



Farmington Observer

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note or our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

TAKE note: Washington's Birthday will be observed Monday, Feb. 17. Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, express mail and post office box service will be provided. Caller service will be available for customers who regularly pick up their mail from 8 to 10 a.m.

Mail will be picked up from all residential collection boxes as late in the day as possible to meet first-class service standards. Mail in business collection boxes with the large 5 p.m. decal will be picked up after 5 p.m.

The Farmington Hills Municipal Offices will be closed Monday, but the Farmington Municipal Building will be open. Trash collection won't be affected in either city.

THREE Downtown Farmington Development Committee members talked about over lunch with Page Kurtz, Rochester's Downtown Development Authority project manager.

A city of similar size and heritage, Rochester, through its DDA, has helped bring about several central business district improvements.

Last year, Rochester was named a Michigan Main Street Program city. That qualified it for free redevelopment planning assistance from the state.

Harry Wingerter, Ron Oglesby and Greg Hoibler represented Farmington on the northern Oakland County trek Jan. 30.

"We discussed how Rochester's DDA works in cooperation with the downtown business association," Wingerter said. "We were able to learn each functions separately but in close cooperation."

"We also saw downtown Rochester's new mini mall, trash compactors and facade improvements. And we discussed what costs are involved in hiring a DDA project manager."

BOTSFORD Inn innkeeper John Anhut served up a host of Michigan products during a five-minute appearance on the Today show Feb. 7.

Anhut, president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, was a guest of weathercaster Willard Scott, who delivered the national forecast from the Clarion Hotel in Lansing, where he was addressing the Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

"Michigan has a lot of hometown Michigan products and the state chamber thought John's appearance would be a good opportunity to share them with the nation," said Angel Bakos of the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills.

Among the gifts Anhut gave Scott was a pair of Michigan-made red flannel pajamas.

FOOTNOTES: From the earliest days, Farmington Township (now Farmington Hills) has been known as a church town.

"It was known as Quakertown," according to "The Religious History of Farmington" by Stella Strze.

The Society of Friends was organized early in the township history when Arthur Power, a Quaker and the first settler, donated two acres on Gill for a church and burial ground.

"The first meeting house was built in 1838," Quakers, not being evangelistic, disbanded their church after about 30 years; however, the old Quaker Cemetery is still a landmark," Strze wrote.

Legal action eyed to fight TIFA plans

By Casey Hans staff writer

The Farmington school board voted Tuesday to authorize legal action barring Farmington Hills from establishing a tax increment financing authority (TIFA) along the 12 Mile Road corridor.

In a 6-1 vote, trustees approved a motion to file suit in Oakland County Circuit Court to prevent the city from proceeding with a TIFA. The TIFA would fund \$10 million toward proposed road improvements, including widening and a boulevard, along the 3.5-mile stretch of 12 Mile, west of

Farmington Road, and widening and additional interchanges along I-696. Government grants are projected to cover the remainder of the \$44-million road improvement proposal.

The school board action is an official response to the city's TIFA district approval Dec. 16. The school district had 60 days — until the end of February when the TIFA takes effect — to respond, according to Interim Superintendent Graham Lewis. If the city does not withdraw the TIFA proposal by that time, a suit will be filed, he said.

School trustee James Abernathy cast the dissenting vote. He also cast the lone eye vote for a proposal to bring city and school district together for further discussion.

"I share the feeling that timing (regarding the 12 Mile development) is of an essence," he told Farmington Hills officials present at the meeting. But he warned, "you should have been on notice from a year ago. I'm appalled you don't have a fall-back position."

The board voiced its disapproval with the financing scheme more than one year ago, when TIFA was originally proposed for the 12 Mile corridor.

IN A BOARDROOM filled with Hills city officials, developers and interested residents, the board heard comments in favor of the TIFA from Alkateeb, Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick, Charles Jones, senior vice president of Little Caesar Enterprises Inc., and Ronald Hughes, general partner in Arboratum Properties and a major landowner and developer in the city. The developers wanted a meeting with the school board before any legal decision was made.

"We're disappointed," Alkateeb said about the school board decision. "It was a tough meeting."

When asked what action the city would take, he said "it will be up to the council."

He said he had no plans to call a special council meeting to discuss the matter. Councilman Terry Sever told board members he maintained his position against TIFA, despite a council majority that approved it.

Trustees told of a need to "protect the educational dollar" by not allowing bonded millage money to be used for road development. Explaining the district's position was Birmingham attorney

Library staffing debated

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Community Library director Beverly Papal wanted to hire three new professional librarians — two for the children's library and one for adult services.

But the Farmington Hills City Council put a crimp in Papal's plans this week when it approved hiring only two new children's librarians. Hiring a third will be considered during the city's annual budget review in late spring.

"My concern is that there be no deterioration of services," Papal said. "Quite naturally, I would not ask for three people unless we needed three people."

Before Papal can hire additional staff, the Farmington City Council



Beverly Papal

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Dennis Liphardt explains some of the ways a necessary auto emissions testing repairs. consumer can be coaxed into paying for un-

Beware Some auto repairs not needed

By Casey Hans staff writer

"An informed consumer toots his own horn when it comes to auto repair issues, according to Dennis Liphardt, Farmington Hills resident and executive director of the Automotive Service Councils of Michigan (ASC).

With prior knowledge of potentially fraudulent activity, a consumer can avoid being cheated on auto repairs, including the state-mandated auto emissions testing program (AET), implemented Jan. 1 of this year, Liphardt said.

Liphardt spends much of his professional time monitoring the newly implemented testing program required by the state in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. His council represents 400, or about 10 percent, of the 4,000 independent auto servicing facilities statewide. Michigan's ASC is the third-largest chapter in the country.

Of a potential 15,000 servicing facilities — including the independents, service stations, and dealers — about 900 are state-licensed to emissions test a vehicle, Liphardt said. And that number is growing daily.

'As long as the EPA has the hammer over us, I think it (auto emissions testing) will be here for a long time.'

— Dennis Liphardt, Automotive Service Councils of Michigan

The state estimates 1,500-2,000 auto repair shops will eventually be licensed to provide the service.

WITH THE AET program barely into its second month, the state is already investigating 40 complaints of auto repair facilities allegedly cheating consumers, Liphardt said. His council, with the help of consultant Barbara Warshaw-Kenig, began a three-pronged attack on educating the public last October by:

- educating member shops to make certain they meet ASC standards;
- offering consumers a card describing "dos and don'ts" of auto

emission testing, including their responsibilities and rights.

• making available a free AET hotline to present accurate information, clear confusion and prevent and solve problems.

Only one connection under the hood and a tailpipe probe is needed in the emissions testing program. A common way to trick the consumer, is to disconnect the sparkplug during the test, causing the computerized results to err, Jerry Jablonski, owner of Jerry's Horseless Carriage in Redford, said, while demonstrating the problem.

A consumer should also be sure the vehicle engine is warm when a test is given. "The mechanic should know to run the car before testing it, but testing a cold engine can also cause errors in the test," Liphardt said.

CHEATING IS of the "utmost concern" of state officials, according to earlier reports. The computerized equipment, which costs auto repair facilities \$7,000-\$8,000 per unit, has a tamperproof design, officials said. An internal tamperproof

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Spa activity a concern

Service team tries to aid arrested women

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

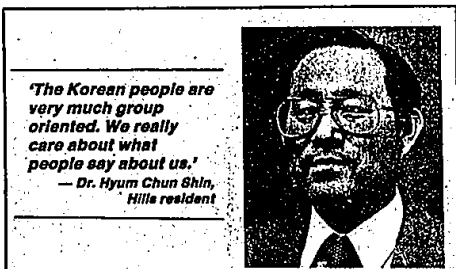
The word "shocked" was used by members of the metropolitan Detroit Korean community after learning that Farmington Hills Police raided five Oriental spas and arrested Korean women in connection with alleged illegal sexual activity.

"We were shocked. Nobody even knew that the Korean girls were working there," said Dr. Hyum Chun Shin, a Farmington Hills resident, psychiatrist and vice president of Korean-American Community Services.

Korean-American Community Services is a non-profit organization that provides financial, social and legal assistance for approximately 10,000 Koreans living in the metropolitan Detroit area, Shin said.

Although Koreans in the community were aware of the Oriental spas springing up in Farmington Hills and other suburban communities, they thought the establishments had simply taken on Oriental names and that "most of the girls working there were American," Shin said.

When it was learned the majority of the women arrested were indeed Korean, the community was outraged. "Until five-to-six months ago, we were building a very good reputation in this area," Shin said.



'The Korean people are very much group oriented. We really care about what people say about us.'

— Dr. Hyum Chun Shin, Hills resident

THREE of the arrested women pleaded no contest to reduced charges — one to engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation, the other two to loitering. The three women, who worked at the Kelko Oriental Health Spa on Nine Mile, each received one year of probation and a \$500 fine. Trials are pending for the remaining 13 women and one man.

The arrests of the 17 people following police raids of five Oriental health spas Oct. 7-8 are upsetting to Shin and

the Korean community. Fourteen of those arrested are Korean citizens, one is Japanese and two are U.S. citizens.

Korean community members are concerned that the arrests and the related illegal spa activities cast a bad image on the Korean people, Shin said.

"They are just completely outside the Korean community," Shin said. That's why Korean community members were taken by surprise when the Korean women were arrested. They

just didn't know what was happening at the spas, he said.

Yet the Korean community wants to help the women involved with the health spas. "The Korean people are very much group oriented. We really care about what people say about us," Shin said.

LEADERS OF in the Korean community are working to bring the women arrested in connection with the spas "into the mainstream of the community," Shin said.

At the trial of the three women in late January, District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington suggested the women seek counseling from an organization such as Korean-American Community Services.

"They (the women) don't know how hideous what they are doing," Shin said. "We will try to educate them, make them understand they don't need to go into this business."

Although help to be provided to the women from the Korean community will remain confidential, Shin said his organization and the 12 Korean churches in the metropolitan area will lend a hand.

Since the October raids, Shin's organization has also been working to put a stop to the Oriental spas and the unlaw-

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