

## 5 arrested in raid

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"He (Sterling Heights man) would transport daily Monday through Saturday the females from Independence Green to the spa and pick them up at midnight," Dwyer said.

The two-week investigation included undercover police officers who went to the spa as customers and were "offered sexual favors for money," Dwyer said. Prices for sexual services ranged from \$40 to \$100.

The investigation began as part of the department and city's inspection of establishments licensed under the city's more than five-year-old massage parlor ordinance.

The raid and subsequent removal of about \$20,000 worth of furnishings and other items spelled the closing of the spa as of Tuesday. An insignificant amount of cash also was seized from the spa that featured separate rooms with showers and small beds. The spa also boasted a sauna, as well as a well-stocked closet full of towels, sheets, toothpaste, soap and baby oil.

"It was cleaned out," Dwyer said. "The locks have been changed and the large appliances have been removed by the landlord."

Dwyer said the Oakland County Prosecutor's office has been contacted to determine if additional state warrants will be sought. Po-



Lt. Gordon Ross (left), Det. Charles Hubbard and officer Tom Connor examine the defendants' work area at the Farmington Hills spa.

lice also will continue investigating the spa to determine if its license should be suspended or revoked under the city's massage parlor ordinance.

In 1985, police raided and pad-

locked five health spas also believed to be part of an organized prostitution ring. The investigation resulted in 16 arrests and \$16,000 cash seized.

"We felt we had sent a strong

message," Dwyer said. "We are just going to continue vigorously enforcing the ordinance and statutes. This just won't be tolerated in Farmington Hills."

## Council approves moving wetlands

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"About June 15-30, the wetlands will be disturbed," Call said. "A number of communities have been faced with mitigation (wetlands replacement)."

Cost is estimated between \$100,000-\$200,000, depending on the design, Call said.

Without the replacements of wetlands along 12 Mile, the city stood to lose the state grant that will help pay for the next boulevard mile, Halsted to Hogarty, Call said in another interview.

The DNR permit also covers filling in wetlands along the third planned mile stretch of boulevard, Drake to Halsted, which is planned in the future.

"Wetlands filter the water and filters pollution out," said Joe Derek, an Hills naturalist who sits on the Peltz-MDOT ad hoc committee.

"When you lose a wetland, you lose a nesting spot for ducks, for example. Everything loses. Wetlands hold a ton of insects for birds."

CITY STAFF also looked into the other possibilities of replacing wetlands in other areas like open spaces or commons areas in subdivisions around the city.

Mark Roberts, president of the Colony Park Homeowners Association, suggested the use of the commons area in his subdivision for the wetlands replacement.

"We should be stewards of the things around us," Derek said. "I think this will be an enhancement of the property."

The MDOT has included in its

funding package, the wetlands mitigation which they will fund at 55 percent, Costick said in a Feb. 17 report. The MDOT also said that it would not fund the purchase of property in order to mitigate.

Roy Lindhart, also a Peltz-MDOT committee member, said that the plan, which compatibly mitigates two acres on the property, will allow for an "educational, people-friendly area."

### Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eclectic News, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48034. Second-class postage paid at Farmington, MI 48034-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eclectic News, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48034-0910, Telephone 644-1100.

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One year \$36.40

(Elsewhere in Michigan)

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