

# Farmington Observer

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## Helping hand is extended to hungry

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Free food is being distributed to the Farmington area's needy by the Farmington Hills Special Services Department in compliance with outgoing Gov. William Milliken's directive mandating the establishment of emergency food centers throughout Michigan.

The action was announced Wednesday by the Farmington Hills Police Department's Capt. Russ Conway, local Civil Defense coordinator, and Douglas Gaynor, Farmington Hills Director of Special Services. In a joint decision, officials from Farmington and Farmington Hills agreed the program would be handled by Farmington Hills.

The ongoing program will be augmented by the provision of free shelter and utility assistance in the future, if the need is sufficient.

Families may pick up bags containing enough items for a meal for four to five people at Farmington City Hall's Department of Special Services from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The city is totally dependent on donors, Gaynor said.

"We're requesting residents to donate non-perishable foods that don't require refrigeration, such as canned goods and boxed foods to my office," he said.

Whether or not donations are tax deductible is still undetermined. The matter is being studied by Attorney General Frank Kelley. A related announcement will be released soon, according to Sgt. Joseph Lipinski, emergency services district coordinator for the Michigan State Police.

THE CITY is asking that persons call City Hall before coming to the distribution center. Recipients will be asked to supply information enabling officials to ensure families are receiving food only from Farmington Hills' center, and not from other cities as well.

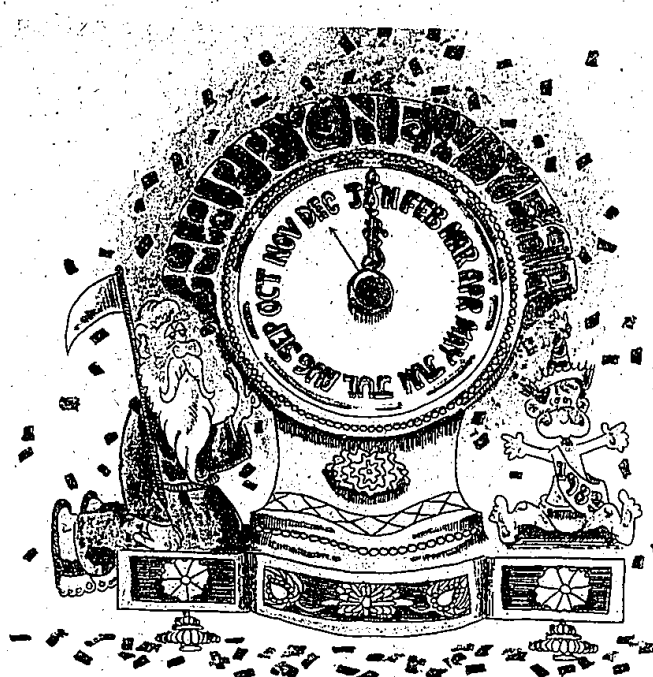
Since 1978, the number of Oakland County families receiving public assistance has escalated 39 percent to 64,275. The figure represents 57 percent of the current caseload.

"As national priorities have shifted towards increased spending for defense, people who have been working now find themselves without work without resources and without hope, emergency food, clothing or shelter," said Conway of the impetus behind Milliken's directive.

"There is no question that Michigan has suffered disproportionately from national economic conditions," said the Governor in a written statement.

"We are in the 36th consecutive

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The staff of the Farmington Observer wishes each and everyone of you all the happiness in this new year.

## Sales gimmick probed

By Craig Plechura  
staff writer

The owner of an appliance company charged with engaging in "false, misleading and deceptive practices" says many things the attorney general objects to are common practice in the industry.

Michigan Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley filed a lawsuit last month against ABC Appliance Inc., a company based in Center Line with five stores in the cities of Farmington Hills, Redford Township, Warren, Pontiac and Flint. The stores are called ABC Warehouse. Included are two acquired at the beginning of the year that were formerly known as Lucky Lindy Berry Appliance stores.

The lawsuit seeks a civil penalty of \$25,000 for knowingly violating provisions of the state's Consumer Protection Act, plus payment of court costs and attorney fees.

Kelley said that at three of the company's stores an investigator from the Consumer Protection Division, posing as a shopper, discovered "deceptive pricing systems and advertised merchandise which was not available."

The investigator, Kelley said, requested a "rain check" stipulating that out-of-stock advertised items could be bought, when they arrived, at the sale price. No such guarantee was offered or given, Kelley said.

Gordon Hartman, president of ABC

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## South-of-border trip is bewitching experience

By Craig Plechura  
staff writer

The head shrinker learned something from the witch doctor and vice versa.

When we last saw Dr. Jeffrey Kotler, 31, of Farmington Hills, he was preparing for a Fulbright-scholarship trip to Peru where he was to lecture university students on modern psychoanalytic techniques. He worried about his fluency in Spanish.

Kotler has returned from South America telling tales of a mountain-top encounter with a brujo — which roughly translates as wizard or witch doctor.

His Carlos Castaneda-like adventure began in the lecture hall of the Inca Garcilaso De La Vega University. One of Kotler's students there — a psychiatrist in his mid-40s — told how he was

studying the psychiatric techniques of the brujos of Salas, a remote spot in the middle of the Andes Mountains, 600 miles north of Lima where 100 mystics reside.

Persons in need of psychic healing journey to the city daily to cleanse themselves of troubling thoughts and maladies.

The treatment they receive often includes doses of a powerful psychotropic drug made from the San Pedro cactus which produces "a powerful strain of mescaline, a psychodelic drug."

Kotler was allowed to witness and participate in this strange cleansing ceremony — off-limits to outsiders — because in an earlier interview with the medicine man, Kotler cured him of nagging psychosomatic headaches.

Chanting the word of a mantra Kot-

ler assigned him — the English word "Time" — made Don Jose's migraine go away. He was so grateful he invited Kotler to the all-night sacred ritual which included swords, rocks, charms, beads and bones and ceremonial vomiting to rid the body of evil elements.

ALL THIS was more than Kotler bargained for when he accepted the Fulbright scholarship. But he came away from the experience with a lot of respect for the brujo's psychiatric techniques and demeanor. Kotler says the archaic ritual has much in common with modern-day psychology.

"Instead of hanging diplomas on the wall, this particular one, Don Jose, had a stuffed condor on the wall. Both are signs of power."

He prescribed herbs and medicines like we might. For example, he has a herb that's the equivalent to Antabuse, which we use, that makes a person who drinks (alcohol) vomit. There are herbs he prescribes that act as stimulants and tranquilizers and he gives patients sound advice.

Despite the kudos, Kotler admits the experience was more than a little unnerving because he didn't know what to expect when the brujo began his therapeutic society.

His journal records the unorthodox ritual:

"At first, just a quiet whistle. Not sure if it's the wind or a bird. No, Don Jose has begun. And the whistle fades into a low, throaty hum, repeating the same haunting melody like a chorus. During the night I must have listened to the words 1,000 times but I was always so distracted by the power and filling beauty of his voice I forgot to hear

the words. I believe he was invoking various saints for protection and calling to the mountains for help."

"He had a spectacular array of ritual movements to accompany the initiation; all the while his assistant was handing him various objects to bless, throw, wave or hold."

THEN CAME the moment of truth as Kotler was handed a gourd containing liquid boiled down from the San Pedro cactus pulp. He was instructed to pour the concoction through his nose to intensify the reaction and allow the rocks to speak to the brujo.

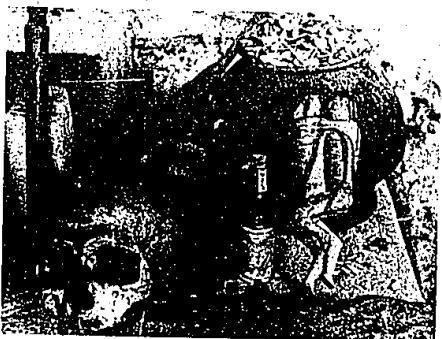
"Let me first honestly confess that I never did see anything peculiar," Kotler writes in his journal. "Except two shooting stars — at least what I think were shooting stars. Although I felt a great deal, my body did react to the drug, though I can't exactly describe how. Though my visions were limited, Don Jose had some startling hallucinations on my behalf."

The ritual lasted for 12 hours and there were five other persons present. Only two were allowed to drink the mescal. While Kotler claims he never hallucinated, he admits he was very frightened.

"It's a pretty scary situation being in the middle of the Andes Mountains with some guy presencing his head off all night long."

The treatment costs Peruvians the equivalent of two months salary so Kotler said it's inconceivable that clients of the brujo would pay the fee just to get high on the mescal. While the drug is illegal in Peru, Kotler said it seems to have a beneficial effect.

"THE DRUG is never taken by it-



Every medicine man needs a little help with his craft and there's nothing like a skull (to fight mental woes) and a loving couple (to aid amore) to help the witch doctor.

self," said Kotler, executive director of Woodcreek Clinic in Farmington Hills. "It's only administered as part of the ritual which includes chanting, cleansing procedures utilizing stasis, and awards used to purify the patient."

The key to any psychiatric success, said Kotler, is that the patient must believe in the therapist. The doctor must instill confidence in the patient.

"It's similar to what modern psychiatrists call catharsis," Kotler said. "It gives patients the opportunity to talk about their problems. But the pow-

er they have as psychologists, psychiatrists or brujos, when almost anything they say carries a lot of weight with the patient who's listening, tells me it's an awesome responsibility we have.

"You can cause a change in people for better or for worse."

Long-time patients of Dr. Kotler shouldn't worry too much. Unlike his counterpart in Peru, Kotler doesn't keep cacti or a skull in his office. He uses the familiar couch and tape recorder in his trade.



Don Jose



Jeffrey Kotler

## Merchants eye main drag facelift

Efforts to improve the appearance of businesses along Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills got a boost from nine businessmen who attended a meeting at city hall last month.

The meeting was designed to gauge business reaction to the idea of having the private sector share the cost of beautification with city and county participating in the program.

Business representatives in attendance at the organizational meeting were Mel Rex, and Rick Rosenbaum of Hunter's Square/Tally Hall; Bob McDonald of Roma Terrace; McFrock's Saloon; Charlie Schneck of Ambience Recording Studio; Dennis Pocco of Taco Bell; Don Reifler of Rel-

fier-Kingsley Insurance; Larry Ostleck of Great Scott Supermarket and Al D'Amanno of Burger King. Also at the meeting were Scott Ouellette of Oakland County Road Commission.

The response has been very positive so far," said Asst. City Manager William Costick. "There's lots of enthusiasm among the property owners and businesses. Hopefully, a citizen's committee will be formed in 1983 to implement the beautification plan."

Costick said it was the consensus of those in attendance that a committee be organized to stimulate interest in the project and develop plans for improving aesthetics along the strip, which

serves as Farmington Hills main thoroughfare.

The committee meets again at 4 p.m. Jan. 11. Costick said the city would arrange to have the West Bloomfield Township planner attend the meeting to give a presentation on plans that community has developed for extensive tree planting and landscaping along Orchard Lake Road.

Aerial photographs and maps of Orchard Lake Road — particularly the highly developed area between 12 and 14 Mile roads — will be provided by city planners, Costick said. The Oakland County Road Commission representative said he'd provide a list of available greenery such as trees for

landscaping including requirements regarding planting along a public highway.

City administrators "will become actively involved in the beautification project," Costick pledged, "providing secretarial and other services."

The beautification project gained impetus after the Farmington Observer ran a question in the weekly Oral Quarrel asking residents to pick the biggest eyesore in the Farmington area. The hands-down winner was Orchard Lake Road. Costick said the public reaction caused city officials to make plans for improving the aesthetics of the road a higher priority.

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**GREAT RESPONSE!**

"Rented to the 1st person that called. Response was great! Would certainly use your super agent!" M. Mc Dougal was very pleased with the results of the Observer & Eccentric "House to Rent" classified ad she placed.

Remember...

**One call does it all!**

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