



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Downtown demolition

Two houses on Orchard Street, near the corner of Grove in downtown Farmington, were demolished last week to make way for an 18-unit, 3-story condominium complex called Charlesowne Court, slated to open this fall. Orchard Street runs behind the Downtown Farmington Center. The develop-

ment is being done by the Rickard Group, who will coordinate exterior lighting and landscaping with the publicly funded Downtown Development Authority project currently under way in the city.

Spring sewer vote likely in Farmington

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combined areas causing some of the problem, Deadman said. Work on the separated sewer areas will be needed, he said.

The 3.2-million-gallon cement retention tank, the most expensive part of the project, will be underground at the site of the old city dump on Nine Mile near the city's pumping station. The retention tank price tag is \$6.47 million.

The cost of sewage could rise, depending on what the federal government forces the city of Detroit

(which handles Farmington sewage) to do. If Detroit is ordered to make changes, that cost would be passed along to the system's suburban users.

Other communities are involved in similar projects. In Lathrup Village, 5,000 residents face a sewer system improvement price tag of \$13 million or more. "When we start feeling sorry for ourselves, I look at Lathrup Village and think we're all going to have to live through it."

"We could see this coming for a long, long time."

Appeals court upholds search

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Finally, the appeals court said Kuhn properly denied Sinista's request for a delay because it was "a dilatory tactic by defendant ... made on the day of trial."

Schwartz and Wozniak, in separate police cars, responded to a call about a suspicious white car with two persons in a Farmington Hills apartment complex parking lot.

Sinista's passenger got out of the car, acting "frantic and nervous." Schwarz, concerned the passenger might have a weapon, asked him to remove his hand from his pocket. When the man refused, Schwarz grabbed it, forced it open, found a package of cocaine and made an arrest.

The Court of Appeals said: "Through the open passenger door, the officer saw an open beer can and an open bottle of cognac on the floor of the front seat. Officer Wozniak decided to arrest defendant (Sinista) for having open intoxicants in his car. 'When he patted defendant, Wozniak found a telephone pager clipped to defendant's belt, a small vial of suspected cocaine and \$2.75 in cash.'"

Schwartz, meanwhile, looked under the driver's seat and found a fully loaded revolver and a brown paper bag with drug paraphernalia.

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Liquor licensees oppose crackdown

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The sweeps, in which an underage cadet attempts to buy liquor, "are cost effective. If we polled other establishments, they are not going to be pleased with a uniformed officer going into their establishment looking for anybody looking under 30 years of age to card."

"It would be embarrassing to the patrons, and it is not the responsibility of the officer to see if licensees are serving minors."

The new ordinance will not give

the city council any more authority. City councils already can revoke liquor licenses, said Ronald Acho, Farmington Hills special counsel.

THE CITY council may review and investigate a liquor licensee at the time of license renewal.

After investigations, city administrators are expected to set public hearings for those licensees deemed "unfit to maintain the privilege of selling alcohol."

After a public hearing, council members would decide whether to revoke a license. The council could also put a licensee on probation or

work out a compromise, Acho said. Five of the seven council members would be required to revoke, transfer or give a new license.

Licenses would be allowed to bring their attorneys to the public hearings, provide evidence and "confront any adverse witnesses," city attorney Paul Bibeau said.

While the ordinance prohibits minors from attempting to buy liquor and using fraudulent identification, licensees said stiffer penalties are required.

"THERE ARE no serious fines for minors who are caught," said Michael Gibbons, head of the Michigan Restaurant Association and officer in the company that owns D. Denison's Seafood Tavern.

The ordinance, which mirrors state law, sets a maximum \$25 fine for the first violation and a maximum \$50 fine or participation in a substance abuse prevention program. A third violation carries a maximum \$100 fine or participation in an abuse program.

Bills currently in the state Legislature would stiffen penalties against minors, including revocation of drivers' licenses.

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