

Tax break

Hills City Council says no

LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
lconnor@hillsobserver.com

A business expanding into Farmington Hills along the Eight Mile corridor has been rebuffed in a tax abatement request.

Farmington Hills City Council, which set up its own policy for doling out tax breaks, unanimously denied Line Precision's request for an industrial facilities exemption certificate at Monday's meeting.

Line Precision, an automotive and agricultural supplier, has been in Farmington Hills since 1993. The company is spending \$1.139 million to expand an exist-

ing building 11,280 square feet.

"We took on a building that we basically should have walked away from - it would've been cheaper - in order to help with the Eight Mile part," said Jerry Miller, Line Precision owner.

"We're just curious if the city wants to keep on participating, not just for us but the other people along the Eight Mile corridor and in other areas, the depressed parts."

The company pays \$38,177 in taxes for real and personal property. With the expansion, that figure will increase by \$18,500. The company also plans to add 14-16 new jobs.

Line Precision officials asked the city for a 50-percent abatement for 12 years, which is \$9,298 annually or \$111,576 total. Money abated would have helped with building upkeep, a company official said.

As part of the city's policy on tax abatement, there must be accompanying state or federal money involved. Line Precision doesn't plan to seek either.

The city's Economic Development Corporation recommended a denial at its Jan. 20 meeting.

While saying "no," council members commended Line Precision for its commitment to the city.

Council has been against tax abatements but granted one to Bosch Corp. as the multinational firm could qualify for a larger Michigan Economic Growth Authority grant. In February last year, the city devised a policy to deal with future requests.

At Monday's meeting, council members also talked about a proposal being considered by the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, which deals with tax abatements for obsolete or dilapidated buildings.

"We appreciate everything you do," Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said. "Unfortunately, it's always difficult to say 'no' to good corporate citizens."

But if you start to dip into the treasury, you soon end up with an unbalanced checkbook here as well.

VFW hosts annual awards

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2289 in Farmington Hills will host its annual Awards Dinner Saturday, Feb. 13, at the VFW Post, 25414 Orchard Lake Road.

"Voice of Democracy," student winner, and police officer and firefighter of the year for Farmington Hills will be honored. Jane Gorman of North Farmington High School, James of Mercy High School, Matthew Pearl of Novi High School and Janet Patton of Farmington High School will be the student honorees. Names of the police officer and firefighter are not released until the awards are handed out.

Tickets are \$10, which includes dinner. Call the Post at 474-8190.

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN
In Farmington Hills:
Burglars used a trailer shaft to break a Plexiglas window but couldn't get inside Mimas Sunoco on Grand River during the night Feb. 5, causing \$250 damage.

MARIJUANA FOUND
In Farmington Hills:
Someone found a plastic bag with marijuana at Farmington Hills Nursery School inside Holy Cross Church on Middlebelt Feb. 5.

BREAKINS
In Farmington Hills:
Someone cut the convertible top and stole a cellular phone from a 1992 Chrysler LeBaron during the night Feb. 4-5. Two LeBarons had their convertible tops cut while parked at Strawberry Lane Apartments the night of Feb. 4-5, causing \$900 damage. Nothing appeared to have been stolen.

THEFT
In Farmington Hills:

Someone lifted a wallet containing \$250 cash and a Visa card from an employee's purse at The Gale Group on Drake Feb. 4. The victim confronted a female member of the cleaning crew who was emptying waste baskets at the time. The cleaning crew supervisor told the victim the company will conduct an investigation.

A guest at the Red Roof Inn on Sinacola reported several pieces of jewelry, including gold bracelets, were stolen from her room Feb. 5-6.

DRUNKEN DRIVING
In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a Waterford woman, 40, for drunken driving after she was involved in a three-car accident on 12 Mile and Haggerty around 7:10 p.m. Feb. 5. The driver of the 1995 Saturn SL admitted to drinking four to five glasses of wine. She had a blood alcohol level of .21 percent. It's illegal to drive in Michigan with a level of .10 percent.

Police arrested a Redford man, 39, for drunken driving on southbound Inkster at Eight Mile around 8:20 p.m. Feb. 6. Police stopped the 1985 Plymouth after it ran a red light. The driver had a preliminary blood alcohol level of .14 percent but refused to take a chemical test at the station. Police also arrested the passenger, a 36-year-old Redford man, who had an outstanding warrant, and ticketed him for having open intoxicants in the car.

VANDALISM
In Farmington Hills:
Vandals broke a windshield and bent the antenna on a semi-marked police car parked at Diamond Forest Apartments Feb. 5, causing \$800 damage. The Ford Crown Victoria was being used by a Canton Township police officer who lives in the apartment complex.

STRONG-ARMED ROBBERY

In Farmington Hills:
A 13-year-old girl had her purse stolen after another girl punched her in the face at Green Hill Apartments Feb. 5. The victim was at a friend's apartment when the girl and two males arrived and demand the girl's purse. The girl managed to wrestle the purse away and said it was hers. Two male teens held the victim's friend during the assault and later stole items from the apartment.

A 13-year-old boy told police another teen slapped him in the face and stole \$20 from his pocket behind the 7-Eleven on Farmington Road around 1:10 p.m. Feb. 6. The victim knew the assailant and his friend. After police went to one of the boys' homes, they received a call from one of the boys, who said the victim voluntarily gave him the \$20 to settle a dispute over a stolen bike.

CRACK ARREST

In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a Dearborn man, 39, after they found a rock of crack cocaine in the 1994 Dodge Intrepid he was driving on Grand River and Roosevelt around 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6. Police stopped the car for having only one headlight.

ASSAULT

In Farmington Hills:
A 21-year-old Westland man said a group of men punched him several times in the head after he got out of a 1998 Ford Mustang in the parking lot at The Alibi on Grand River around 2:10 a.m. Feb. 7. The victim got out of the car after the assailants shattered the rear window with his fists, spraying glass on the back seat occupants. The occupants and the men had been in an argument earlier.

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