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Council members, as well as Farmington Youth assistance, will meet probate court officials and look at those contracts during an upcoming study session.

"The word gets out that nothing happens when you get a ticket for smoking in Farmington Hills. The kids know that," Councilwoman Nancy Bates said. "This gets the word out that something is going to happen."

The city has been busy trying to get the message out to retailers, too.

In February, Farmington Hills police ticketed 20 merchants for selling tobacco to an underage

decoy. Only 21 of 60 retailers attended a police seminar that outlined the city's policy on the issue.

Councilman Terry Sever said such indifference annoys him, noting the number of retailers caught selling alcohol to minors also has increased recently.

"These same people are the ones we're expecting to abide by the law when it comes to the sale of tobacco as well," Sever said.

"I think we're going to need to go door knocking and we're going to need to get the attention of people who sell tobacco and alcohol in this community."

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CAMPUS PIPELINE

ACADEMY TRAINEE

The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City has accepted Lianna Kambouris into the professional training program for 1998.

Lianna is a 1997 graduate of Farmington High School. She has just finished her first year of college at Hope College in Holland and Eastern Michigan University. She is the daughter of Sylvia and Chris Kambouris of Farmington Hills.



Kambouris

A purring pair



Up for adoption: A pair of orange on white cats nicknamed Calvin and Hobbes were recently rescued and are up for adoption at Black Veterinary Hospital on Grand River. Employees Angie Pool, left, and Angie Logsdon hold the adoptable brothers. To contact the hospital, call 478-5400.

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said Tuesday.

That petition is making some noise. Descenzo and Lauhoff had a telephone conference about the subject and, on Monday evening, a copy of the petition was presented by resident Annalee Morrison to the city council. A face-to-face meeting between Lauhoff and Descenzo is expected to be held soon, Lauhoff said Tuesday.

Morrison said the petition drive was initiated after the

June 1 council meeting, when she and several other residents expressed concern about the expected closing of Farmer Jack - a store within walking distance for many senior citizens in Farmington.

"It just goes to show you that when all of us work together we can get what we want," Morrison said Monday to the council. "And I hope we do in this case."

Mayor Mary Bush told Morri-

son that "the work you've done could very well make the difference."

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane applauded the citizens for "asking Kimco to be a good corporate citizen, just as you are all good community citizens and trying to do your part. There will be many, many people, when this is all said and done, who will appreciate what you're doing."

After the council meeting, Morrison said she met earlier Monday with Lauhoff, who mentioned some of his phone discussions with Descenzo.

"He (Descenzo) said to Frank Lauhoff that, 'Wow, your community is on fire up there,' and that the timing of receiving this petition was superb," Morrison said. "He (Descenzo) is meeting with brokers this week about that property. Going to bat with this big, thick packet of papers helps."

Lauhoff confirmed that the conversation with Descenzo took place.

According to employees of Farmer Jack, the Downtown Farmington Center store is closing on June 27. The lame duck location had been an A&P at the time a bigger Farmer Jack store opened in the Crossroads Shopping Center at Farmington and Nine Mile roads.

But Lauhoff said Farmer Jack's parent company (The Greater Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company) hasn't given the city or landlord official word of the store closure.

"It's frustrating that they haven't made a courtesy call to the city or the landlord that this is going to happen," Lauhoff said. "That's something that should have occurred. It's disappointing."

Several residents who collected signatures reiterated after the meeting how important it is to downtown Farmington to have a quality grocery store where people can buy everything from Tide laundry detergent to avocados.

"Everyone (who signed the petition) had a different reason why they wanted a grocery store (there)," said Mariano Graessig. "It's a community effort that just brought out so much positive feedback."


JoAnne Fellenberg said most of the shoppers whom she talked to while collecting signatures said they liked the Farmer Jack store and its location. "They are going to miss this one. To us, it's milk, bread and orange juice."

She added that she is worried the Downtown Farmington Center will suffer the same fate as the Grand River-Halsted shopping center, where several stores closed after to make sure there's an anchor store," Fellenberg said.

Rose Erger, 82, who regularly shops at the Farmer Jack, agreed that surrounding businesses "will go down too without an anchor store."

But Lauhoff doesn't necessarily agree with that viewpoint, citing the variety of stores in the center.

"The Downtown Center is much more diverse than that plaza at Halsted," Lauhoff said. "It is anchored by several stores, T.J. Maxx, Dannon's, Harmony House. All of those draw a number of customers. But, certainly, a grocery store can be the major draw in any shopping center."



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