

Kroger to pay for senior vans in wake of closing

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Lester London doesn't plan to use a new van service to take him shopping at the new Kroger superstore at 12 Mile and Halsted. Neither does Margaret Prucha.

"They're trying to get off the hook," said Prucha, who lives near a new empty Kroger store on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Both Prucha and London remain annoyed with the Kroger Company for closing two Farmington area stores when the 43,000 square-foot store in the Halsted Village Shopping Center, 37550 12 Mile, at Halsted, opened in December.

"Personally, I won't even read Kroger ads," London said. He lives in Jamestown Apartments on Grand River, next to the former Kroger store in the Grand River-Halsted

shopping center in Farmington where many residents in that area walked to do their grocery shopping. Kroger also closed its store at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, which was a Great Scott's store until Kroger bought the chain.

London says he doesn't need the twice-a-week van service organized by the city of Farmington Hills to get senior adults to the grocery store. He drives. And he doesn't think many of his friends and acquaintances in that area are going to take advantage of the service either.

"By now, I think most of them have made their own arrangements," London said.

BUT KROGER officials are optimistic. "We're getting an overwhelming response now," said Jim Perrun, Kroger retail operations vice president. "I think when we add

'They're trying to get off the hook.'

— Margaret Prucha

the van service we'll get a good response. I think what's coming out of this is a real partnership between the community and Kroger."

The proposed van service and senior adult discounts at the store on Tuesdays, as well as a packet — with discount coupons included — delivered to many seniors is hoped to show that Kroger is concerned about the community, Perrun said.

"Kroger is being responsive," he added.

A van is expected to stop at about 10 apartment complexes that are either exclusively for senior adults or have a large number of senior adult residents.

The van is expected to be donated by Michigan National Bank's Independence for Life program. When the program begins, depends on when the city receives the van.

The estimated \$12,480 bill for the van service — to be paid by Kroger — includes the "normal costs" for operating a van, considering fuel, routine maintenance and a driver's wages of about \$120 a day, said Farmington Hills city manager William Costick.

RESIDENTS WHO have been angry with Kroger for the store closings have urged the corporation to lease the empty stores to other

grocers. The Farmington store, however, has since been leased to Kiddie Land. The 13 Mile and Orchard Lake store is owned by Kroger, whose officials are completing negotiations with a new tenant.

"I can't say whether it's a grocer," Perrun said. "But I think people will be pleased with the new tenant."

Some, including Farmington and Farmington Hills officials, have criticized Kroger for closing stores in favor of opening a new, larger one.

"That's one major reason why we make sure we find good tenants to take over our properties. That's important. Kroger has a good track record in that regard," Perrun said. He also defended the trend toward larger, more full service supermarkets that offer a wide variety of products and services. "Most people don't want to go to three different stores to get what they want," Perrun said.

But he acknowledged the anger among many senior adults who have said they prefer shopping at a neighborhood store.

"I don't think any organization is going to please all the people when it shuts down a facility," Perrun said. "You always have close, nearby shoppers who would rather have a store in their backyard. So we try to do the next best thing by offering a large store with a lot of variety."

The van service stems from complaints from many senior adults after Kroger closed the two community stores. Farmington councilwoman JoAnne McShane also led a petition drive urging Kroger to allow another grocer to lease space at the former Farmington Kroger store.

"Thanks a lot Kroger. We don't need a bus service. We want you to lease to another grocer in the area," Prucha said.

inkwell

Inkwell provides information about primary and secondary education issues and students from the Farmington area. Send information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48336. Please include a daytime phone number. Items will not be taken over the phone.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Farmington teachers have the opportunity to enroll in 10 technology workshops and a myriad of others this summer as school ends for students, and teachers head for the classroom.

Math/computer coordinator Richard Strauss said 82 staffers, a record number, have signed up to take at least one technology workshop this summer. Some of the workshops include children's writing and publishing, introduction to various computers, telecommunications, and how to use an equipped district van to televise concerts or special programs in the classroom.

Overall, the district is offering 48 workshops to about 380 staff members this summer, said assistant superintendent for curriculum, Judith White.

Many of the classes and workshops are funded by a mini-grant program budgeted into the staff development department, where staff members write grants for specific projects.

WINNING STUDENTS

May and June Students of the Month at Harrison High were Meredith Perish and Maty Brun, respectively.

The students are selected monthly by a faculty panel.

Perish was noted as a student leader who is "committed to worth while causes" including recycling, toy drives during the holidays and attending activities with residents of the American House and Sarah Fisher. She has also taught Spanish to Larkshire elementary third graders, became involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program and volunteers with the Fort Street Presbyterian Church soup kitchen and the

Farmington Goodfellows. For seven years she has been a volunteer with the Clair Crawford Handicapped Children's Day.

Despite all these activities, she has maintained a 3.3 grade point average, is on Harrison's varsity swim and soccer teams and has served on both the Student Board and the Student Council. She is a charter member and current president of Harrison's Interact Club.

Brun carries a 3.75 grade point average, including a challenging academic load of regular and advanced placement classes. She has been active in the school's French Club, with the literary-art magazine Aquila where she recently served as prose editor for the 1991 edition.

In the community, she is active as well. She is a member of the Nardin Park Church youth group, serving as Youth Service Fund coordinator and editor of the organization's newsletter.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Farmington High School graduates Brian Biddle has been recognized as the Outstanding Senior for 1991 by the Michigan Chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk.

Biddle has been a SADD member for four years at the Farmington school. He served as publicity chairman his sophomore year, president his junior year and co-president this senior year.

He has been active in teaching peer resistance training to fifth graders in the school system, as well as coordinating and participating in many fund raisers for SADD.

Biddle was also a recipient of a scholarship from the Michigan Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his SADD accomplishments, which he will use for tuition at Ball State University.

HONORS GIVEN

Jennifer Gillman of Farmington Hills was recently named to the Honor Roll at the end of the second semester at the Leelanau School, a non-denominational, educational, college-preparatory boarding and day school in Glen Arbor, Mich.

Trucker has honey of a story

Continued from Page 1

park entrance until Southfield beekeepers Harold and Charles Compton could arrive to capture the swarm of Caucasian honey bees.

Similar instances occur every spring, as bees follow their queen to overhangs, garbage cans, hollow trees or just about anywhere they want to swarm, said Harold Compton.

"Every spring it happens this way."

His son, Charles, explained that "they're not mad at anything, they're just confused. As long as you don't bother them, they don't bother you."

Charles suited up and moved the queen bee to a hive, where most of the bees followed.



Journalism Olympics winners

The Rev. William T. Cunningham, executive director of Focus: HOPE, recently presented a second-place \$500 scholarship to Michelle Lyons (center) of Mercy High School for her finish in the group's Journalism Olympics. Ken Downie (right) of North

Farmington High was one of 12 finalists to receive a \$25 check. The seventh-annual event attracted 132 students from the metropolitan area.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or high school of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Alicia Courtney and Sarah Kamoo of Farmington Hills were selected as charter members of Order of Omega, a national Greek honorary at Albion College.

Courtney is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and a 1988 graduate of Harrison High School. She is a biology major.

Kamoo is a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority and a 1987 graduate of Harrison High School. She is an English and speech, communication and theater major.

HONOR STUDENTS

Eastern Michigan University College of Technology honored its top students last month. Those from the

Farmington area that were honored are: Maureen Paschke, Lee Williams, Jeffrey Gershenson, Christine Taube and Mary Zumstein.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Gayl Hubler and Amy Adams of Farmington Hills were elected to membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. They were inducted as undergraduate members of the Kappa Iota chapter at Madonna University.

NEW GRADUATES

Jeffrey Allan Zonder of Farmington Hills graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Duke University.

Julie Beth Lynch of Farmington Hills received her bachelors of science degree in business administration/marketing from Wayne State University.

NATIONAL HONORARY

Deborah Connor of Farmington and Deborah Martin, Jennifer Frederick, Karen Galvan and Shawn Kane of Farmington Hills were in-

ducted into Schoolcraft College's honorary, Phi Theta Kappa.

SHE'S AWARDED

Albion College senior Sarah Kamoo of Farmington Hills won the Outstanding Greek Women of the Year award presented by the Panhellenic Council. She is an English and speech communication major and a 1987 graduate of Harrison High School.

Hardy is a 1990 graduate of North Farmington High School and is a freshman taking pre-medical courses.

HONORS PROGRAM

Albion College senior LeeAnne Richardson of Farmington was one of 15 students honored for successful completion of the Honors Program. She is an English and French major and is a 1987 graduate of Farmington High School.

DANCE CONCERT

Deborah Arnold, Maria Chalognis, Jennifer Hardy and Denise Shoup of Farmington Hills were among dancers performing in the Alma College Winter Term 1991 Orchestral Dance Concert.

Arnold is a 1987 graduate of North Farmington High School. A senior, she is a candidate for a bachelor of arts degree in education.

Chalognis is a 1989 graduate of Harrison High School and is a sophomore majoring in psychology.

Hardy is a 1990 graduate of North Farmington High School and is a freshman taking pre-medical courses.

Shoup is a 1988 graduate of North Farmington High School and is a junior majoring in mathematics.

THEY'RE INDUCTED

Students inducted in Lawrence Tech's honorary society, Lambda Iota Tau are: Thomas Peeler of Farmington and Sydney Chapman of Farmington Hills.

RECEIVES AWARD

Dawn Raymond of Farmington Hills received the student government's Most Active Student Award at Lawrence Technological University.



Honored graduates

Honored at a recent luncheon on the grounds of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) in Southfield were Farmington-area graduates (from left, in caps and gowns) Jill Murany, Harri-

son High School; Suele Atchinson, Mercy High School; and Jeff Sung, North Farmington. Also on hand were Channel 7 personalities Bill Bonds (left) and Dave Gilbert.

Recycling launch July 1

Continued from Page 1

Authority of Southwestern Oakland County, which Farmington and Farmington Hills are members.

The cities have a six-year contract with Waste Management Inc., which is the refuse collector.

RRRASOC's goal is to have its own materials recovery facility, which would handle the collected recyclables. A MRF would be used for crushing, sorting and rebundling recyclables.

Some residents have opposed the recycling fee. They say they'd rather have the program paid for with taxes. That way, like other property taxes, they can take it off their income taxes.

But both the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils have stuck with their original proposal to charge a quarterly fee.

The city council has heard for years that residents don't want taxes raised," Biasell said.

DEADMAN SAID in May that there is no way for the city's millage rate to assume the costs of curbside recycling. "We're not able to assume the costs on the millage rate. There will be a point where we don't have enough millage to make the program work."

Farmington Hills officials, however, said they would consider putting the recycling fee issue on the ballot for voters to decide sometime in the future.

Biasell said there's another side to using a fee to pay for recycling. If the costs were included in the cities' tax rates, commercial and industrial property owners would have to pay for something they aren't getting.

Residents are paying for recycling because there are costs involved in sending a collection truck to each residence and processing the recyclable materials. Recycling is actually considered a "cost avoidance" mechanism, Biasell said.

For example, papers mills used to pay \$25 a ton for newspapers. Today, you have to pay the mill \$15 a ton to take the papers off your hands, Biasell said.

But if the newspapers were dumped in a landfill — where costs have risen dramatically in the past decade — cities would have to pay \$35 a ton, Biasell said.

"Right now throughout the United States, markets (for recyclables) are deflated because more people are participating in recycling. The market can't absorb like it used to," Biasell said.

A possible breakthrough is occurring in Canada, however. Paper mills are being designed that can use a higher content of recycled paper. "So theoretically, they'll need more paper."

Farmington Hills officials budgeted \$2.2 million for garbage and collection costs. Farmington officials budgeted \$503,800. Recycling costs are above and beyond these costs.