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Pam Seaton, one of the licensed cosmetologists at the facial clinic, Federal Food and Drug Administration, applies the technique which has come under the scrutiny of the

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Feds eye probe

Electric facelift questioned

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Paul Donat Groux and Sharon Reed would like the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate — and approve — the controversial facelift technique Groux has developed for use in Reed's Farmington Hills salon.

FDA spokesmen in Detroit and Washington have promised at least the investigation.

The technique, which involves no surgery, makes use of a device that generates small amounts of electric current through a stylus. A cosmetologist then passes the instrument over the subject's facial muscles.

"We're actually re-educating the facial muscles," said Reed, co-owner of Bloomfield Facial Renewal Clinic in the Orchard-12 Plaza. In business since August, the salon charges \$500 for 12 sessions.

"It's an alternative to cosmetic surgery," she said, "but I'll never replace cosmetic surgery."

GROUX, WHO calls himself a "medical researcher" and operates a clinic in Las Vegas, Nev., and Reed said they were upset about a newspaper

story headlined "Electrical facelift method under investigation by FDA" in the Nov. 3 Detroit Free Press.

"We're not having any problems with the FDA . . . in spite of what it says in that newspaper," said Reed last Thursday night.

"If the truth were being told, that headline would have said, 'inventor of electrical face-lift method petitions FDA to investigate procedure.'"

"Note that they (the FDA) are not investigating our salon, nor are they investigating Paul Groux. Paul Groux has solicited the FDA. I have never seen anything so manipulated as the information in that article."

Groux — who claims to have sold or leased 1,200 of the devices in the United States, 400 in Canada and "a large number in South Africa" — said that he asked for the FDA investigation.

"My attorney, Michael Keshkin, and the Nevada Attorney General's Office made the preliminary approach to the FDA," said Groux, 42. "What we're

trying to establish is criteria which would enable cosmetologists to get special licenses to do this."

At issue, Groux said, is whether members of the "medical establishment" should be allowed to use the equipment. Groux, who claims to have trained doctors in the use of the device, favors opening its use to laypersons.

"WE'RE NOT satisfied that it should be completely in the hands of doctors . . ." he said. "The doctors in all likelihood would turn it over to their office assistants anyway."

Bemoaning what he believes to be the prevailing medical attitude toward the device, Groux said, "If it works, it belongs in the hands of doctors. If it does not work, it's quackery."

FDA SPOKESMAN Chris Smith, contacted at his Rockville, Md., office, said he was aware of Groux' device. The FDA has been regarding "medical devices" since May 1976, he said.

"Medical devices include anything

from a pacemaker all the way down to a tongue depressor," said Smith, who was raised in Farmington. "If you make some kind of device that's going to be used for medical purposes to cure a disease, change the body, et cetera, then we have jurisdiction over it."

"This includes muscle stimulators. Muscle stimulators are legitimate medical devices. As far as the FDA is concerned, they belong in the hands of a licensed practitioner."

Licensing requirements vary from state to state, and the FDC "doesn't license anybody," Smith said.

"We leave it alone," he said. "It's the states that license people. For example, some states license X-ray technicians, some do not."

Still, the burden of proof of the device is on Groux, Smith said.

"It doesn't matter if you're using laser (we've had problems with people using low-power lasers for face lifts) or a muscle stimulator or whatever. To use a device, you have to come into the FDA with some kind of scientific data to show that it works and gain approval from the agency."

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Compromise is expected in cable row

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills City Manager Lawrence Savage says he is optimistic that a dispute over cable installation can be settled.

"Things look a lot better," said Savage, indicating MetroVision agreed to develop "a proposal that will resolve practically the whole thing or at least most of it."

The problem concerns who will pay for the installation of cable and whether some residents in the less-densely populated neighborhoods of the tri-city franchise will get cable at all.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Consortium's (SWOCC) consultant met with MetroVision's vice president last week to work out a settlement of the dispute.

In early October, Farmington Hills residents in the Power and 11 Mile neighborhood complained about having to pay a \$200-\$800 installation fee. About 92 percent of the Hills' 21,000 potential subscribers are receiving free installation.

THE QUAKER Valley subdivision also will not be wired with cables, according to Rose Bjorklund, MetroVision's local general manager.

Under MetroVision's "line extension policy," customers may be charged for cable installation in areas which have fewer than 30 houses in a linear mile.

After an initial meeting Oct. 27 between the city managers of Novi, Farmington Hills and Farmington and Henry Harris, MetroVision's national president, city officials decided they would prefer having the SWOCC consultant on hand.

Although Harris was unable to return to Detroit for another meeting last week, Tom Forman, MetroVision's vice president met with Horn and the city manager to discuss the installation fee dispute.

After reviewing cable line maps of the franchise area, it was decided more financial information was needed to determine "the feasibility of making these (cable line) extensions," Savage said.

Although he was unwilling to divulge details of the discussion with Forman

and Horn, he said MetroVision agreed to make a proposal later this week to settle the dispute.

"THE WHOLE thing will be to see what the cities have to sacrifice, if anything," Savage said.

Meanwhile, residents in the Power and 11-Mile area say they have yet to be told what is happening with their situation.

Ann Juliano, 26007 Power, said residents have agreed they would refuse to pay the \$200-\$800 cable installation fee because once the line is installed at their expense, any resident who still does not have cable may get it by paying the basic \$19.95 installation fee.

Despite their anger, residents say they realize city officials didn't deliberately overlook what has turned out to be an expensive installation fee.

"I think city hall was misled," Juliano said.

Farmington Hills council members in late October pledged support for the residents who may be forced to pay MetroVision's installation fee.

MetroVision officials claim the issue is economic because average overhead for cable construction is about \$12,000 for every mile of cable. Unless there are enough households along a cable route, the firm loses money. Bjorklund told residents in October. He also informed residents that if most of the 34 households in the Power Road area subscribe to cable, the average cost per household would be near \$200.

After the city managers' meeting two weeks ago with the MetroVision president, Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said some of the problem has been over the definition of what constitutes a mile. Instead of determining that 30 homes are located along a linear mile, MetroVision officials are measuring 30 homes for each mile of cable which depends on the way the street is laid-out, Deadman said.

"They (MetroVision officials) are looking at how many miles of cable," Deadman said.

While residents in Novi, an even more sparsely populated community than the Hills, are similarly affected, Farmington residents are unaffected because of the city's dense neighborhoods, Deadman added.

Rape investigated

An 18-year-old restaurant employee was sexually assaulted and both she and her store manager were robbed at a Farmington Hills Wendy's restaurant early Oct. 23.

The employee, a Redford resident, told police that at about 7:15 a.m. she was walking toward the rear door of the restaurant at 27630 Eight Mile. Two men approached and, while one held a gun on her, she rang the store bell to gain entry. The second man, she told police, was holding a steel pipe.

Hearing the bell, the store manager looked through the peep hole, saw the employee and opened the door. As he did so, one of the men pulled it open

and pointed the gun at him.

One of the robbers ordered the store manager to open the safe. The second forced the woman to the floor and sexually assaulted her.

After tying and robbing both employees, the suspects took the woman's keys and fled in her car, which was later found in Redford.

The woman was taken to Botsford General Hospital for treatment and later released.

One of the assailants was described as about 23 years old, five-foot-10-inch tall, 190 pounds, with a thin mustache.

7 compete for 4 seats in Hills

Farmington Hills voters will trek to the polls Tuesday and cast their ballots in an election which features seven candidates vying for four seats.

The top three vote-getters will win four-year terms. The person placing fourth will win a two-year term.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Absentee ballots can be turned in until 8 p.m. at Farmington Hills City

Hall, corner of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile.

Candidates are: Joe Alkatech, Jack Burwell, Joan Dudley, Fred Hughes, Melissa Levine, Terry Sever and Don Wolf. Burwell, Hughes and Wolf are incumbents. Alkatech and Dudley are former members of the council.

Following is a synopsis of each candidate:

Hall, corner of Orchard Lake and 11 Mile. Candidates are: Joe Alkatech, Jack Burwell, Joan Dudley, Fred Hughes, Melissa Levine, Terry Sever and Don Wolf. Burwell, Hughes and Wolf are incumbents. Alkatech and Dudley are former members of the council.

Following is a synopsis of each candidate:

Alkatech, an electrical engineer, is the president of his own firm. He served on city council from 1978 through 1982. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he has attended business and computer classes at Wayne State University.

Burwell is completing his first term as a council member. An attorney, he is a graduate of Wayne State University

and holds a law degree from that same university. As a council member, he has served as liaison to the Farmington Youth Assistance and the Farmington Area Advisory Commission. Mayor in 1982, he is the vice chairman of the Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission.

Dudley was a member of the city's charter commission and served on the city council from 1973 to 1978. A former school teacher, she presently is attending Cooley Law School. A graduate of the University of Detroit, she was the city's first woman mayor.

Hughes, the city's present mayor, is completing his first term as a council member. He was elected two years ago after having served for eight years on the city's planning commission. A graduate of the University of Detroit in accounting and financing, he has worked at Michigan Bell for 35 years. He was the founding president of the Rolling Oaks Homeowners Association.

Levine is making her first run for

old Yoder served a term as mayor in the early 1970s.

Hartsoc, 33, is another longtime (10 years) council veteran and former mayor (1978-80). Hartsoc, who has served on each of the city's boards and commissions during his council tenure, is a certified public accountant.

Walker, a Realtor and member of the Farmington/Farmington Hills

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A final look at city hopefuls

Voters in the city of Farmington will elect three city councilmen from among five candidates in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Farmington voters also will be asked in a ballot question to amend the city charter so that provisions of the employee pension plan are controlled by ordinance rather than by charter.

Polls at the city's six precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The council field includes two incumbents, Bill Hartsoc and Ralph Yoder. The challengers are Roger Walker, Ron Oglesby and Gerald Lynch.

The top two vote-getters will serve four-year terms, and the third-place candidate will serve a two-year term. Winners will take office Nov. 14, the Monday following the election.

Yoder, a veteran of 18 years on the city council, is co-owner of Tri-City Enterprises, a trucking firm. The 57-year-

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