

In several months, this Grand River building will be redone as the new home for Focal Point Studio.

Picture this: Farmington studio plans a new home

By Casey Hane
staff writer

WHEN MICHELLE and Jerzy Jakacki move their business this summer they will keep their roots deeply planted in downtown Farmington.

After 14 years in a rented Grand River storefront — expanding eventually into other buildings because of growth — the photography duo and owners of Focal Point Studio of Photography are consolidating with their 18 employees into one building. Their new location — the former Precise Tool building on the south side of Grand River next to Farmington City Hall — will be transformed into the couple's dream studio.

They will move from 6,000 square feet of space to the 9,600-square-foot building — nearly doubling their space.

"We needed something both suitable and in the area," he said.

They support downtown redevelopment efforts and planned their building accordingly.

Early this week, the rear portion of the building was demolished making way for a new entrance and lobby, which will welcome clients with its 22-foot ceiling, an oak staircase and a gathering place for students waiting to have their senior photos taken.

The renovation will create a

three-level roof and traditional exterior with warmly toned brick, taupe trim and brass accessories. The upper west corner of the building will have a turret.

ARCHED WINDOWS and the corporation's name will adorn the building front, which faces Grand River.

What they plan for the inside is pleasing not only to the eye, but to the professional concerns of the studio's five full-time and two part-time photographers.

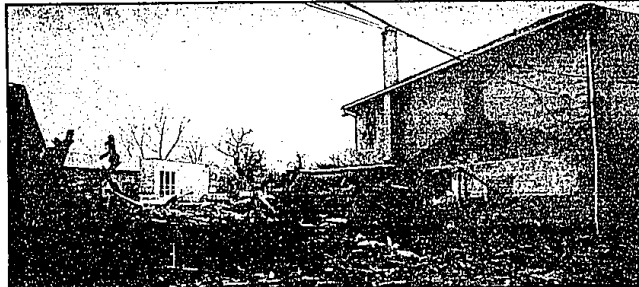
"We'll have a lot of opportunity to expand on the creative end," Jerzy said, "and the idea is to separate people (clients) — so everybody feels more custom and personally treated."

A 16-by-36 living-room-like loft dedicated to wedding clients, plus several other specialized areas are planned throughout the new facility. The building will also feature five exterior showcases for Focal Point work, seven camera and dressing rooms, a makeup room with a staff

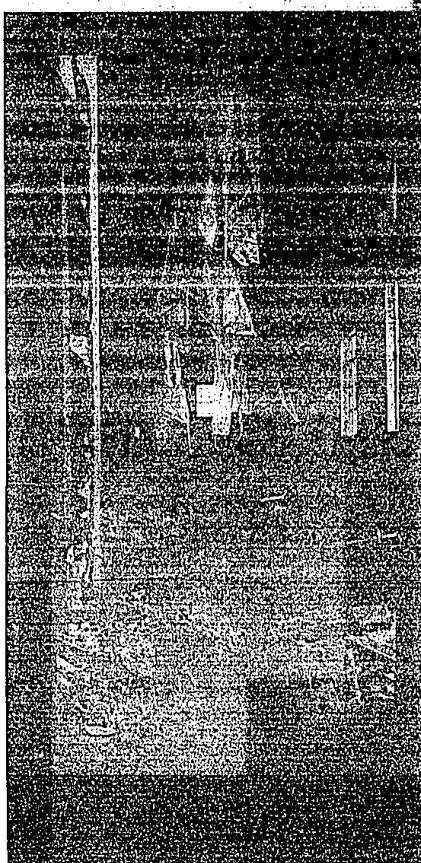
cosmetologist, two production rooms, two executive offices, an employee lounge and plenty of storage room.

Perhaps the most exciting thing for the two photographers is the 23-by-33 studio that will encompass the entire upper level along Grand River, allowing them to use available-light photography as they wish, they said.

Please turn to Page 10



Early this week, a rear portion of the building was razed to make way for a 22-foot entryway for the new studio.



The interior of the old Precise Tool building will soon be a contemporary-style photographic studio.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

Uncertainty

Hangups may stall improving sewer

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are keeping their fingers crossed as the planned spring starting date for improvements to the deteriorating Evergreen-Farmington sewer system draws closer.

A few glitches have occurred since the federal Environmental Protection Agency informed city and Oakland County officials that the \$44 million sewer project was second in priority for financial help.

President Ronald Reagan's second veto in three months of the federal clean water bill, which would provide \$104 million in grants to the state — including \$22 million for the Evergreen-Farmington project — is only one of several problems facing the project's future.

Another problem involves the status of an EPA matching grant application for the Evergreen-Farmington project.

In December, the EPA informed the state Department of Natural Resources, which certifies the project's grant application, that some items were not addressed in the application, said Tom Blasell, Farmington Hills public services director.

"WE ARE expecting a letter from the DNR letting us know what else must be done," Blasell said. "Our concern is that it is information the DNR should have provided (to the EPA). The city's concern is, why wasn't it provided?"

Problems with the grant application led the EPA to bypass the Evergreen-Farmington project for financing with money still available in the 1986 federal clean water fund.

With 1986 financing in hand, the EPA went through the priority list by communities that had applications in order. Neither the well-publicized super sewer for the North Huron-Rouge Valley Wastewater Control System, the top priority, or the community next in line after Farmington Hills had project applications in order.

"So whether the 1986 funds are still available, I don't know," Blasell said.

But Blasell is concerned that the needed information will be sent to the EPA long before the July deadline, when Michigan could lose the clean water act money.

"Every effort will be made by the

DNR and us (Farmington Hills) to keep the funds in Michigan," he said.

Tom Kamppinen, chief of the state DNR's municipal facilities section, said DNR and Oakland County officials will meet in early March to work on the application.

FARMINGTON HILLS officials had hoped that the two-segment project could have been financed with money still available from 1986 as well as money that has already been allocated for the first part of 1987.

About \$20 million is still available for the state from the 1986 budget. The state is also expected to receive \$4 million from the first part of the 1987 budget, Kamppinen said.

Reagan's veto affects \$20 billion that would provide financing beginning in the second half of 1987 through the next eight years. If the city could plan on 1986 and 1987 financing, Reagan's veto would have no effect on the Evergreen-Farmington project, Blasell said.

Yet most expect Congress to override Reagan's veto and provide financing for sewer construction grants. The House overrode the veto Tuesday in a 401-28 vote. The Senate was expected to follow suit Wednesday.

"From all likelihood, it will be overridden — from what everyone is saying," Blasell said.

If the Senate overrides Reagan's veto, the state will be in line to receive another \$23 million for 1987, Kamppinen said.

The EPA's interest in the Evergreen-Farmington project and willingness to provide financing has been sparked by environmental damage to the Rouge River by overflowing sewage from suburban communities.

THOUGH 16 communities are involved in the Evergreen-Farmington system, Farmington Hills and Southfield have had the greatest sewage problems and will pay the greatest local share to improve the system.

The basic problem is overloaded sewer lines. Because there has been no where to put the overflow, diluted sewage has seeped into homeowners' basements, back yards and eventually into the Rouge, Blasell said.

Of the total \$44 million project, the EPA is expected to pay 65 percent of about \$22 million (though not all improvements in the project are

grant eligible). Southfield and Farmington Hills will pay the remaining share.

Farmington Hills, which will receive the greatest benefit from the first two construction segments, will pay \$7.7 million and Southfield \$4.5 million. The total cost for the first construction segment is \$12.3 million.

For the second \$10 million construction segment, Farmington Hills will pay \$2.3 million and Southfield \$12.5 million.

Farmington Hills officials are considering increasing consumer sewer charges and tap fees to help pay the city's share of the project's costs.

OTHER OAKLAND County communities — Birmingham and West Bloomfield Township, for example — will pay Southfield and Farmington Hills as they take advantage of additional capacity created by improvements in the Evergreen-Farmington system.

Other communities, however, must make local improvements before taking advantage of additional capacity.

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 32223 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3589) to P.O. Box 2420, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 691-0500.

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Newsstand per copy, 25¢
Carrier monthly, \$2.00
Mail yearly, \$24.20

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, Farmington 32223 Grand River, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric advertisers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

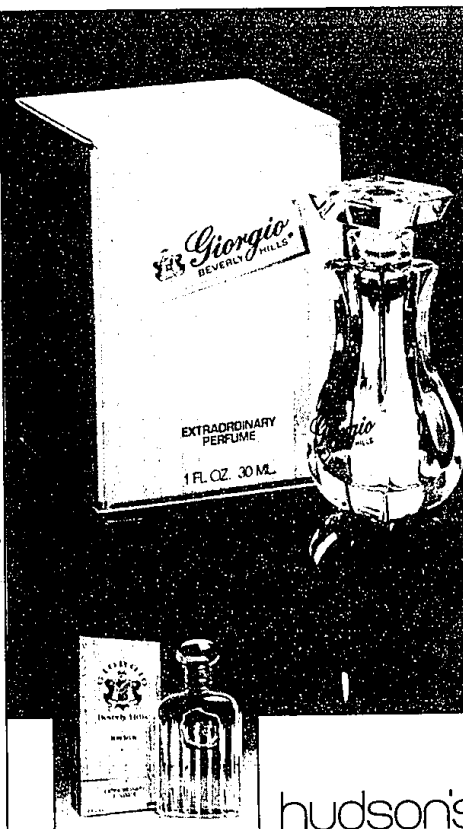
Giorgio, Beverly Hills

A SPECIAL

VALENTINE'S

FRAGRANCE FOR

HIM AND HER



G Giorgio, Beverly Hills, in the short time since it was created, has become the favorite fragrance of fashion conscious scent connoisseurs everywhere. You'll find these and other fragrance products from Giorgio at our Fine Fragrance counter.

- Giorgio Extraordinary Perfume for women, 1 oz., \$465.
- Giorgio Cologne Spray for women, 3 oz., \$45.
- Giorgio Moisture Lotion, 8 oz., \$7.50.
- Giorgio Spray Cologne for men, 4 oz., \$35. Fine Fragrances.

hudson's