

Growing up in Detroit during the '30s, 1B



Volleyball outlook, 1D

North's feast harkens to medieval times, 3A

# Farmington Observer

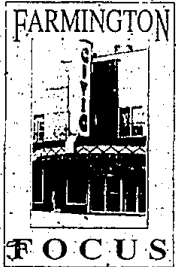
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Fifty Cents



## DDA to hire promotions coordinator

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington's Downtown Development Authority will hire a part-time person to coordinate promotions, addressing concerns DDA board members have raised over the past two years.

In addition, a DDA subcommittee will also review the rest of the authority's five-phase, \$14.7 million streetscape project, which includes

pedestrian lighting, sidewalk and tree planting and other amenities in the city's core.

Three phases of the project, first approved in 1988 when the DDA was formed, are already complete.

The in-house promotions effort drew positive response from the board, which directed DDA executive director Wendy Strip-Sitsamer Tuesday to advertise for the 20-hour-a-week position and prepare a budget detailing expenses relating to the

post. "This board really has to decide whether it's serious about promotions," said DDA member GREG HOBLER, owner of the Civic Theatre. "It's a question as to whether promotions are important enough to go after — more strongly."

"The business community has shown its support."

OVER THE past two years, DDA board members have discussed the

importance of a healthy promotions program, which they believe will ensure the future vitality of the city's central business district. Attempts to work with at least two local-promotions companies since early 1989 were not satisfactory to the board.

"I think (the in-house plan) is a good idea," said DDA member Michele Jakaeki, owner of Focal Point Studio of Photography. "If we really want to involve the merchants, you need somebody they can trust."

The new promotions coordinator position will work under the direction of the executive director, and the DDA will likely use the \$12,000 per year it previously budgeted for agency fees, Strip-Sitsamer said. The person will be expected to handle public relations, coordinate special events and joint-retail events, do all advertising and merchandising and will develop appropriate annual

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## Tax talk

Alcohol tax hike raises concerns among drinkers and merchants

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

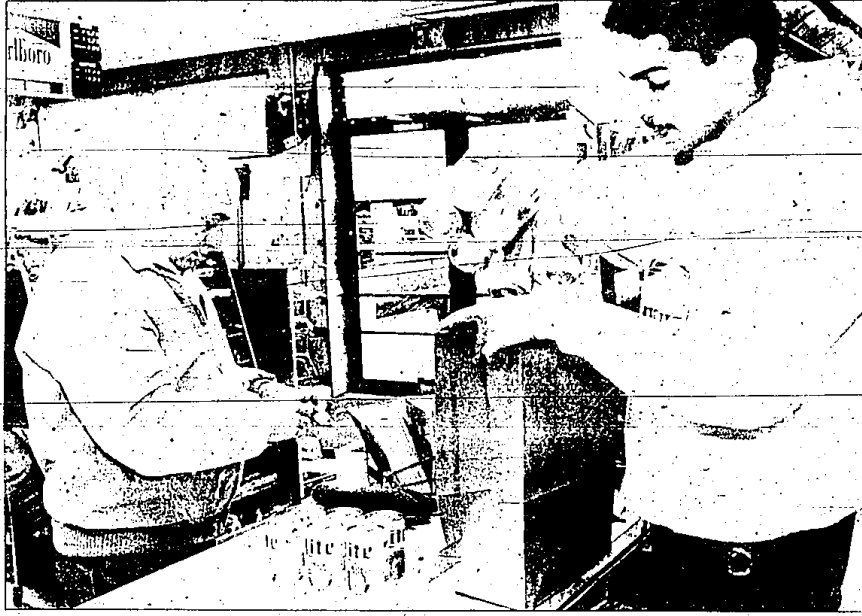
A new federal excise tax on alcohol is the talk of the town, according to Farmington Hills liquor merchants who are waiting to see how the new law will impact business.

Many believe sales will fall off — as they normally do after the first of the year — then pick up as consumers get acclimated to the new tax, which took effect Tuesday. But some remain concerned about an immediate, negative impact.

"Everybody's scared, to tell you the truth, I'm scared," said Ned Shammo, manager at the Wine Tasters Party Shoppe on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills. "That's all they've (customers) been talking about. They want to know how much the tax will be on this, and on that. I think everything will be impacted."

THE NEW TAX, enacted last October and effective Jan. 1, applies a complicated formula which is expected to cost most beer drinkers about \$2 more per case, between 18 and 40 cents on a bottle of wine and up to \$1 on a fifth of liquor, according to various estimates. Some retailers and distributors are calling the new tax a "double whammy," because January is the traditional time of the year for distillery price increases on alcohol.

Mike Iwlish, who has owned the Mike and Sons store on 10 Mile for



Ned Shammo (right) packs up an order for Bill Davis at the Wine Tasters Party Shoppe in Farmington Hills. Owners at the

store are concerned a new federal alcohol tax that went into effect Tuesday may dampen sales.

13 years, said he had no last-minute rush for alcohol before the tax kicked in Jan. 1, and he expects the usual slowdown with the new year. He is unsure how the tax will affect his business, but said his customers

"don't like it. We don't know what's going to happen," he added. "It certainly won't bring the (federal budget) deficit down."

At least one Farmington Hills merchant said business at his store

had increased in December because of the pending tax, and remained steady throughout the holiday season, when it usually begins to drop off.

"There is a change," said Nat

Jonna, owner of Jonna's Wine Shop on Nine Mile. "People are coming in and buying extra."

He can't believe there will be

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THEY'RE OUT for blood, those retailers, and they're coming to the Farmington area to get it.

The Western Wayne County Association of Realtors joined the American Red Cross in sponsoring a blood drive 1-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, at the association's headquarters, 24125 Drake Road at Grand River.

Appointments or inquiries can be made by calling the association at 478-1700.

REGISTRATIONS are being taken for the free classes offered through the Clarenceville Community Education program.

Choices include high school completion and vocational training opportunities in the fields of airline reservationist, air conditioning/refrigeration, computerized bookkeeping and health care assisting. Call 473-8933 for registration information.

REMEMBER the Farmington Hills Police Department provides anonymous reports on the analysis of drugs brought in by residents who suspect someone in their family of using or selling controlled substances.

Substances brought to the police station will be given confidential numbers. A phone number and contact person at the police department will also be provided. This will allow the resident to call back in 10 days to receive the test results — after revealing the confidential number.

Counseling and referral will also be available while the resident's anonymity will be maintained. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Crime Prevention Section of the Farmington Hills Police, 473-9640, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

MEMORY LANE From the Jan. 4, 1951 Farmington Enterprise:

Police officers from Farmington and Detroit arrested eight persons who admitted to committing about 30 breaking and enterings in northwest Detroit and Farmington Township.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21808 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.

## Cost of cable service to go up next month

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Metropolitan of Oakland County, which provides cable television service for the Farmington area, will "once again raise its rates effective Feb. 1."

The last increase came in February of 1990. Basic service will be priced at \$16.95 per month, an increase of \$1.45. All other rates, including

those for premium services, remote control converters and additional outlets, will remain the same as current prices.

"We understand that nobody likes a rate increase, but the cost of doing business has gone up," said Tom Bjorklund, regional manager. "What we are being charged has increased by 35 percent."

Bjorklund said that the company

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## Guardianship hearing set for woman found in house

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

A hearing will be held Monday to determine whether a permanent guardian and conservator should be appointed for a 440-pound woman found lying in a filthy basement on a mattress containing almost \$13,000 inside a now-condemned house on Colfax Street in Farmington Hills.

According to reports, Tyler was covered with bed sores and maggots

Barry M. Grant will issue his decision after the hearing. Attorney Betty Lowenthal, who was appointed a temporary guardian, did not return repeated phone calls.

Hills firefighters removed the woman, Beverly Tyler, 58, from 34335 Colfax Dec. 26, after her family contacted the police for help. The police, in turn, alerted fire and building department officials.

According to reports, Tyler was

found lying in her own body waste. Leonard, Chapman, Hills building inspector, quickly condemned the house based on odor alone.

"It was unsanitary," he said.

TYLER'S DAUGHTER, Hope Simon, of Detroit, filed the petition to appoint a legal guardian on Dec. 21, according to Brian McMullen, Grant's court clerk.

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Wishing the World

PEACE in the New Year.

## Winter fun

Last week's cold snap and snowfall drew crowds to the Shawwassee sled hill, owned by the Farmington Public Schools. Here, 8-year-old Ian Billington bundles up before taking a trip down the hill. The district recently did grading work on the hill, and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the local Jaycees are pitching in to help with supervision on the hill, a winter centerpiece in the community.



DANIEL LUPPIE Staff photographer