

# Hills rezoning request fought by city forces

Continued from Page 1

ington's downtown, and could ultimately destroy the city's crossroads and historic community image," Farmington planning commissioners asked their counterparts in Farmington Hills to "adhere to its current zoning and master plan for the good of both communities."

The 6.5 acres proposed to be rezoned from residential to commercial are west of the current Mulrwood Square center. The Hills master land use plan calls for residential on the property.

The Farmington Hills Planning Commission has scheduled a hearing for Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the matter. All three Farmington groups said they will forward written positions to the commission before Thursday's hearing. Most plan to have representatives at the meeting.

The Downtown Development Authority is opposing the property rezoning because, among other things: "New commercial development within close proximity to downtown areas has destroyed many downtowns" and "further commercial development on the northwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Drake Road threatens to destroy the viability of downtown Farmington."

DDA member Jody Soronen, a member of the Farmington Hills

City Council, abstained in the voting. Jim Pogue, a member of the Chatham Hills subdivision board, spoke to the DDA Monday during a special meeting to discuss the rezoning. He read his neighbors' views from a prepared statement.

"One has only to experience the constant traffic jam at Grand River and Halsted to understand that such an expansion would only aggravate an already bad situation. Increased traffic flow, caused by the proposed expansion, without a change in the intersection, would surely cause our residents increased frustration," he said.

THE BEZTAK project is not the only concern of Farmington city officials.

They are also watching a strip mall development with a major grocery chain in neighboring Livonia, south of the city, at Eight Mile and Farmington Road, and another Farmington Hills development east of town at the site of the old Farmington Drive-in Theatre on Grand River, where a retail center with a Target store anchor is being developed.

The proposed expansion west of the city at the Mulrwood Square center would also include a grocery store as an anchor.

The proposed Bezta development would involve redoling the existing 37,000-square-foot Mulrwood Square center to increase sales. The expansion would provide 84,000 square feet of total retail space, including the supermarket anchor, which would take up about half of the new center. Which supermarket chain would anchor the new center has not been announced.

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman told DDA members Monday: "I'm hopeful you'll find a sympathetic ear" in approaching Farmington Hills. "Downtown Farmington is important to the image of both communities. And we will always struggle to compete with the new shopping centers."

## Grand jury indicts 21 on drug charges

Continued from Page 1

Heights man who was described by U.S. Attorney Hayes as the operation's financial backer.

In the indictment, Genoa is described as delivering as much as \$85,000 in cash to Abrams for the purchase of cocaine.

The investigation that brought the indictments also has led to an attempt to seize two suburban homes using drug forfeiture laws, according to SEMCO's Rodriguez. One of the homes is valued at \$355,000 and is at 125 Hickory Grove in Bloomfield Hills. It belongs to a podiatrist, Dr. Mark Weiner, and his wife, Harriet. Harriet Weiner declined to comment when contacted at her home by the Eclectic.

The other home is at 42080 Edenbrook Drive, Canton Township, and belongs to Robert Szymanski.

**Solve an age-old dilemma.**

Your generous donation to the Torch Drive can help the elderly.

## Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)  
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, 1225 Elm, Birmingham, MI 48012. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48012. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3569) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES (in Oakland County)  
One year . . . . . \$24.20  
(Elsewhere in Michigan)  
Newsstand . . . . . per copy 25¢  
One year . . . . . \$40.00  
(Elsewhere in U.S.A.)  
One year . . . . . \$60.00  
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 Observer, Farmington, MI (313) 477-5450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eclectic ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

• O&E Classifieds work!

Why Just Pay Taxes? Plan To Reduce Them!

## FREE TAX PLANNING

With your 1988 individual income tax return. Very reasonable rates for tax preparation. By appointment only. CALL NOW - \$10 Discount thru March 1, 1989.

Tax Planning Associates 350-1080

## COLLEGE TRUST FUND

ATTENTION: PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS & UNCLES

Recently the Michigan Education Trust had a limited enrollment period which you may have missed.

We offer a substitute for this program that does not have a limited enrollment period. Our program can also be used in conjunction with the "529" plan. For more information, call us. For more information, call us. For more information, call us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: R.G. GARDNER BS/MS, 347-4100

## SANSABELT SLACK SALE

**20% OFF SANSABELT SLACKS\***  
SALE PRICED FROM \$38.00  
Reg. \$47.50 to \$75.00  
\*Excluding New Spring Arrivals  
30 Colors Available - FREE Alterations  
20256 Middlefield, Livonia  
Allie Bros. 477-4434  
Mon. - Thurs. 10:30-6:00, Sat. 10:30-5:00, Sun. 12:00-5:00



RANDY BOAST/retail photographer

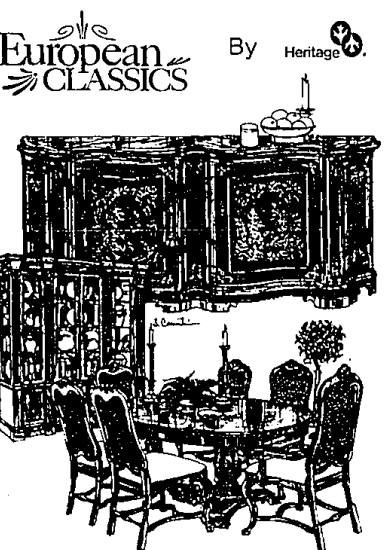
## Icy encounter

Pat Fitzgerald of Redford Township skates on the pond at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills on a sun-splashed morning Tuesday. The pond is open every day for general ice skating, weather permitting. Heritage Park is on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. Skaters were plentiful this week — mid-winter break for many students.

Now in Progress...

## STOREWIDE MID-WINTER SALE

Featured Presentation



We take pride in introducing this Classic new collection as one of our many featured groupings during this 29th annual event. An array of decorative woods and finishes are complimented with graceful curves. Elaborate carvings and unique marble accents. Now priced for 30% savings.

Remember, we are a full service Drexel-Heritage showcase store, with professional interior designers, competitive prices and extended terms. Delivery, set-up and a full year's service are all included at no additional cost. Sale ends March 4th.

## Ray Interiors

Michigan's first Drexel Heritage store  
Ray Interiors  
33300 8LOCUM DRIVE FARMINGTON 476-7272  
Open Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30  
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-6:00, Sun. 12:00-4:00  
"Serving the Metro Area Since 1938"

## Cooperation leads to bust

Regional police cooperation led to Tuesday's drug trafficking indictments.

The indictments were the result of the first major drug bust recorded by the Southeast Michigan Conspiracy Organization, SEMCO, a multi-department drug strike force, formed last year to investigate Michigan's big time drug dealers.

Unlike local investigations, SEMCO activities aren't bound by local, county or state boundaries.

"Local departments can only go so far," SEMCO 1st Lt. Lawrence Rodriguez said. "They don't have the resources and assets to move further up the chain."

Before SEMCO was formed, Rodriguez said, local departments had been frustrated in their ability to investigate complicated drug transactions.

"THERE'S USUALLY a long trail of paperwork involved," Rodriguez said. "Investigations take time."

The investigation leading to Tuesday's indictments stretched from southern Oakland County to Florida. Indictments were brought against 21 people, including two Southfield residents and a former Farmington Hills resident.

In addition to arresting suspects, SEMCO also forces forfeiture of drug dealers' homes, automobiles,

airplanes and other assets under new federal law.

Officers involved in SEMCO investigations are drawn from nine police agencies, including the Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Department and Farmington Hills and Livonia police. Other member agencies include the Macomb, Monroe and Washtenaw sheriff's departments, as well as the Lincoln Park and Trenton police. Investigators are generally assigned for three years, Rodriguez said. SEMCO members maintain their rank and seniority with their original departments, though that has forced some early departures.

"We've lost some people to promotions," Rodriguez said.

SEMCO is financed by the federal government, as well as a variety of regional police agencies, including the Western Wayne Narcotics unit.

Coordination is essential with all the agencies involved, Rodriguez said.

"What we do is follow-up work," he said.

Cracking down on drug dealing has been a major goal of Michigan police departments this year. Gov. James Blanchard recently announced plans to create a state drug czar, to oversee and coordinate anti-drug activities.

**ORCHARD-10 IGA**  
24065 Orchard Lake Rd.  
MON.-SAT. 8-9; SUN. 9-5

**DOUBLE COUPON** **DOUBLE COUPON** **DOUBLE COUPON**  
ORCHARD-10 gives you 100% more on all (cents off) manufacturer's coupons up to and including 50¢ face value. All coupons 50¢ or lower will be doubled. Coupons above 50¢ will be cashed at face value. Limit one coupon for any one product. Coupon plus 100% bonus cannot exceed price of the item. Other retailer and free coupons excluded. All cigarette coupons at face value. This offer in effect now through Sunday, February 19, 1989.

**IGA Tablerite Boneless Beef Chuck Roast**  
Sold as Roast Only  
**1.49** lb.  
Save .40 lb.

**Idaho Potatoes**  
**1.99** 10 lb. Bag

**IGA Tablerite Hamburger From Ground Chuck**  
5 lbs. or more  
**1.39** lb.  
Save .50 lb.

**Star-Kist Tuna**  
Limit 2 Please!  
**.59** 6.5 oz. Can

**Pepsi Cola, Diet or Regular, Pepsi Free, Caffeine Free, Slice or Mountain Dew**  
8 pak 1/2 liter  
**2.09** plus dep.

**IGA Tablerite - Fancy Split Chicken Breast**  
Save .40 lb.  
**1.49** lb.

**Small or Large Curd - Sealtest Cottage Cheese**  
Limit 1 Please!  
**.99** 24 oz.

**IGA Tablerite Pork Butt Roast or Steaks**  
Save .40 lb.  
**1.19** lb.

**Assorted Flavors FAME Ice Cream**  
**1.49** 1/2 Gallon Carton