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# Farmington Observer

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## Crackdown on liquor continues

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

In the second crackdown on liquor law violations this year, Farmington Hills police have ticketed 75 percent of the city's liquor-licensed businesses.

Of 67 licensed businesses — restaurants, pubs, bars, grocery stores and party stores — police cited 49 for allegedly selling to minors during the department's recent five-day "Operation Liquor Enforcement I."

Five of the six businesses cited in June during an earlier 10-day task force operation were again cited for the same alleged violations in this second beefed-up undercover program.

"It's probably very shocking that that many locations have been cited," Police Chief William Dwyer said. "But the message is loud and

clear now — that the department and the community just won't tolerate the selling to minors. If these people maintain their current posture, they are going to lose their licenses."

The undercover operation was conducted from 4 p.m. to midnight Oct. 17, 24, 30 and 31, as well as Nov. 4. Complaints from the community as well as high school students in Farmington Public Schools prompted it.

Particularly because it's the time of year for prep football games and accompanying parties and dances, the undercover operation targeted Friday evenings — the night with the highest incidence of liquor law violations, Dwyer said.

"THE DEPARTMENT has also learned from students in the school district that 75 percent of the high

**Police have learned 'that 75 percent of the high school students in our community consume alcoholic beverages on the weekends.'**

— Chief William Dwyer

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## Little Caesar breaks ground

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

With a solemn blessing and a champagne toast, Marian and Mike Ilitch — founders of Little Caesar Enterprises — broke ground for the international corporation's new Farmington Hills headquarters.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted Thursday before 500 on-lookers — city and school officials, players on the Ilitch-owned Detroit Red Wings, friends, state officials and Ilitch family members — on 39 acres at the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Drake roads.

The North Farmington Raiders high school band provided the music, while a representative for state Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield Township, presented the Ilitches with a proclamation on behalf of the state Senate.

The ceremonies were the official start on the \$13-million, 125,000-square-foot first phase of the planned world headquarters that has been in the planning for more than a year.

"This is a great day in the history of Little Caesars," Mike Ilitch said following the groundbreaking. "It's really a tremendous thrill. I want it (the headquarters) to be more than a building. I want it to stand for what the people (who have worked to make Little Caesars the largest carry-out pizza chain) have done over the years."

Farmington Hills Mayor Joe Alkateeb welcomed the new headquarters and, with representatives from both the Oakland County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation in the audience, seized the moment to again ask for the widening of the 12 Mile Road thoroughfare.

"I would like to renew my commitment and promise that 12 Mile Road has to be widened," Alkateeb told the Ilitches.

BEFORE THE ceremonies, Mike Ilitch said that while he is concerned about traffic congestion along the office corridor, plans for a new I-696 interchange near Drake Road in Farmington Hills will be a blessing.

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Doug McQueen (center) helps North Farmington marching band members Joe Fee (left) and Alison Balash tune up before a joint performance with the Harrison High School band Nov. 1.

RANDY BORSTIA/Staff photographer

## Moving along

### Band director eyeing less-hecktic pace

By Lorelne McClish  
staff writer

The spectacular half-time show by the North Farmington and Farmington Harrison high school bands Nov. 1 was the last hurrah for Doug McQueen.

McQueen, North Farmington's marching band director, has climbed up the step ladder to direct his musicians on the field for 17 seasons. And after 17 October Tag Days, McQueen picked up his baton for his last "Thank You Concert" Friday night.

McQueen initiated the first North Farmington booster club, made up of parents willing to work to give the school's marching musicians a financial boost — a concept

later introduced at Farmington and Farmington Harrison high schools.

From this came Tag Days, where musicians asked for donations from passersby in area shopping centers and, in turn, awarded tags entitling the bearer to free admission to the "Thank You Concert." Again, the concept was picked up by the other two high schools. Tag Days and their accompanying concerts are now a fall tradition in the two cities.

"A marching band director's ca-

reer span is short-lived," McQueen said. "I think mine was about double the average of any of my counterparts in the entire county."

"My colleagues (who teach band instruments) in the elementary and middle schools have sent me some very talented students. Now, I'm going to reverse the procedure. I'll be motivating the youngsters to enjoy and play good music in five elementary schools to send on to the middle and high schools."

McQUEEN WILL take on the position left by Bob Zimmerman, who retires this month. McQueen will teach brass instrument music at five district elementary schools.

McQueen's position will be filled, "I'm sure, by someone who is on

our same philosophical wave length," he said. "Someone who fits in with the same spirit of cooperation our department has always maintained. I do not know of another school district whose music department personnel coordinates together as well as ours."

"Our bands have never been in competition with one another, which is why any two of us can give combined half-time shows with some of the sophisticated charting (the marching band's nomenclature for choreography) that we do."

"We share a collective goal of bringing good music," he said of the three schools' marching band

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## Upgrading Help sought to improve fields

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Although a portion of a parks tax approved by Farmington Hills voters last June is earmarked for school fields used for city-run youth recreation, the city is asking Farmington Public Schools for financial help.

Dan Potter, Farmington Hills special services director, and Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, met with Farmington school board

members Nov. 4 to present a preliminary plan for improving 21 school-owned baseball diamonds and several soccer fields.

"We wanted to get the issue of economic support in front of you," Fitzgerald told trustees.

Potter said he would like to move forward with the work and "try to initiate it during the present construction season. We want to try to get most of the work accomplished and touch it up next spring. We are sensitive about ... disrupting stu-

dents.

"The intent is to try and improve the facilities for neighborhood groups and youth groups," he added. "There is a need for a lot of understanding and close cooperation with the schools and city."

Potter also asked the district for labor help, placing slag and meal in the ball diamonds and upgrading turf on the soccer fields.

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