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THE historic Farmington Civic movie theater in downtown Farmington now boasts a second screen.

The 170-seat balcony reopened last week with its own screen. The main floor has 435 seats. All seats remain \$2.

The second screen was added in hopes of attracting more movie-goers in the highly competitive second-run motion picture market, owner Greg Hohner said.

HITTING the jackpot. The winning ticket for the \$4-million Lotto jackpot Jan. 21 was bought at the Vineyard's Wine Cellar in Farmington Hills.

The ticket holder, who wished to remain anonymous, has received the first payment of \$200,431, to be followed by annual payments of \$200,400 through 2009.

CHANGING roles. Brad Schwartz, a 20-year depart-ment veteran, has replaced Tim Swanson as the Farmington Hills Police representative to the Southwest Oakland County Auto Theft Team, a regional undercover police agency.

Swanson, a 16-year department veteran, has returned to road patrol after two years with the auto theft team.

QUOTE of the week

There were a lot of tears, hugging and holding, exchanging of phone numbers and promises to keep in touch. We really were a family.

— Bob McDonald, Roman Terrace/McJoe's Bar co-owner, after meeting with employees following a major fire Sunday. Story, 1A.

Fire aftermath: Shock, uncertainty

Over 100 left jobless

Related opinion, 16A

By Noreen Flack
staff writer

More than 100 people from seven businesses had to place to go to work Monday after the Orchard Ridge Plaza, whose major tenant was the landmark Roman Terrace restaurant, went up in flames Sunday morning.

On Monday, Bob McDonald — co-owner of the Roman Terrace and its sidekick, McJoe's Bar, formerly McFroek's Tavern — softened the harsh reality of the nightmare and unveiled options for the future for his 100 employees.

"After the shock of what happened, our second thought was, 'What do we do for our employees?'" McDonald said. "We were a big family there, a very close family."

The three-alarm fire raged through the 22,000-square-foot, 17-year-old building, which stood at the northeast corner of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, in the heart of Farmington Hills.

The second level housed the law offices of Louis C. Bosco and Thomas R. Sullivan, Continental Real Estate Appraisers and Maxon Corp., a combustible equipment sales outlet. Bosco is one of the building owners.

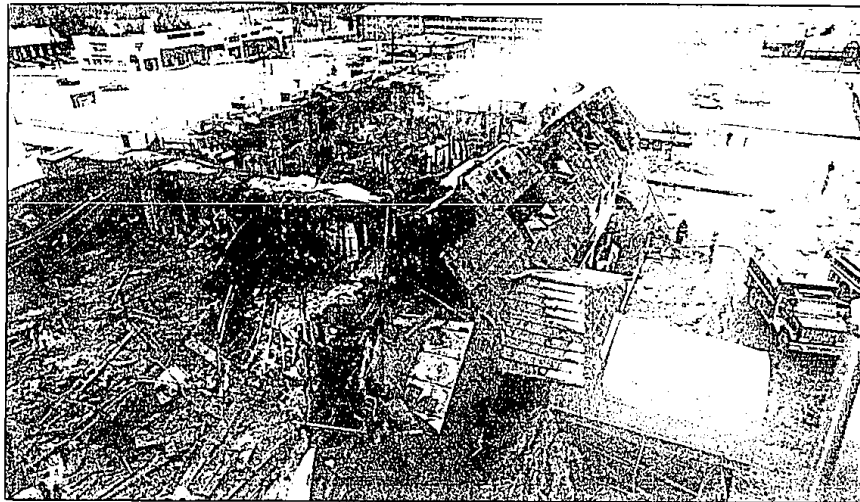
The first level was home to the Roman Terrace, featuring an Italian cuisine; Aon's Men's Hair Styles and Group One Inc., a real estate company; McJoe's Bar, a hamburger sports bar, was in the basement, beneath the restaurant.

IN JANUARY 1989, Joe Machiorlatti, owner of Mr. Joe's in Southfield, became McDonald's partner and co-owner of the Roman Terrace and McJoe's. Machiorlatti, a Bloomfield Hills resident, is on vacation in Australia and won't be back until mid-February.

Carol Lynn, manager of Mr. Joe's in Southfield, Diane Risko, manager of Roman Terrace, and McDonald met Monday afternoon to lend support to their employees. The meeting was at Follmer Rudzewicz & Co. in Southfield, accountants for the Roman Terrace.

On the behalf of the employees, other local restaurateurs were contacted.

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A view from above shows the extent of damage to the second floor of the Orchard Ridge Plaza office building, Twelve Mile,

visible at the top of the picture, was closed to traffic just east of Orchard Lake Road until 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Blaze takes 40 percent of building

cluster home catches fire, 12A

By Joanna Malliszowski
staff writer

Despite the gutted appearance of the Orchard Ridge Plaza, less than half of the 22,000-square-foot building, at one of Farmington Hills' busiest intersections, was lost in a fire Sunday.

"If you look at square footage, we lost 40 percent and saved 60 percent," said Farmington Hills Deputy Fire Chief Peter Baldwin.

In the fire's aftermath, the Michigan State Police and insurance company representatives joined Farmington Hills police and fire officials in sifting through the charred remains with a fine-tooth comb.

They were searching for clues as to what started the Sunday morning blaze, discovered by Farmington

Hills police officer Thomas Shivak at 7:38 a.m. Fire officials estimated damage at more than \$1 million.

"They were going to go back in on Tuesday with a crane. There are some sections that are unsafe that they want to work in," Baldwin said.

AS OF Wednesday, the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

"That (the cause) has not been etched in stone," said detective Darrel Krause, Farmington Hills Police Department fire investigator.

Investigators determined the fire started between the ceiling of the first floor and the floor of the second floor in a Roman Terrace storage area on the east side of the building, north of the center stairs.

The restaurant washes and dries napkins in that area, Krause said. Electrical engineers were expected to be at the scene Wednesday.

Of the 2½-story building, the top

floor, with seven office suites, some unoccupied, "is gone," Baldwin said.

The landmark Roman Terrace restaurant on the first floor and the newly renovated McJoe's Bar, formerly McFroek's Tavern in the building's basement, was damaged by water and smoke, not flames.

Though the fire is considered major, Baldwin doesn't believe it will top the \$5.5 million blaze at Forge Tool & Die Corp., 31800 Eight Mile, in December 1986.

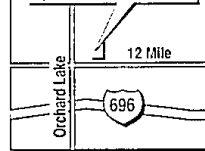
WHETHER CO-OWNERS Louis and Donald Bosco will rebuild is still unknown.

"We don't know what we're going to do. I know we can't leave it vacant," Don Bosco said. "This is a financial setback for all of us. Any determining factors will come from fire adjusters."

Should they decide, the Boscos would be required to rebuild according to updated zoning ordinances if

Fire scene

Orchard Ridge Plaza, which includes the Roman Terrace Restaurant, was destroyed by fire last week-end.



they lost 25 percent of the building's market value in the fire, said Lee Blizman, Farmington Hills zoning supervisor.

The almost 18-year-old building is considered a non-conforming use in

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Hills officials argue over plans for city land

By Joanna Malliszowski
staff writer

The purpose for which land south of I-696, west of Farmington Road, was bought has become a bone of contention among Farmington Hills city council members.

Councilman Terry Sever, who led the \$820,000 purchase last year of 27 acres from Jack Peltz, insists the land was bought for parks and recreation.

Others aren't so certain.

"The council has not made a determination on that," Mayor Jean

Fox said. "There was not that commitment. That's not to say it won't go that way."

Fox questioned the parks and recreation department's use of the Peltz property because state shared revenues from a mid-decade census were used as a down payment for the land.

A vote was not taken on the land's use when the Peltz acreage was bought, Fox said. Fox requested copies of the minutes from last year's meetings when the council discussed and approved the purchase.

COUNCILMAN ALDO Vagnozzi said he thought the "preferred use"

'I think it's a little too early to decide what's going on that site. Let's leave that open.'

— John Bailey
parks and recreation commissioner

was parks and recreation, although there has been thought of using some of the land for a new, larger main library.

"Location, unfortunately, happened to impact the results of that election," Vagnozzi said, referring to the Nov. 7 defeat of two library financing issues.

The defeat was due, in part, to the lack of a central location for an expanded facility, library officials said. The Peltz property is in the heart of Farmington Hills.

The dispute surfaced when the city council and the parks and recreation commission recently discussed buying 45 acres owned by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The land is adjacent to the Peltz property.

"We used as a lever the Peltz

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New system will help crack felony cases

Related story: 5A

By Casey Hans
staff writer

The execution-style murder of a Farmington grocery store supervisor 11 years ago remains a mystery. But Farmington-area police believe the likelihood of future felony crimes being solved was just increased with a computerized, state-wide fingerprinting system being put on line.

The system is AFIS — the Automated Fingerprint Identification System — and it can track physical evidence by computer in hours that

'When the system went on line about one and a half months ago, we went to Lansing with our evidence. We didn't get any hits.'

— Gary Goss
deputy director, public safety

would otherwise be physically impossible.

The \$18-million system went on line late last year at 15 locations in Michigan. The system encodes, compares and matches fingerprints of

suspects against print cards on file. It then provides possible suspects — usually about 10 — for matching by an expert.

Farmington police have already put through their fingerprint evi-

dence on the Jan. 27, 1979, murder of a 62-year-old night supervisor at the former Great Scott store at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

"When the system went on line about one and a half months ago, we went to Lansing with our evidence. We didn't get any hits," said Gary Goss, deputy director of the public safety department, which combines police and fire protection. "It was disappointing."

ALTHOUGH THEY didn't have any luck with the unsolved murder, Goss said the AFIS system will likely help with future crime investiga-

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Gary Goss
deputy public safety director

BRIDAL '90

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE