

# Business Watch program eager for recruits

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or businessmen and women with questions, concerns or additional

information should contact the department, 473-7282.

Public safety officials will "eagerly recruit" new businesses this year for the city's Business Watch program, according to commander Chuck Lee. There are 55 businesses

in the downtown area participating in the program, designed to alert the business community to crime problems.

Business Watch members initiated five alerts during 1988, prompting two arrests and at least one conviction.

In addition to helping coordinate the program, the department held an Armed Robbery Prevention and Awareness seminar for 20 of the participating businesses last May.

"Already this year we know of several businesses which have been victimized by a 'short-change' art-

ist," Lee warns. "This scam preys upon business clerks who are confronted by the bad guy making a small purchase." In confusing store clerks, this person will ask for and receive more change than he is entitled to, which is discovered at the end of the business day.

Tips to avoid this problem and other similar crimes will be given at a public safety business seminar, slated for Wednesday, April 12, when officers will discuss the new Retail Fraud law, which went into effect last year. The seminar will be held from 8-9 a.m. at the Farmington City Hall council chambers.

The law will be highlighted and handouts covering specifics of the law will be available, Lee said.



# Space camp delights Girl Scout

A Farmington Hills Girl Scout aspiring to be an astronaut took part in a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Camp last week.

The spotlight was on space and space travel during six days of learning, adventure and camaraderie.

"She loves it," said Carol Wolff two days before her daughter, Elaine, returned from the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. "She'd love to be an astronaut, if she could."

A sixth grader at O.E. Dunckel Middle School in Farmington Hills, Elaine, 12, was one of 44 Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council members who boarded a bus for the space camp March 27. She's a cadet in Girl Scout Troop 146.

Campers, all fourth- through sixth-graders, were chosen on the basis of academic ability, interest in science, references and an interview.



Elaine Wolff future astronaut?

SPENDING THE WEEK as an orbital systems officer, Elaine underwent basic astronaut training — from weightlessness to command control.

While learning about living in space, Elaine suited up in astronaut

gear and trained with some of the equipment actually used by astronauts.

The fare included walks in zero gravity and a simulated space mission, from countdown to orbit and landing.

Each girl built and launched a model rocket.

A Dunckel honors student, Elaine has wanted to go to the space camp since the third grade, her mother said.

ELAINE ALREADY is looking forward to applying for the more-advanced NASA Space Academy once she enters the eighth grade.

"We'll encourage all our kids to do well and, hopefully, pursue a career in science," said Elaine's father, George. Elaine has two younger sisters.

Interest in science runs in the Wolff family. George Wolff is an atmospheric scientist at the General

# Day care facility will be a nice addition to downtown — DDA

By Casey Hans staff writer

A children's day care facility that would possibly include a "drop-in" center would be a welcome addition to downtown Farmington. Downtown Development Authority members said Tuesday.

The DDA board endorsed the need and concept of such a business, as it relates to goals for upgrading the downtown. That position will be forwarded to Farmington planning commissioners, who likely will consider it for the downtown area in the near future.

"We don't want just a drop-in center," said Vicki Palmer, who is proposing to open a day care center in the downtown area with Elaine Chatlin. "It will be a place where children will learn. We feel very positive about this. We have the tools to manage and manage this well."

Palmer and Chatlin are proposing to open their business in the Ellsman Building, on Grand River on the block just west of Farmington Road. The building's current design is for

offices but it is vacant.

Any such proposal would be coordinated through the city's planning commission and would be licensed and regulated by the state Department of Social Services. The two women approached the DDA, asking the board to take a position before making a proposal to the planning commission.

AS FARMINGTON city ordinances do not specifically address day care as a business, such a business would be considered a "special use," according to city manager and DDA board member Robert Deadman. He said day care is a "use permitted in all zones."

Although the DDA did not specifically address the proposed business or its proposed location, member Ron Oglesby said that in looking at the tenant mix in the area, "I personally like the use of this building."

Owners of the building are making improvements to the interior. Farmington Hills-based Thompson-Brown Realtors received a sign variance Monday night to help try and lease

the vacant space, which sits in the heart of the city.

DDA executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer said the Ellsman Building, with its narrow front windows, is not as conducive to retail space as other buildings. "Quite honestly," she said, "I don't know if there are a lot of alternative uses."

IN A report to the DDA board, Strip Sittsamer reminded members of their 1987 survey, which stressed service businesses as an important complement to retail businesses. "One that provides a convenient place for children to be professionally cared for is probably a real asset to a downtown," she said.

DDA president Harry Wingerter said day care in the downtown area was determined to be a need several years ago.

Palmer and Chatlin propose to be open roughly from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays with some hours on Saturdays. Based on the space in the proposed building, they could be licensed for 36 children of a variety of ages.

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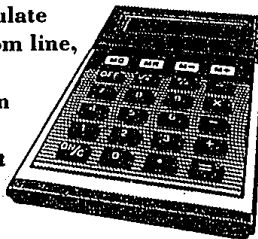
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