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tion that was inevitable, given the outbreak of war starting on Sunday."

With government officials estimating a 100 percent chance of enemy retaliation someplace, Maxfield said he needed to declare the moratorium. America's closest allies are susceptible, he said.

"There's about three trips planned outside of the country," Maxfield said.

Carlos Banks, a Farmington High School parent, was the only audience member to speak on the subject at Tuesday's board meeting. He urged the district to allow parents to decide.

"It's a tough decision, but we will never forget the events of Sept. 11," Banks said.

The Farmington Marching Band had a trip planned to England and Scotland. Any loss of money on the more than \$2,000 per person trip was yet to be determined, pending a discussion with the airlines on Wednesday, Banks said after the board meeting. "We may not lose that much," he said.

The travel group numbered about 100 people, including chaperones, he said.

"With the Farmington trip, as of Friday I was perfectly comfortable," Maxfield said after

**■ 'It was a decision that was inevitable, given the outbreak of war starting on Sunday.'**

**Dr. Robert Maxfield**  
—Superintendent of Schools

Tuesday's school board meeting. "The world on Monday was different than the world on Friday."

When he talked to parents, they also expressed some reluctance about travel, Maxfield added.

North Farmington High School's bus trip to Disney World is also canceled.

Travel plans are subject to change and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, Maxfield said.

Farmington School Board Member Priscilla Brouillette commended the decision but advocated a continued interest in international exposure for students, though it now might be limited to dining at international restaurants in metropolitan Detroit.

**RECREATION NEWS**

The following is a list of recreational activities offered through the city of Farmington Hills. For information about any of these events, call (248) 473-1800:

**HAUNTED HIKE STATIONS**

The Recreation Division is looking for individuals or groups interested in creating a station for the annual Halloween Haunted Hike, held Oct. 26 and 27 at Heritage Park. Contact Cathy at 473-1802. Participating groups will be paid a stipend of \$150 for participating both days.

**PARKEY'S HALLOWEEN**

Kids ages 6-10 can attend Parkey's Pumpkin Carve from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27 and kids ages 3-5 can attend

Parkey's Pumpkin Painting from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 20. The cost is \$10 per child.

**HAUNTED HIKE**

This spine-chilling, self-guided Halloween walk in the haunted hills and woodlands of Heritage Park will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 26 and 27. As you travel through the meandering trails of the park you will encounter ghosts, goblins, and other ghoulish creatures of the night. This walk is not recommended for children under the age of seven. The cost is \$5 per person, payable at the site.

**LIVE MUSIC**

The new Big Break Venue is open on selected Friday and Saturday nights at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Current scheduled concert dates are Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. All bands (alternative, jazz, rock, etc.) interested in playing can send or deliver a tape or CD to the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, Attn: BB Live Music, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. For more information call (248) 473-1805.

**OPEN GYM**

The William Costick Activities Center gym, on 11 Mile between Middlebelt and Inkster, is offering adult basketball 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sundays, adult volleyball 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays and teen basketball 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Cost for residents 17 and younger is \$2, and \$4 for non-residents; and \$3 for residents 18 and older, \$5 for non-residents.

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# P·A·R·I·S·I·A·N

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL

**Meinkes may go to court**

**By SUP BUCK STAFF WRITER**  
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The owner of a Farmington health food store is expected to appeal to Circuit Court following the Farmington Planning Commission's refusal of her site plan, a denial based on concerns about safety regarding the use of outdoor cinder block planters.

"We plan to appeal," said Christine Meinke, owner of The Tree House for Earth's Children, located on Mooney Avenue.

"What they are doing is totally wrong."

The commission has repeatedly faulted Meinke's use of cinder block planters.

Meinke and her parents, Herman and Susan, constructed urban planters in stacked, parallel rows which extend from the door of their business into the parking lot. A series of metal arches were also installed inside the blocks to grow climbing plants and herbs.

The City of Farmington ticketed the Meinkes in February for blight and improper use of construction materials. Other violations have since been added.

Judge Fred Harris, of 47th District Court, last month ordered the Meinkes back to the planning commission for one last "good-faith effort." Following that order, the Meinke family hired James Ludwig, a landscape architect, who spoke at the Oct. 8 planning commission meeting. "I am comfortable with the safety of it," Ludwig said.

Though the commission previously criticized the lack of detail in other plans, members discussed only the safety aspect in rendering their denial.

The commission asked the opinion of John Grissim, the city's consulting landscape architect, about the safety of the planters. He said it's possible the block system would deteriorate, and it isn't designed to be used in this fashion.

"They are not a safety hazard," Trombley said of the blocks. "I would advise anyone to try to move one. I wouldn't come here, and risk my life and my engineering seal to say something is safe. There is nothing in the building code which is violated."

Steel rods are inserted through the planters but not through the asphalt foundation, Meinke said.

"Then why does anybody ever mortar brick together?" asked Planning Chairwoman Terri Morency. "Common sense tells me when something gets cold it expands."

If a can is placed in the freezer, it will expand and explode," she said.

"The issue is: What is in place? Is it safe? Will it last?" Morency said. "I am not going to approve what I think is an unsafe structure."