

Williams grand marshal of Dew Days parade

by Kara Hildreth
TOWNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The Hometown Honoree to carry the most community votes is Marc J. Williams. He'll serve as grand marshal at the Grand Day parade.

Williams, 53, who has led his whole life in Farmington, looks forward to being in the parade with his righter, Elizabeth, 18, and a mother, Jean Lejeune.

"I am still trying to take it in because I can't believe I was selected out of that map of all the people who live of their own time to be part of the community," Williams said.

Three 2009 Hometown honorees who will also be honored include Sarah Miller, Annette Kuyper and Tom Harper. Thomson was nominated.

The public is invited to appreciate the Grand Marshal and Hometown honorees at 6 p.m. Friday, June 26, in the fairgrounds entertainment tent.

"It is heartening and I feel like I'm in stride," Williams said. "At first I was a bit frustrated because I was nominated out of the blue."

But after taking time to savor the good news, Williams says he is happy and appreciative.

Riding in the Grand Day parade is not new to Williams, who usually carries a United States flag or gun as member of the color guard representing the Sons of the American Legion.

Honored for his volunteering and fundraising efforts for Special Olympics, Williams is also involved in

FARMINGTON

many civic groups. His interest in Special Olympics is due to a friend who invited him to go to a meeting 22 years ago. He knew he had to stay involved.

"I do a snowmobile ride for Special Olympics," Williams said.

The 200-mile snowmobile ride with teams of up to 120 riders extends from Two Harbors to Fry and raises money

for Special Olympics. "Watching how hard those athletes work to gain the medals, I saw how tricky it was for them to do the winter games of cross country skiing, ice skating and downhill skiing and they have even more to overcome to gain that medal," Williams said.

Williams also serves as a Dakota County Snowmobile Safety instructor.

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Court to reign over



The Miss Farmington and Little Miss Farmington Princess Kelsie Vincent, Little Miss Farmington Gabbie Hubbard (back from left) First Princess Ariel Manganelli, and Second Princess Chelsea K. Conquability. For more photos from the event, visit www.thisweeklive.com.

Hometown Honorees humble about recognition

by Kara Hildreth
TOWNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Chosen by the community to be one of three 2009 Farmington Hometown Honorees, Sarah Miller is humble about the recognition and believes there are worthy candidates.

Answering questions in a soft-spoken manner, Miller said community involvement has "given me the chance to meet wonderful people and it also gives me the opportunity to see the positive side of Farmington."

She said she looks forward to riding on a float alongside her grandchildren and fiance Sunday in the Grand Day Parade. Miller has made a home in Farmington with her family since June 1971.

She was chosen as a Hometown Honoree along with Annette Kuyper and Jim Harper.

Miller grew up in St. Paul and says she loves the people of Farmington with all her heart.

When she first moved to town 38 years ago, Miller was not sure she made the right decision. Today she has no doubt that Farmington is a great place and said she could not have fostered memories or deeper relationships with the locals.

An instrumental leader in organizing the Miss Farmington pageant since 1988, Miller said the program that awards scholarships has evolved from young girls competing on stage outdoors years ago.

See **Heroes, 9A**.

For Kevin Miller, C 'about giving back'

New City Council member

by Derrick Williams
TOWNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

LAKEVILLE

While his appointment isn't official until he takes the oath of office on July 6, Lakeville City Council appointee Kevin Miller is already working with his new colleagues.



Kevin Miller

"It's a wonderful opportunity," said Miller, 53, who attended his first planning

session as a councilor on June 22.

Miller, a septor identical to U.S. Ba former member of the Parks, Recreational Resources and Natural Resources committee, was selected to fill the vacant when Wes resigned her post.

"I'm looking for another opportunity that I have to

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COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

is a community event that kicks off Dew Days.

The program allows high school girls to present top-25 they are passionate about long with exhibiting talent and fashion.

"We want it to be a good time and a way to build confidence in the young girls," Miller said. "The nicest part is we have always been looking for ways to improve it and I think we have come a long way."

A volunteer on the Farmington Senior Advisory Committee, Miller said she could not be more pleased with the progress of the Rambling River Center remodeling at the old city hall.

"I think if we can get it this far, why not a pool and wellness center?" Miller said.

Miller is president of the Farmington Lions Club.

"This is a wonderful group to work with who are all so dedicated and they energize me and raise my spirits," she said.

Miller will leave her position as vice president of retail banking at the Anchor Bank Farmington downtown branch July 31 after 37 years of service.

As she enters a new phase of her life, she will be able to devote more time to her family and to volunteering.

A member of the Farmington Warrior to Citizen group that offers support for military families and active service members, Miller said this group has been the best shot in the arm for the community.

"My work with the Warrior to Citizen group has been awe inspiring," she said.

She said nothing has hit her harder than seeing how the Vietnam veterans appreciated the homecoming parade June 13 at the state Capitol.

"Seeing the names and the boots by the wall, it was something," Miller said. "All the vets really appreciated it and I don't think

widowed eight years ago, Miller has served as secretary of the Farmington American Legion Auxiliary.

"It was occupying my time and it benefitted me and I get good feelings from it," she said. "That is the biggest benefit for me - getting to meet these people."

Annette Kuyper

Kuyper, who said she was truly honored, will not be able to participate in the Grand Day Parade because she will be out of town.

She was nominated for her tireless efforts on behalf of Farmington veterans. She founded the Warrior to Citizen Campaign in Farmington.

Kuyper's efforts led to the city of Farmington being awarded the first "Yellow Ribbon" status in Minnesota.

Warrior to Citizen provides support to military families, serving as a network for residents who want to volunteer.

The group serves as a role model for other area Warrior to Citizen groups across the state, such as those in Lakeville, Rochester and Rosemount.

A resident of Farmington since 1993, Kuyper said she does not deserve the credit, but thinks it is terrific and a great honor.

"I am just really proud because I knew the community would help us have the best support for service members and families and they would rise to the occasion and become successful groups to support our service members," she said.

Jim Harper

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Her fiance Tom Huonder is a Vietnam veteran. They both rode on the bus trip to the Capitol.

Being generous with her free time comes natural for Miller, but she says this does not deserve special recognition.

"Volunteering is a way to meet positive people who like getting up in the morning," Miller said. "I have been very blessed in Farmington and have met a lot of people that helped me in my personal life."

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Jim Harper

Jim Harper was selected a 2009 Hometown Honoree for his participation in the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts troops for more than 15 years. He was unable to comment on his recognition because he was camping with a troop this week.

"Harper continues to lead a troop even though his children are grown up and he runs weekly meetings and attends leadership meetings monthly," according to the Dew Days Web site.

Harper gets troops involved in the annual park cleanup in Farmington and works to assist boys who want to earn the Eagle Scout award.

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