

Auction from page 1A

"I'm just browsing. I'm not shopping for anything in particular," said Ralph Koch of Farmington Hills, whose neighbor convinced him to attend.

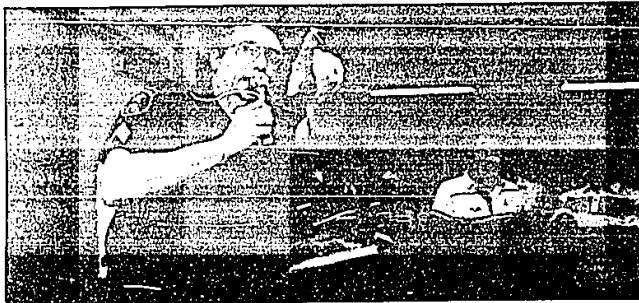
Mike Lasley, Farmington Hills purchasing agent, said only a few items were left unsold. "We were really pleased." Proceeds from the auction topped \$32,000, which will go into the city's general fund.

As the auction wore on, Kohls was still left with 24 city office chairs — mostly broken — with no bidders. He got an idea. "I piled them up. I could see no one wanted to buy a chair." He decided to sell them as a lot.

A man offered \$3. "They're yours," Kohls said.

The man told Kohls he would fix them up and use them for parties at his home. "Some people say 'What a good buy, why not?' People love great buys and competition," Kohls said.

On a set of silverware, buyers offered a higher and higher price — a dollar at a time — until finally the set went for \$160. "They just kept



SHARON LEWIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Auction block: Farmington Hills Police Sgt. John Kohls takes bids on almost 300 items at the city's first auction in two years. Capt. Russell Conway took the auctioneers post to give Kohls a breather.

going back and forth," said Kohls, who has hosted four or five previous city-police auctions.

That's not to mention watching

professional auctioneers to help develop his skills. "I would watch these guys and I just couldn't understand them. So I made up my

mind that I couldn't do it that way," Kohls said, adding that he tries to speak so everyone can understand what he's saying.

Ruling from page 1A

"It is cause for hope and encouragement, but it's not the end of abortion," said Barbara Listing, executive director of Right to Life of Michigan. "If that were the case the court would have explicitly said so."

Right to Life is campaigning for a proposed Michigan law based on the Pennsylvania statute, including doctor counseling of women who seek abortions and a 24-hour waiting period.

"We'd like to see action on informed consent," Listing said. "There should also be a shift to real alternatives such as adoption and crisis pregnancy counseling."

The high court also upheld Pennsylvania's parental consent statute as well as detailed record-keeping requirements for doctors who perform abortions. It struck down a statute requiring notification of married women's husbands.

The ruling injects the abortion issue into "almost every election race," said Carol King of the pro-choice Michigan Abortion Rights Action League.

"We're going to be very active," King said. "What we need in Michigan is a pro-choice Legislature and, especially, a pro-choice governor." Legislative numbers are currently not in their favor, King acknowledged.

Forty-three of the 100 state representatives are clearly identified as pro-choice, King said. The same can be said of a mere eight of 38 state senators, she added.

The National Abortion Rights Action League listed Michigan as one of the 13 most restrictive states in providing abortion access.

Pro-choice and pro-life activists took comfort in various parts of the ruling.

Cutbacks from page 1A

She said the anti-recapture votes have grown during the past few years, but not enough to defeat the measure. "It's going to be tough going for our area for a while," she added.

Starting last week, two Farmington-area groups, Advocates for Excellence in Education and the Coalition of Michigan Parents, did a phone fan-out, blanketing Lansing with hundreds of phone calls about the school aid vote. COMP state co-chair Jan Bennett of Farmington Hills said she was pleased with the larger number of legislators voting against the bill, but not with the outcome.

"Both groups were extremely active in trying to change some minds on this issue," she said.

Farmington has been the biggest loser of any district in the state with changes in the recapture formula during the past three years.

After losing about \$5.4 million in 1990, the district went to voters for additional millage, which was turned down. The district then made cuts, paring staff positions and programs and increasing classroom sizes to accommodate the leaner amount.

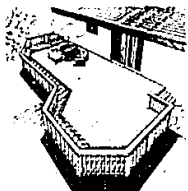
Barrett said that the cuts have allowed the district to better plan for future state action, although the

unstable situation surrounding property tax reform has made the issue of school financing a political hot potato.

Farmington, like many out-of-formula districts, receives most of its operating money from local property taxes.

Of the 28 districts in Oakland County, 20 are out-of-formula and

have been heavily impacted by state cuts in recent years. Richard Simonson, Oakland Schools assistant superintendent for state and federal affairs, said Farmington is hardest hit because the district carries special education programs for the entire county — inflating the per-pupil ratio — and because there has been a "substantial increase in income" within the district.



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Surowiec running for district court

Farmington Hills Attorney General Surowiec has announced his candidacy for the 47th District Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Margaret Schaeffer.

Surowiec, 55, has been a trial lawyer for 25 years with an office in Farmington Hills since 1978. He is considered a specialist in both criminal and civil appeals and has practiced extensively in Detroit Mercy. He was elected to the U-D Mercy Sports Hall of Fame as a lawyer.

Surowiec has been a special assistant attorney general since 1972. He has served as a mediator in both the 47th District Court and Wayne County Circuit Court.

He lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Kathy and their three children Jerry, Jim and Katie. He has been a scoutmaster and has won the Catholic Youth Organization's Ed Crow Award. He is a member of the Polish Century Club and the Polish American Congress.

Surowiec has been endorsed by the Metropolitan AFL-CIO, the UAW, the Greater Detroit Building Trades Council and the Teamsters.



Gerald Surowiec

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