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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 to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

LOOKING for a TV set, James Summers of Farmington Hills was among the 4,000 people who scoured dimly lit halls Feb. 27 during the first day of a 60-day liquidation sale at the Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit. Summers bought a 19-inch color TV for \$139. He called the price acceptable, but didn't feel it was any great bargain. But it's a good bet and worth the money. Summers bought the TV for his daughter, Joyce Stillwell, a University of Michigan graduate and, now, a campus employee. She phoned me from Ann Arbor and asked me if I'd pick her up a TV, Summers said. Financial problems closed the 62-year-old Book Cadillac, a downtown Detroit landmark, in 1984. A Chicago redevelopment company, Landmark Properties and present owner, Cadillac Associates Ltd., will become two of several limited partners in the ownership of the 32-story hotel if a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge in Detroit approves.

REST assured, Wynset Condominiums residents you'll be among the first to know if an inn is proposed for a vacant parcel near your complex. Residents expressed concern about noise and traffic such an inn would generate and thus, in their view, lower Wynset property values.

The Farmington City Council Monday reaffirmed that no plans are in the hopper to build an inn on the site — west of Farmington Road, south of Alta Loma.

The Downtown Farmington Development Committee recommended construction of an inn somewhere downtown. "But no developer has indicated an interest in constructing such a facility in Downtown Farmington," City Manager Robert Deadman said. "The property in question is one of many sites that may be considered. If such a project were to be constructed, adequate notice would be given to the persons affected by the proposal."

KUDOS are in order. Senior Nora Villamin of Farmington Hills won a certificate in graphic design in the 1986 Southeastern Michigan Visual Arts Awards Exhibition. Villamin is a student at Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills.

SAVE Your Vision Week. That's what March 2-8 is in Farmington as per a city council proclamation.

FOOTNOTES! One year ago, Farmington residents may have thought that Mayor Walter had left town, but they were wrong. The winter storm that hit earlier this week was a MAYOR of that name. Between Sunday evening and Monday morning, he was changed over to rain. It's a real battery meteorological phenomenon for the Upper Peninsula. Weather Service at Detroit Metropolitan Airport

City is not banking on federal aid

By Casey Hans staff writer

Federal money totalling \$61,000 — used to partially fund Farmington's public safety department — is in jeopardy due to recent federal budget-cutting measures, Farmington officials said Monday.

Cuts of 37 percent, affecting local programs across the country, will begin as soon as October of this year, according to City Manager Robert Deadman. The Farmington revenue-sharing reduction represents about one-third of the local property tax.

"We'd be foolish to think we're going to get federal revenue-sharing if Congress doesn't pass legislation in the next two weeks," Deadman told the council.

Automatic reductions in all federal programs took effect March 1, and will continue unless the U.S. Congress passes a budget meeting the requirements of the Gramm-Rudman budget act. The City Council Monday reaffirmed its original position of one year ago, indicating "local government is willing to accept its share of the burden if the burden is not disproportionate to that placed on other providers of governmental services," according to a city report.

Interest issue is in limbo

By Casey Hans staff writer

Farmington school officials are playing a \$180,000 waiting game with the state Legislature and three local governmental units.

The issue involves interest accrued in the general funds of three municipalities — Farmington, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township — on tax dollars collected for Farmington Public Schools over the years.

Due to a recent Michigan Supreme Court decision, the schools are entitled to the interest money, at least back to the date of the court decision, according to Assistant Superintendent for Finance Michael Flanagan, and information presented to the Farmington City Council Monday.

From the three municipalities that amounts to about \$180,000, Flanagan added. The schools are waiting — with the three local governments — to see what action the state Legislature will take regarding the situation. Legislation is pending to allow the cities and townships to keep the dollars.

"OUR POSITION is we're entitled clearly back to the date of the court decision," Flanagan said. "Technically, we're in the driver's seat."

Flanagan met recently with top municipal leaders to "put them on notice," but said the district will wait until July 1 before forcing the issue. "If there isn't any legislation by then, we'll sit down and talk, he added.

Officials are keeping an eagle eye on pending state legislation allowing tax-collecting municipalities to keep the earned interest. House Bill 5263 — also known as the Bullard Bill — would counteract recent Supreme Court action with new legislation allowing retention of the interest money, allowing it to be transferred to the schools on a regular basis.

Farmington currently pays the school district and other taxing authorities twice per month, officials said Monday.

Meanwhile, Farmington City Council unanimously voiced support for the

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Block Grant money, funded through the federal Housing and Urban Development department, is also expected to be reduced 26 percent with across-the-board cuts in federal programs due to the budget-cutting act. CDBG money is distributed through Oakland County and will affect community development projects and recently approved Commercial Assistance Plan loan subsidy program, which is the city's downtown business district.

Other program cuts affecting the city include housing support programs, clean water treatment grants and job training. The city used these programs in the past to provide housing for senior citizens and develop facility plans for improving the city's combined water system, Deadman added.

Urban system programs — used by Farmington to finance the Shlawasse/Farmington road bridge project — would be restructured into a single grant system. The level of funding would not change, according to the city report.

"EVEN AFTER these reductions, the federal government expects to have a budget deficit of \$143.6 billion," Deadman added.

"We have not depended upon feds' money," Mayor Pro Tem Alton Bennett stressed. "We can look this thing square in the eye and say we're not going to fold up."

Mayor William Hartsock voiced concern about how the federal situation would affect Farmington during formulation of the annual budget. Farmington, and other area cities,

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Pastor Gary Johnson led a prayer in memory of Sweden's slain prime minister Olof Palme Sunday morning.

In memory Swedish leader remembered

By Bob Ecklar staff writer

A Farmington Hills church with several Swedish-American members offered a prayer for slain prime minister Olof Palme of Sweden, his wounded wife, Lindebeth, and the people of the Scandinavian nation Sunday morning.

"We had a special prayer — that God would support Mrs. Palme in this time of grief and that God would support the people of Sweden," said the Rev. Gary Johnson, a Swedish-American and pastor at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33580 13 Mile, for 3 1/2 years.

"Through the power of the Holy Spirit we know what it's like to lose a leader," Johnson said. The congregation also prayed for peace — "for the people of Sweden not to respond with hearts of vengeance."

The Swedish-American background of several congregants was secondary in the special prayer.

"Whenever there's an international crisis such as this, we always pray for the people of the nation and the family of the deceased," Johnson said.

"To the people of Sweden, it's a deeper issue. They really don't expect violence to occur, and it hasn't until now."

— Pastor Gary Johnson

PALME, a widely regarded Western European proponent of disarmament and social change, was shot from behind at close range on a downtown Stockholm street shortly after he and his wife left a movie theater showing of the Swedish comedy "The Brothers Mozart," Friday night. A terrorist conspiracy is suspected for Saturday, March 15. A bullet grazed Mrs. Palme, but did not seriously injure her, according to news reports.

Police believe the assassination was well planned and done by a professional gunman who had stalked Palme's movements for weeks. Neither the gunman nor motive has been identified, according to news reports.

Opposed to American involve-

ment in the Vietnam War, Palme 53, had been prime minister since 1982. He was re-elected to a fourth term in September. He previously served as prime minister from 1969 to 1976.

Deputy Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, 61, took over as acting prime minister following the assassination. Sweden's parliament named him the new prime minister Monday.

"Killing a prime minister is usually for political gain of some kind," Pastor Johnson said. "Maybe in this case, it was for some kind of international leverage."

PALME, WHO grew up in Stockholm in an upper-class family, often walked the streets unescorted as prime minister. The prime minister's home is in Stockholm's medieval old town.

Although he used bodyguards at official events, Palme was proud he could walk unescorted through the capital and could take vacations unescorted at his summer cottage on the island of Gotland, according to news reports.

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At trial More spa employees plead no contest

By Casey Hans staff writer

Five women employed at two Oriental health spas in Farmington Hills pleaded no contest to soliciting-related charges Tuesday in 47th District Court.

Trials were scheduled Tuesday for arrested employees of the Sun Health Spa, 29402 Orchard Lake, and the Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38499 10 Mile. The trial of the Sun spa employees was adjourned and rescheduled to early May.

Pleadings were heard from the at-

torney of two employees of the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa, 38841 Orchard Lake, who also represented the Osaka defendants, according to officials.

District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington ordered pre-sentencing investigative reports on each defendant through the court's probate department. Sentencing dates have not been set.

Myong Cha Martin, 39, of Pontiac, originally charged with two counts of loitering in a place of ill repute, two counts of engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and two counts of ad-

ing and abetting in prostitution at the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa declined to enter a plea, according to Sgt. Martin Blodsoe, investigating officer of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

HER TRIAL was adjourned and will be rescheduled, according to information from the court. Martin changed defense attorneys Tuesday, and adjournment was allowed for the benefit of the new attorney, according to prosecuting attorney for Farmington Hills Derk Beckerling.

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Hatch day

Farmington Public Schools turned the spotlight on student talent during Creativity Springs Alive Saturday at Farmington High School. At left, Leanne Lenell, a Larkshire Elementary first grader, plays a happy bluebird on her hatch day. For a closer look at what happened, see Page 3A.

ROCK SMITH

Our business coverage has been widened

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has expanded its business coverage with the addition of a weekly business section debuting in today's paper.

How American manufacturers can better compete with foreign suppliers and why corporate-campus relationships are sprouting are among the stories starting on Page 1C. Reader comments are always invited and can be directed to Marilyn Fitchett, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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IN TODAY'S ISSUE