

# Farmington Observer

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## Old Federal's transformed into 8 stores

By MARY GNIEWEK

The downtown Farmington shopping district is in for a major boost this spring with eight retail stores slated to open branches inside the now vacant Federal's department store building on Grand River east of Farmington Road.

T.J. Max, an east coast department store chain headquartered in Boston, Mass., will make its debut in the metropolitan Detroit area as the anchor store in Farmington.

A spokesman for the Farmington Center Co., which owns the building, said T.J. Max will lease 20,000 square feet. The former Federal's outlet has 70,000 square feet.

T.J. Max, which is planning a May 1st grand opening, specializes in men and women's clothing, domestics and giftware. There is some speculation among merchants that the company will open five branch stores in the area.

A spokeswoman for Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn said a branch may open at Fairlane this spring. Jackie Hodgins, spokeswoman for Taubman, the leasing company for Fairlane, would neither confirm nor deny that report.

Pier One Imports, which bills itself as the largest import retailer in the world, will open a branch inside Federal's at the end of May.

Bill Flandermeyer, Pier One regional director for Michigan, said the proposed store in Farmington will incorporate a new mode of design — different from the 10 other branches in metropolitan Detroit.

"THE FLOOR PLAN includes more

directional lighting — spots and floods beside fluorescents, and more room displays," Flandermeyer said.

The store will lease 6,000 square feet. Pier One specializes in home furnishings and accessories imported from Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines. Flandermeyer said direct imports from China, Russia and eastern Europe also will be sold in Farmington. JoAnn Fabrics will move its Farmington store at 31578 Grand River into Federal's. The Gap, a unisex jeans store headquartered in San Bruno, Cal., also will open a branch inside Federal's. The Observer was unable to obtain the names of the other proposed stores moving into Federal's due to agreements between retailers and owners of the building. "Eight stores are committed — there could be a ninth," said building owner John Clappison. "We expect remodeling to be complete on seven stores within 60 days. It's progressing fast." Federal's will be transformed into a contemporary architectural mode to blend with the rest of the downtown center, according to Downtown Farmington Center manager Ed Balden. "It won't look like a Federal's department store," he said. "We are going with red brick and white exterior. A couple of the stores will have field stone facing." "It's not going to be a mall — each store will have its own entrance," Balden said.

The Farmington Merchants Association will sponsor a promotional grand opening for the entire center in June.

Federal's declared bankruptcy earlier this year. The Farmington store was closed last June.



Lumber, bricks and mortar are stacking up at the Old Federal Department store site on Grand River, as contractors renovate the 70,000-square-foot building into a multi-shop facility. (Staff photo by Harry Maunthe)

## Cold classroom spurs rift

## Way cleared for improved facilities

Students and teachers in the Walled Lake School District apparently won't have to attend classes under inadequate working conditions in the future.

The Walled Lake Board of Education voted unanimously (6-0) recently to approve a grievance filed by the Walled Lake Education Association (WLEA) over conditions which existed in the Keith Elementary School on January 3.

ministration to develop streamlined and effective procedures for dismissal of classes — including notification of parents — in the event that classes in a given building must be cancelled.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Barry Roseborough acknowledged the conditions at Keith Elementary on Jan. 3, but recommended denial of the

grievance on the grounds that there had not been a direct violation of the master contract with the WLEA.

ROSBOROUGH ALSO noted in a grievance hearing that procedures for dealing with similar situations were "on line and in effect."

In voting to grant the grievance,

school board members stated that the section of the contract which was allegedly violated was very "loose," but that the extreme working conditions merited approval of the grievance.

Trustee Leo Wessinger submitted a motion which called for denial of the grievance on the basis that the contract technically had not been violated.

## Stardom awaits cheering team

By MARY GNIEWEK

Michigan State University senior Bob Lockwood of Farmington Hills is on a winning team.

It's not MSU's Big Ten co-champion basketball team, but the cheerleading squad that has shouted and encouraged those players to victory all season long.

Lockwood, 22, was in Provo, Utah Saturday for MSU's NCAA Tournament semi-final game with the University of Pennsylvania. It was the first time MSU made it to the NCAA basketball semi-finals since 1957.

Whatever MSU's fate in the tournament, Lockwood and the squad of 16 cheerleaders can still bask in victory.

Two weeks ago, they clinched the national collegiate cheerleading competition in Provo.

That victory ensures them an appearance on a 90-minute CBS-TV special on Monday, April 16. The show will feature Suzanne Somers, Ricardo Montalban, Lola Falana, Donny and Marie Osmond and a host of professional athletes.

The MSU squad will perform pyramid stunts and disco steps for the TV audience — the routines judges voted the best in the country. The Spartan cheerleaders were among 178 squads from colleges across the country vying

for the national title. The final competition pitted them against cheerleaders from the University of Southern California, Mississippi, Tulsa and North Carolina.

"WE ARE NOT gymnasts," Lockwood said during a phone interview from Lansing last week. "Our specialties are pyramid building and disco dancing synchronized to music."

He said the squad has an equal male to female ratio. The males hoist their female partners in the air with one hand in one of the squad's other sideline tricks. They also perform traditional cheers and chants like "Go, State, go," and "Defense."

"I think we get crowds enthused," Lockwood said. "Last weekend in Indianapolis, we got our fans up to the same noise level as Notre Dame fans."

What will the student-turned-celebrity do when the excitement of the basketball season subsides?

"Probably look for a job," he said. "We've been practicing 15 or 20 hours a week. I also have a part-time job at a bank. And with classes, there's been no time to look for a real job."

Lockwood is a 1974 graduate of Harrison High School in Farmington Hills. He completed requirements last week at MSU for a bachelor of arts degree with a major in finance.

The Walled Lake District includes the western portion of West Bloomfield and the northwest section of Farmington Hills. Keith Elementary is located in the northern section of West Bloomfield on Keith Road, between Commerce and Willow roads.

By approving the grievance, the school board has directed the administration to refine and clarify procedures for cancelling classes under unfit working conditions.

The grievance was filed after students and teachers were required to attend an entire day of classes at Keith Elementary on Jan. 3 although the building temperature was in the 30-50 degree range throughout the entire day.

STUDENTS ATTENDED classes in hats, mittens, coats and snowmobile suits. There was ice in the sink in the kindergarten room on that day, according to Karen Filar, a Uni-Serv Director with the Michigan Education Association.

She said there was a need for the district to draw up a set of procedures to deal with similar situations in the future.

She suggested that there should be standards for holding classes and that the administration should have detailed information on how long it takes to heat every school in the district.

Additionally, she called for the ad-

By MAURIE WALKER

If the Clarenceville School board has its way, the school district will be \$500,000 richer — temporarily.

This is the asking price the board has set on sale of the school board office and 2 1/4 acres on Eight Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads in Farmington Hills. The sale would include the administrative offices and a garage and warehouse.

The question facing the board is will the property bring enough to cover the price of a new location.

The board has studied the possibility of moving into vacant classrooms at Clarenceville Junior High School on Middlebelt, north of Seven Mile. Estimates made last year to renovate the junior high building were in the neighborhood of \$300,000 with an additional cost of \$170,000 to build a new garage area for school buses and to install necessary drainage. The estimate was made by Daniel Redstone of Redstone Architects.

In 1974, the school district received an appraisal on the property of \$380,000. With inflation, it is expected the property will have substantially increased in value.

Edward J. Salisz, Clarenceville business manager, said that during the past few months he had several contacts on listing the board office complex.

"I couldn't, however, make any commitment to a price or would the real estate agency put a valuation on buildings without having an appraisal," Salisz told the board.

He had asked the board to set a price range on the property so that he could proceed. The board, at its last meeting, told Salisz to contact a real estate firm with the asking price of \$500,000.

Whether the board will go ahead with original tentative plans to renovate the junior high depends on what the district can get for the property and the cost of renovation.

Superintendent David McDowell said the plans submitted last year by Redstone could be changed to do away with some of the changes.

The district's desire to move from the present quarters is a matter of economics.

McDowell said earlier the cost of maintaining the present building is about \$25,000 a year.

"The roof will need repairing and the heating equipment leaves much to be desired," he said.

Should the decision be made to move to the junior high — and this hinges on whether the property is sold — the new headquarters would be in the south end

## Clarenceville moves to sell headquarters

of the junior high school. The maintenance area would be south of the building.

The board offices have been in the

present building about 15 years. Before that, the building was a school with a portion of the structure dating back to the early 1900s.

## Hills posts agenda

FARMINGTON HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL  
31555 Eleven Mile  
7:30 p.m., Monday, March 26

• Unfinished Business

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance to consider term "police member" to mean an employee of the city who is an employee of the police division of the department of public safety, with the rank of patrolman or above.

• Consideration of enactment of amendatory ordinance which would require owners of three or more dogs to apply for a kennel license.

Consideration of amendatory ordinance to change zoning of lot in Farmington Acres subdivision on the north side of Eight Mile between Farmington Road and Cass from RA-3 to OS-2.

• Consideration of enactment of OS-3, special office district in the amendatory ordinance.

New Business

• Consideration of class C liquor license for the Court Time Racquet Club Ltd., 24385 Halsted. Edward Hajter and Gerald Saxton applied for the license.

• Consideration of final plat approval for Bridle Hills Estate subdivision on the northeast quarter of section 25.

• Consideration of final plat approval of Farmington Green North 1 in the northern half of section 8.

• Consideration of final plat approval of Independence Expressway Service Center in the southwest quarter of section 20.

• Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C-62-U.

• Consideration of establishing a sewer special assessment district Northbrook Lane E in West Gate Franklin Village subdivision and setting a date for necessity hearing.

City Manager's Report

• Resolution to accept federal surplus property.

• Report on pension improvement.

• Consideration of traffic control order regarding traffic stopping at all traffic on the intersection street of eastbound and westbound Hamilton Court East and West stops at Hamilton Blvd.

• Consideration of tap charge amendment.



## How does that work?

Michael Feldman, 3, of Farmington Hills watches as Dinghy Sharp explains the workings of a water suspension toy while he waits for his preschool evaluation session at Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills. More than 500 youngsters participated in the program sponsored by the Farmington

Public Schools. Its purpose: to provide schools in the district with a better profile of incoming students. A school spokesman billed the program a huge success and said it will be made into an annual affair. (Staff photo by Harry Maunthe)

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## WILLOUGHBY CONTEMPLATES

The election scent is in the air and Willoughby Wink would like to get in on the action. To see what Willoughby is thinking, turn to Monday's Commentary on 7A.