


NAMASTÉ YOGA



# Open House



Saturday, November 10, 2001  
9 AM - 4 PM

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NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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## Residents ask for oil spill aid

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
sbuck@oc.homecomm.net

In response to a recent oil spill discovered in the Tarabusi Creek, the president of Chatham Hills Subdivision Association Friday mailed a letter to the Penske Corp. in Troy.

The group represents about 271 homes in the area of Freedom Road, Grand River, and Drake.

Some believe the spill discovered Oct. 12 can be traced to the Penske Auto Center located within the Kmart store at Grand River and Halsted.

"I am writing this letter for two reasons," said Timothy Greene, an attorney and the homeowner president. "First to let you know we are very concerned about his recent oil situation but also to let you know that, in our opinion, this was not an isolated incident. Our residents have noticed an occasional sheen on the creek many times over the last few years (although not one of the same magnitude as occurred on Oct. 12.)"

"This occasional sheen is more than what could be considered a natural runoff from nearby parking lots. We are not sure you are aware of this information and the information in the police report which indicates that it appears as though Kmart has been dumping used oil in the storm drains for the past few

years as demonstrated by a buildup of sludge within the drain itself." We feel it is necessary to bring this additional information to the Penske home office's attention. We are sure that if you (and, if necessary, Kmart) are made aware of these serious issues, as good corporate citizens and neighbors you will want to take corrective measures that need to be taken to assure this situation does not continue to occur in the future."

The homeowner's group expects a response and is willing to take the issue further, Greene said. They want assurances this won't happen again, as well as corrective action.

"A number of us expressed dissatisfaction because there were no fines nor disincentives," he said.

### A smelly situation

A group of association representatives met Thursday evening to discuss the Oct. 12 incident first discovered by resident John Tuba's 6-year-old daughter, Stephanie, about 3:30 p.m. that day. Tuba, a mechanical engineer, promptly called the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Tuba quoted his daughter: "Daddy, the creek looks like a rainbow and it is really stinky, too."

Both Greene and Tuba expressed frustration last week

and want assurances this won't happen again.

Though the Penske company paid for the cleanup, they aren't admitting responsibility. Both Penske officials and Earl Friese of the MDEQ said the conditions could be attributed to a number of sources including parking lot runoff, others dumping into the drain and other facilities in the area.

A Farmington Dept. of Public Works employee who responded determined the source to be the Penske Auto Center at Grand River and Halsted, said Kevin Gushman, Farmington director of public services.

There is a difference of opinion about the circumstances surrounding the situation from the amount of oil found to who is responsible and to what degree.

"Our 40-acre commons area with its pretty little creek is one of the most attractive features of living in the Chatham Hills subdivision," Greene continued. "As such the subdivision association is constantly attempting to enhance or otherwise improve the commons area for the sake of our residents (for example we are currently in the process of trying to raise funds for new playground equipment for our park). We are therefore greatly disturbed by anything that would jeopardize our commons area and the health and safety of our residents."

## Memorial service planned in Farmington

By SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER  
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The tree has already been planted. The marker has already been laid.

Now city of Farmington officials hope the public will join them and visiting dignitaries in a special memorial service at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at Memorial Park, located at the northwest corner of Farmington and Grand River across from Farmington City Hall.

The service will honor those who died in the Sept. 11 tragedy at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., exactly two months to the day after terrorists hijacked planes that crashed into

those buildings.

The marker reads: In memory of those lives lost; In honor of the survivors; In appreciation for so many heroic efforts; We will never forget Sept. 11, 2001.

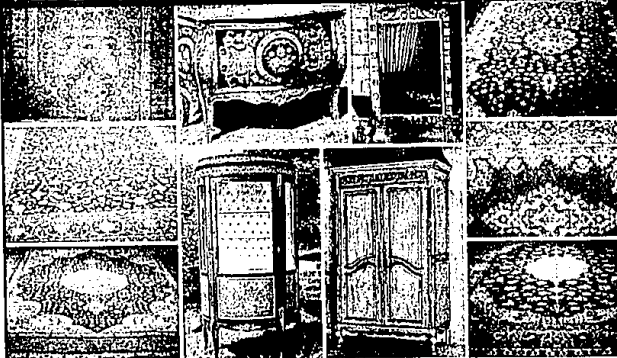
Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock will speak, and an honor guard will present the flag, with the National Anthem performed by the Farmington High School band.

Speakers include Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills), State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills), Walter Christensen, American Legion Post #346 and Corleigh Flaherty, president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The Farmington High School Band will close the ceremony.

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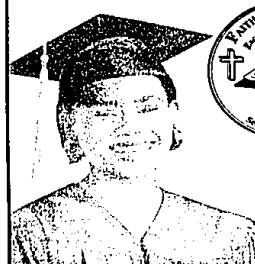
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