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# Farmington Observer

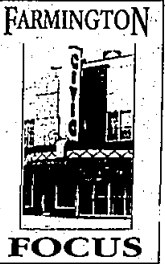
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Fifty Cents



## Police raid Hills health spa

### Prostitution ring suspected there

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

An unsuspecting man walked into the back door of Today's Health Spa in the Freeway Plaza on 10 Mile Tuesday morning only to be greeted by Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer.

"This is a raid. I think you'll want to leave," Dwyer warned the man who said he just wanted to check out the three-month-old spa at 38255 10 Mile.

Five Korean women were arraigned late Tuesday afternoon on misdemeanor charges following a police raid at 10:50 a.m. at the spa, which is believed to be part of a prostitution ring involving Korean women organized by the so-called Korean mafia, Dwyer said.

"Money is laundered through legitimate businesses or funneled back to Korea," Dwyer added.

The women appear to have all been married at some time to U.S. servicemen who are paid to marry the women and divorce them when they enter the United States, according to police.

"This was also characteristic of those women who were arrested by the department in 1985 as a result of the Oriental health spa investigation," Dwyer said. "I think they (Korean women) are somewhat enslaved and are working possibly to pay off the money (paid to the servicemen)."

THE INTERNAL Revenue Service and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services also are involved. The women have passports or green cards. "I talked to an immigration agent and he feels there's a possibility the women may be deported," Dwyer said.

Hyon Suk Brunet, 33; Ok Pun Parker, 36; Yong Mi Ingram, 32; Kim Ok

Stokes, 41; and Ok Cha McElvaney, pleaded not guilty to city misdemeanor charges punishable by a maximum 90 days in jail and \$100 fine. The five women were arraigned late Tuesday before Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court, Farmington. The women were represented by attorney Eugene Oak of Southfield.

Brunet, Park, Ingram and Stokes were charged with four counts each of accepting and soliciting, engaging in an illegal occupation or business, loitering in a place of illegal occupation or business, and aiding and abetting.

Stokes, who is believed to be the ring leader, also was charged with operating an illegal place of occupation or business. McElvaney, believed to be a janitor for the spa, and who cried at her arraignment, was charged with loitering at the spa.

Judge Harris set \$1,000 corporate surety bond for each of the women except Stokes whose bond was set at \$2,500. Harris ordered the women to surrender their passports to the police before they could be released from custody.

TUESDAY BEGAN for the Farmington Hills police when they stopped a van driven by a 62-year-old Sterling Heights man and Stokes after they had dropped off the four other Korean women at the spa. The man released pending further investigation, Lt. Richard Murphy said.

Police also raided an apartment on Jefferson Court in the Independence Green Apartments at Grand River and Halsted, where it is believed the women lived together. The apartment was leased to Stokes. Police also received consent to search another apartment in the complex.



Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer (second from left) holds the door for Det. Brian DeGrando and a handcuffed Ok Cha McElvaney, who was charged with loitering at the spa.

## Witnesses testify Was used racial slurs

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

A defense witness testified Monday that Farmington Hills resident Joanne Was used racial and vulgar slurs before she was assaulted by a group of black men and women during the 1991 Freedom Festival fireworks.

Cassandra Rutherford, 17, was found not guilty of assault with intent to commit great bodily harm against Was by a racially mixed jury before noon Wednesday after only a couple hours deliberation.

Three other defense witnesses — two of whom admitted they met with Detroit Mayor Coleman Young after the incident — also testified that Was used similar language in speaking to a young black employee of the Omni Hotel, who claims he pulled the woman to safety into the Jefferson Avenue hotel in Detroit.

"I heard someone saying 'Run.' I looked up and saw the lady (Was). She was cursing and threw something at someone," said defense witness Alice Bankston, describing how Was threw something.

But Wayne County Assistant Pro-

secutor Lisa Lindsey showed Bankston a diagram she had drawn during an interview in the prosecutor's office. An arrow showing the direction in which Was threw something was "away from the crowd," Bankston

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## Project leaves Hills council with wet feet

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Farmington Hills plans to "disturb" some wetlands — and it's all perfectly legal.

After months of discussion, the city council voted 4-3 Monday to approve the moving of two acres of wetlands from the 12 Mile boulevard project to the city-owned Peliz-MDOT property.

Councilmembers Joanne Smith and Larry Lichtman voted against the plan because they said they wanted more time to review the plan. Councilman Ben Marks nixed it because he said

he wanted to consider another site, part of the San Marino golf course.

The city was awarded a \$3.6 million state grant to help build the estimated \$7 million one-mile boulevard stretch from Halsted to Haggerty Roads. But wetlands were in the way of construction.

Wetlands also extend into the another mile-long stretch between Drake and Halsted slated for construction later.

EARLIER THIS month, the city received a DNR permit, allowing the wetlands to be filled in

along the boulevard. The permit and Monday's vote allows the city to proceed.

"The permit was not site specific" about exactly the wetlands are going to go in Peliz-MDOT, said Mayor Jon Grant.

The final plan will be submitted in three weeks, said Dave Call, assistant city manager. He estimated that bids for the 12 Mile boulevard construction will be opened in mid-March with the state awarding the construction bid in mid-April.

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## Come On-a Our House

Mercury's Felicia Squire (left) of West Bloomfield and Stephanie David of Farmington rehearse for a benefit concert Tuesday, March 10, at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. For more information, please turn to page 1C of today's Suburban Life section.

## Parents consider year-round school

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The next two to three weeks will be critical in determining who will attend an optional year-round school program at Gill Elementary School this fall.

Principal Mike Duff said some 80 parents attended an informational meeting about the program Monday night. About one-third said they were interested in the program and another one-third said they would like to find out more about it. Sixteen parents said they definitely wanted their children to follow a traditional school year.

With education at the top of the national agenda and choice the buzz-

word of the 1990s, Duff said Gill's "school within a school" concept is important. "I think it's a sign of the times," he said. "We've got all the components to make it happen here."

Duff said he has watched the year-round schooling movement closely, and believes it helps students to focus better, revitalizes the learning process and "really benefits them (students) at the time they need it."

A second round of informational meetings for parents who missed Monday's session will be held during the day and in the evening Wednesday, March 4.

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