

# CBS-Fox jumps another hurdle toward Livonia move

By Gary M. Calos, staff writer

Livonia will roll out the welcome mat to land a \$15 million development by CBS/Fox Video Co.

The video manufacturer/distributor is interested in moving its operation from Farmington Hills to an 85-acre site on Seven Mile East of Haggerty.

The Livonia City Council Wednesday approved the establishment of a development district for the property, the first step toward obtaining a tax abatement under Public Act 198.

CBS/Fox officials told the council Livonia is their "prime Michigan site," but they would need property tax relief for it to compete with other sites.

The council voted 6-0 to approve the first step of tax abatement. Council-

woman Alice Gunderson did not attend the meeting. The next step will be a public hearing to consider approval of an industrial facilities exemption certificate for the construction.

The council can grant a certificate for up to 12 years of 50 percent property tax abatement.

THE VIDEO company needs to relocate and has been studying several options for the past six months, said spokesman Fred Feihauer.

Included in the options are several sites in southeast Michigan and several outside the state, he said.

Feihauer said the CBS/Fox operation is involved in a rapidly growing industry.

"We have now outgrown our capability to expand in Farmington Hills," Feihauer said.

CBS/Fox's Michigan operation started with 30 employees several years ago and now has 261, he said.

The company is interested in relocating within a 15 mile radius of the current facility — 23705 Industrial Drive in Farmington Hills — if economically feasible. A closer move would allow the company to retain its employees, he said.

Although firm construction plans haven't been made, Feihauer said they would hope to build on the eastern side of the Livonia parcel.

Included in the complex would be a distribution center, facilities for manufacturing of some electronic equipment and packaging, a video studio, offices and eating area.

Feihauer said the company wants to build quickly, with hopes of moving in

by March or April next year. Because of this, the company wouldn't plan construction in phases — thus eliminating the possibility for Economic Development Corp. financing.

The company is interested in buying the Livonia site because of its size, location (in regards to Farmington Hills), and access to major expressways.

WHILE THE council appeared to be unanimous in its desire to land the project, one resident disagreed.

George Boller, who practices law in Ann Arbor, told the council he was "totally opposed to the formation of a (tax abatement) district for this company."

Boller was opposed in principle, calling the practice corporate "tin-cuppery."

"They either like Livonia or they don't," Boller said. "This is just a free handout to big companies. It is a free gift from the people of Livonia who have already paid their taxes."

Boller's comment led to a heated exchange with Councilman Robert McCann.

"Nothing you have raised here this evening is different from what this council raised during its first approval of an Act 198 project," McCann said.

"Michigan is a lousy state to do business in," he said. "Most of the dollars you are talking about would go to the

school district anyway, and we are talking about a business which won't put one single student in the schools."

Boller interrupted McCann and a battle for the floor ensued. Council president Robert Bishop explained that McCann had the floor and Boller could talk after listening to McCann.

"Quite honestly I don't care to hear what the honorable councilman has to say," Boller said.

"I just want to say what I have to say and to be heard and then leave. That is the purpose of this meeting isn't it? A public hearing to receive comments from the public," he said.

## Boating clinic planned by parks and recreation

The Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is offering a boating safety clinic for youth from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 10 and 17. The clinic will be at the Farmington Hills Library, 23737 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Pre-registration is required by Monday, April 9.

Youth 12-16 years of age may not operate a motorboat powered by six or more horsepower unless:

- They are directly supervised by some competent person 16 years of age or older.
- They have in their possession a boating safety certificate indicating successful completion of an approved course in boating safety.

Those attending will receive the Michigan boating safety certificate upon successful completion of the course. In order to receive the certificate, you must attend both classes.

For further information, contact the Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation Department at 474-6115.

## obituaries

**HELEN CAMPBELL**

Mrs. Campbell, 76, of Detroit died March 13.

Mrs. Campbell was a retired social worker.

Surviving is her sister, Genevieve Weyher.

Services were March 19 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. William P. Saum II officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery, Port Huron.

ington, with the Rev. John LaCasse officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

**WILLIAM C. BLATCHLEY**

Mr. Blatchley, 75, of Farmington Hills died March 23 in Beaumont Hospital.

Mr. Blatchley was a pharmacist for more than 50 years in the Detroit area.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; sons, William and Richard; a daughter, Margery Ann Jones, and five grandchildren.

Services were March 27 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. William P. Saum II officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Mr. Tank was a retired metal pattern maker.

Surviving is his sister, Eliza Batzkey.

Services were March 28 at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Redford, with the Rev. John C. Stalk of Covenant Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

**RUTH MARKER**

Mrs. Marker, 92, of Livonia died March 25 in Dorvin Nursing Home. Born in Liberty, Ohio, Mrs. Marker

was a homemaker. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in America.

Survivors include her daughters Glenna Hamer and Thelma Erikson; a sister, Mary Recker; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services were March 27 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. William C. Lindholm of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in America officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

**FLORENCE E. FRANZEL**

Mrs. Franzel, 73, of Farmington Hills died March 23.

Mrs. Franzel was a retired office manager for Dan-Courney Ford dealership.

Survivors include her son, William; a daughter, Kay Hommel; brother, John Powelson; sisters, Kathleen Splcer and Mary Tatrow; eight grandchildren.

Services were March 26 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. William A. Ritter officiating. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

**JEAN Z. (JINX) ROTHENBERG**

Mrs. Rothenberg, 76, of Farmington died March 25.

Mrs. Rothenberg was a retired school teacher for the Detroit Public Schools.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Tenner and Weston Roth; brothers, Harold and Sidney Baron; sisters, Sarah Rowin, Bebo Rothenberg, Celia Wolf and Diane Tapper, and three grandchildren.

Services were March 26 in the Hebrew Memorial Chapel, Oak Park, with Rabbi Daniel L. Schwartz officiating. Burial was in Hebrew Memorial Park, Mt. Clemens.

**LEO F. TANK**

Mr. Tank, 89, of Allen Park died March 25 in Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital.

**CHRISTINE M. BELLFY**

Mrs. Bellfy, 89, of Westland died March 23 in Westland Convalescent Home.

Born in Minnesota, Mrs. Bellfy was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, Neil and Grant; brother, Peter Paul; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were March 27 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

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Friday, April 6, 1984 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**AUCTION**

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Sunday, April 8, 1984 - 12 noon, precisely

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