

# Theater owner pictures a lively downtown

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He bought the theater from his father in 1974, who managed it on opening night, Sept. 20, 1940. He eventually saved it from demise by purchasing it in 1952 from a Detroit circuit company. Today, it is one of the last theaters in existence with a balcony.

Recently selected for Farmington's Downtown Development Authority board, Hohler believes the current movement to renovate

downtown Farmington will work. Community theaters throughout the area — in Plymouth, Keego Harbor, Berkeley and Farmington — lend a special warmth to their respective downtowns, he said.

**HOLHER HOPES** for a "unique cohesiveness" in the city. "I've always thought, until now, that Farmington was a little behind the times — but one of the nicest communities in the area," he said. Despite his present feelings,

Hohler questioned in 1974 whether the Civic should have stayed open. Dropping admission prices from \$2.50 to \$1.25, he took the business gamble and chose theater ownership over a career in U.S. Air Force intelligence work.

The price cut made the difference between life and death for the troubled business. "That worked wonders," Hohler said. "It was an instant turnaround."

"The Stepford Wives" was playing. Hohler recalled, and he cut the admission price in the middle of the movie's run. Attendance doubled and has been profitable since the change. His four-year Air Force career took him and his wife to Taiwan, Washington D.C., and Texas, which they enjoyed. But now that Farmington's community theater is his life, he's content.

KEEPING THE admission price

at \$1.25 draws patrons not only from the local area, but many regulars from Livingston and Macomb counties and downtown Detroit. Hohler attributes his diverse audience to a mobile society and the discount prices. And prices are kept low because "we are small businesses, and can cut the overhead," he added. Low overhead means movie-house maintenance is a family affair for Hohler, his wife and two children. Shampooing carpets once

a month and painting floors, seats and walls keeps the Hohlers busy. "My favorite part of the business is the maintenance," Hohler said. "I like to use my hands. There's always something that has to be put back together — it's a never-ending job." Community theaters are "subsequent run" facilities, usually getting movies three to six months after a first run, Hohler said. Owners give a seven-day run commitment.

# Oriental spas in the spotlight at local meeting

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Oriental health spas and their alleged involvement in an Asian-based international prostitution conspiracy were spotlighted at a meeting of local, state and federal investigators Wednesday.

Farmington Hills Sgt. Al Haver was among the 50 officers who took part in the strategy-making session, sponsored by the FBI and hosted by the Southfield Police Department. The hope is to minimize duplication

of efforts among investigators.

"We provided background — how we obtained search warrants and made arrests that led up to pleas of no contest for soliciting-related charges," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

"We've been more than willing to share any information and ideas with other communities or law enforcement agencies about any problems they've had."

AFTER A six-week investigation following resident complaints of sex-re-

lated offenses at the storefront businesses, Farmington Hills Police raided five Oriental health spas Oct. 8-9. Sixteen Oriental women and one Oriental man were arrested on soliciting-related charges. Eight have since pleaded no contest and four of the five spas have since closed. In February, the city council adopted a tough massage regulation ordinance.

Haver headed up the raid of the Keiko Oriental Health Spa, 29513 Nine Mile.

Dwyer said he felt Farmington Hills has solved its health spa problems.

"But there are a number of communities in the state that have active, major cases. We feel it's important that any information we have or receive, we should disseminate. We're trying to assist in any way we can," he said.

"For the most part," he added, "law enforcement people kind of look at us as forerunners as far as closing health

spas and as playing a key role in terms of investigative tools. They look to us so they can be as effective as we were here."

DWYER IS opposed to creating a health spa task force made up of officers from several departments.

"I think a community should deal with its own problems. We shouldn't have a task force of officers going into communities," he said.

As a result of the information-sharing session, it was decided the Michigan State Police would set up two computerized information centers relating to spa investigations, Dwyer said.

The Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service also are involved in the investigation, which is trying to determine if there's any connection between the spas and the international prostitution ring.

Dwyer said the community "should

be very proud of the way our officers were able to infiltrate the spas, execute

arrests and help bring about the closings."

## Employee published

Farmington school employee Barbara Novatis has an article published in the most recent edition of the national Journal of Educational Public Relations. Her article discussed the team approach to marketing a school district.

An elementary teacher in the district, Novatis is working as an intern in the district's personnel department this winter.

## short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — it'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 32203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

### NEW LOCATION

Boyes, Wright, Pittman & Moug (BWPM), a certified public accounting firm, has moved into a new office building in Farmington Hills. The firm, founded in 1960, had been in Southfield. It's oriented to CPA services as well as personal and business financial planning.

David Wright joined H. James Boyes as a partner in the early 1970s, followed by partners Mark Pittman in 1975 and Robert Moug in 1981.

Recently, Thomas Mulvihill was appointed partner and head of the tax department. He has been with the firm for nine years. His areas of expertise include tax consultation, pension and profit sharing administration, tax return preparation and review as well as computer applications of tax preparation.

BWPM's slogan is "A Partner in the Performance and Growth of Your Business."

### MOVING UP

Kathleen Needham of Farmington Hills, gerontology chairwoman at Madonna College in Livonia, was appointed a member of the Governor's Task Force on Employment Opportunities for Older Citizens.

The task force will be responsible for making recommendations and reports on employment and opportunities for older citizens, to be completed for

presentation in September at the Governor's Aging Conference. Concentration will be on program development, legislation, policy changes in job development and training opportunities.

Needham's resume includes: commissioner, Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging; chairwoman, task force member, minimum service definitions and standards, state of Michigan; committee member, United Community Services; member, Gerontology Society of America; and board member, Michigan Society of Gerontology.

Needham has studied the elderly in China, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. She is the author of training modules on aging, as well as produced audiovisual presentations.

"Both corporate and non-profit sectors need to work together to try to eliminate barriers to unemployment, as well as to eliminate discrimination toward older workers in society," Needham said.

### CHANGING POSTS

Mindy Richards of Farmington Hills was named assistant administrator at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

Her responsibilities include DRG management, strategic business units, and planning for the open-heart surgery program.

Richards served as an administrative fellow on a consortium fellowship at Oakwood and the Peoples Community Hospital Authority, Wayne, in 1982. She joined the Oakwood staff in 1983 as a corporate planning analyst, serving as a staff assistant for the vice president of corporate planning and the chief executive officer.

Richards also has been appointed to the clinical associate faculty in the health administration program at Eastern Michigan University.

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