIG LOTS, A10

**Authentic plates create headache for Hills man**

BY PHIL FOLEY  
 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Richard Griffith, an engineer who helps test parking control machines for a company in Novi, belongs to two rather esoteric clubs.

One is the R90S Sport Owners Club, a group of about 300-400 people worldwide who restore and ride a fairly rare 29-year-old BMW motorcycle. The other, a much less formal group, is made up of people who

have run afoul of the way Michigan licenses historic vehicles. Historical vehicles, which must be more than 25 years old and listed solely as a collector's item at special

PLEASE SEE PLATES, A6



Bill Bresler | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Smiles for miles**  
 New Harrison High alum Amanda Coffee hugs school board member Pam Christian during June 8 graduation ceremonies held at the Computer Arena in Plymouth. More photos, graduation lists, page A5.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
 Treatment breakthrough  
 in Sunday's Health section, new  
 medicines and technology make it  
 easier to treat patients with dia-  
 betes.