

Krueger Machine closes

By SUE BUCK
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The management of H. R. Krueger Machine Tool, long a fixture in Farmington, has been able to find jobs for about half of its 68 displaced employees since closing its doors.

"These are all sorts of jobs," said Scott Moore, president. "We were able to help 20 or 30."

The company, which was located in the same building on Grand River, west of Orchard Lake Road for about 28 years, closed for business last month.

In 2000, it was listed as the ninth largest taxpayer in Farmington with a total taxable value of \$2,648,640.

The auto supplier made production machine tool and test equipment for the automotive industry.

Moore said, "We were unable to find a lending agent who would work with us. We did sales all over the world."

Moore declined to cite the amount of money needed, calling it, simply, "significant."

"The economy has been difficult," Moore said. "A sales downturn has been going on for 18 months. We were unable to find the money to continue. Lending agents

decided to tighten their lending requirements."

A skeleton crew remains on site in the building which is expected to be completely shut down next month, Moore said.

"We're selling off equipment," he said. "We won't be around much longer. There's just the three of us here."

Besides Moore, the finance employee and building maintenance employee remain.

Moore hasn't lined up a new position yet. "I'll see what opportunities are available," he said. "I'll see what the market brings."

Although Krueger was a longtime taxpayer, Farmington Assistant City Manager Bill Richards said the long-term effect and impact may involve "a reshuffling of the deck," so to speak.

"It doesn't have to be bad in terms of redevelopment," Richards said.

Southfield-based broker Signature Associates could not be reached for comment.

It's difficult to find one buyer for all of the property, Richards said. Four different lot splits are expected.

These pieces include the main office, warehouse, separate administrative offices and the car wash. Krueger owns the adjacent Super Car Wash Systems building, but doesn't operate the business, Richards said.

Hala Market offers traditional, exotic

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The welcome mat is out at Hala Mart, a new store in Farmington.

It starts with the name. Hala means "Welcome" in Arabic, according to Mike Muala, who works at the store. He came to America six years ago from Jordan.

His son, Samer, manages the store in the Nine Mile Road and Farmington shopping center.

Hala Mart offers imported Mediterranean foods and a deli. It replaces a former jewelry store in that location.

"It was our ambition to get an ethnic market in the area," Mike said. "We have a lot of families who live in the area, a lot of people originally from the Mediterranean area."

For ethnic cooks, the store represents a quicker jaunt to purchase cooking items than making a trip to Dearborn where many Middle Eastern markets are located, he said.

The Mualas have done their best to get the word out, informing many churches in the area which have congregants of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean descent through printed information.

"Middle East and Mediterranean food, in general, has its own special taste," Muala explained. It is completely different than the American taste in food.

Hala Mart offers 37 different specialties. Cumin, ground anise, sweet basil, coriander and dry lemon are among them.

"You can use cinnamon sticks when you cook red meat," Muala said. He gladly explains how different items are mixed together in ethnic dishes.

The store also offers a wide variety of pickles, including green tomato stuffed with green pepper pickles, lemon with black seed pickles, mango pickles and egg plant pickles.

Shopping here is like taking an international culinary trip. Among many features are sardines from Monaco; couscous, a North Africa dish consisting of steamed semolina served with meat and vegetables; and sabaleh, a mixture of milk, sugar and starch poured into small cups to which nuts and cinnamon are added.

"We encourage everyone to come to the store," Mike said. "The store is a very good servant to their family."

New in town: Zaher Muala offers favorites hummus and tabouli, along with more exotic fare at the Hala Market. The new business recently opened in the mall at Farmington and Nine Mile Roads.

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1. 14K Yellow	5.95	\$138	\$91	14K Yellow LVS	\$7,085	\$2,835
2. 14K Yellow	\$58	\$777	\$418	14K Yellow KSH	\$7,049	\$3,172
3. 14K Yellow	\$1,820	\$546	\$15	14K Yellow LVS	\$10,042	\$5,021
4. 14K Yellow	\$2,041	\$612	\$24	14K Yellow LVS	\$12,723	\$5,720
5. 14K Yellow	\$1,056	\$1,128	\$11	14K Yellow LVS	\$23,065	\$10,379
6. 14K Yellow	\$6,595	\$2,639	\$14	14K Yellow LVS	\$60,916	\$27,412

LAKE ORION LOCATION:	Diamond	Retail Value	NOW	Diamond	Retail Value	NOW
1. 14K Yellow	\$58	\$777	\$418	14K Yellow LVS	\$7,085	\$2,835
2. 14K Yellow	\$1,820	\$546	\$15	14K Yellow KSH	\$7,049	\$3,172
3. 14K Yellow	\$2,041	\$612	\$24	14K Yellow LVS	\$10,042	\$5,021
4. 14K Yellow	\$1,056	\$1,128	\$11	14K Yellow LVS	\$12,723	\$5,720
5. 14K Yellow	\$6,595	\$2,639	\$14	14K Yellow LVS	\$23,065	\$10,379

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