

Farmington Observer

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Farmington Focus

The Farmington Focus section provides a weekly roundup of local news, events, and community activities. It covers a wide range of topics from local government to sports and entertainment.

FARMINGTON trustees are expected to meet on Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the school board meeting. Tentative agenda includes a report on the school's financial status for the year ending in June. The school board meeting is open to the public.

LEARN how to lessen the chance of your home being broken into. The Farmington Hills Police Department will host a Neighborhood Watch meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, at the city council chambers, 11150 N. 40th St. The meeting is free and open to all.

POLITICS will be in the spotlight at the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce's breakfast on Monday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. at the Michigan Bloomfield Township. Guest speakers will be Steve Edwards, Farmington Mayor, and Bob Edwards, Farmington City Manager. The breakfast is free and open to all.

FARMINGTON Public Schools communication committee is planning a special program for the parents of children ages 4-12 who are on the eight winning award. The goal of the Farmington program is to enhance the child's development, confidence, and skills. The program is free and open to all.

SIGNUP has been announced for the Farmington City Council. The council will meet on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the city council chambers. The meeting is open to the public.

Plan to appeal opens way for spa to reopen

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

After being shut down for four days, the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa — the last of five Oriental spas that closed following October police raids for alleged prostitution — has reopened. Sharon Chilson and other Citizens for a Decent Community supporters picked the Tokyo spa Saturday. "I was shocked it had reopened," she said Saturday. "It's almost like a bad joke. We're mad now because we thought the problem was cleaned up." She said the group sent Mayor Joe

Man is accused in death of wife

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Two expert pathology witnesses cannot agree on a cause of death — or determine a time of death — for Marlene F. Edwards, the woman whose charred remains were found in her Farmington Hills house following an arson fire Oct. 14. More than three days of district court testimony last week from 11 prosecution witnesses — four qualified as experts — pointed to her husband's involvement in the 50-year-old woman's death and the related house fire on Rhinewood he allegedly set to cover it up. The fire caused about \$200,000 in damage to the two-story frame house near Halsted and Eight Mile. Her husband, James Arnold Edwards, 54, of Farmington Hills, will stand trial in Oakland County Circuit Court for one count of first-degree murder, one count of first-degree felony murder and an added count of arson of real property or burning of a dwell-

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Alkateeb a letter asking why the spa was allowed to reopen. Attorneys for the Tokyo spa, 28841 Orchard Lake, met with city attorney Paul Bibeau last week and requested a hearing under the city's business licensing ordinance, Bibeau said.

"We would hope that they stay closed," Bibeau said. "They are entitled to a hearing and I think they should be allowed to be open."

Tokyo spa was closed Monday, March 10, the same day the much-debated Farmington Hills massage regulation ordinance went into effect.

City attorneys sent the Tokyo operators a letter March 6 informing them the city clerk would not issue a 1986 business license, Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said last week. Tokyo, like Kelko Oriental Health Spa, 29513 Nine Mile, was closed following the no-contest pleas of female employees arrested during Farmington Hills police raids of five Oriental spas on Oct. 7-8. Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38449 10 Mile, closed almost immediately after the police raids. Kim's Spa, 20322 Nine Mile, and Sun Health Spa, 29402 Orchard Lake, also closed, Dwyer said last week.

While spa attorneys are seeking a hearing under the business license operating ordinance, Bibeau said they could also apply for an operating permit under the city's new massage regulation ordinance.

"It's going to take some inquiries," Bibeau said, referring to the spa's opportunity to obtain a permit under the massage ordinance. The question is whether the spa owner or employees who would obtain such a permit are former employees or new employees, Bibeau added.

Raids of the five spas in October by Farmington Hills SPOT (Special Patrol Operations Team) officers — after a six-week police investigation following residents' complaints of sex-related offenses at the storefront spas — led to the arrest of one Korean-born man, one Japanese-born woman and 15 Korean-born women.

Police seized about \$16,000 in cash as well as jewelry and luggage in the raids, Dwyer said.

COURT SESSIONS on March 4 were the second round of cases relating to activities at the five Oriental spas. Four women more than a week ago pleaded no contest to soliciting-related charges in 47th District Court in Farm-

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Accent's on fashion

Spring and summer fashions are colorful as well as fun and comfortable to wear. Steve Pariseau (center) and Amy Messucci show off The Gap look at Monahan's Seafood Market, Farmington Hills. Market owner Frank Carollo shows off an eight-pound lobster. From

socks, to pants to shirts to hats, The Gap fashions are available in dozens of colors. Take a longer look at what to wear in the new season in Thursday's special section, "Spring Fashion."

Saying goodbye Physician from pioneering family retires



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Dr. Lee Halsted, playing the organ in his Downtown Farmington residence.

people

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

It was during the Depression that Dr. Lee Halsted decided he wanted to become a physician. In those times, money, of course, was a problem.

But repayment of a loan his father had made several years earlier to another young man interested in pursuing his education came just in the nick of time for Halsted to begin studies at the University of Michigan's medical school. "My father said it was the best money he had ever invested," said the 78-year-old physician.

Now, after 50 years of practicing family medicine in Farmington, Halsted has retired. "It's sort of hard to give it up. I have had some of these patients for 35-40 years. They are more like friends. It was hard for them to bid me goodbye. And it was hard for me to bid them goodbye."

In some cases, Halsted has been taking care of four and five generations of

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