

City gets new businesses at Krueger Tool location

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Two businesses will move from Farmington Hills to property formerly owned by H. R. Krueger Machine Tool.

Krueger, a long-time Farmington business, closed last year. Scott Moore, president and owner, couldn't be reached for comment.

Farmington City Council Dec. 3 approved Moore's request that the 4.81-acre property be split into three parcels. The lot split was designed to improve the marketing of the property.

Recreational Leisure Corp., 30717 10 Mile, is expected to move to the main Krueger building on Grand River in mid-March. It offers both retail and wholesale parts and supplies for recreational vehicles.

Ray Michrina, owner and president, plans a mid-March move into what was Krueger's 2.37 acre industrial building and parking lot. The company has 25 employees and has been in business for 30 years.

AKT Peerless, an environmental services company, has leased space on Research Drive, plans a Feb. 1 move to a two-story office building located on Orchard Lake Road.

The company also has locations in Saginaw, Jackson and Detroit. They have 30 employees.

The adjacent car wash building on Grand River is also for sale but is expected to remain a car wash, according to Farmington City Manager Frank Laubhoff.

Michrina expects to turn over his position as president to his son, Glenn, following the move.

He said he looked at real estate for a year before settling on the location. Janet, Ray's wife, also works for the business.

"We're moving because we've outgrown our location," Ray said. "We can't add any more shelf space. Krueger is larger than what we need."

Their space will increase to 48,000 square feet, from 9,000 square feet.

The business has grown through the years, expanding from a snowmobile parts and accessories store to one which also caters to motorcyclists. He also wants to provide parts for all terrain vehicles.

Illuminating Concepts, located next door, is purchasing Michrina's building. It designs light and sound systems for shopping centers.

AKT Peerless, which has been located in Farmington Hills, will increase its space to 11,000 square feet from its present leased 6,000 square feet.

The company does environmental consulting and engineering.

It also specializes in brownfield work, according to Bob Morris, director of sales and marketing.

"It's a good location because it's close to our old office and makes it convenient for all concerned," Morris said.


Being part of a smaller community is seen as a plus, said Anthony Kashat, a principal in the company. "It's close to downtown and that's appealing to our younger professional staff."

"The building has a lot of character. It's an old fieldstone building. It gives us an opportunity to expand. It's a great community."

The properties are located in a general commercial district, and the manufacturing section of the Krueger Tool operation has been a non-conforming use, Laubhoff said.

The new uses are conforming, Laubhoff said.

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Fund-raiser blooms 'off the board'

When the Farmington Friends of the Library went to the drawing board to design their annual membership renewal campaign, they had no idea it would literally "bloom off the board."

The mission of the Friends organization is to raise funds to provide for programs, materials, equipment and services that are not available within the library's budget. So each year, the Friends work to raise that money through used book sales at the library and through increasing Friends memberships.

Rose Marie Fertig, President of the Friends, stated "This year's renewal campaign focused on recognizing individual contributors and allowing donors to honor or memorialize someone important to them. The theme selected was that of a 'Giving Tree.' Donors attached a label to a gold or silver leaf, with their name and those they wished to acknowledge, and sent that leaf in to the library with their contribution."

Bulletin boards at both libraries initially displayed a bare tree. Two months later, those trees are blooming off the boards.

"It has been wonderful to watch these trees fill with more and more leaves each day," said Bev Papai, Library Director. "Now we can hardly see the trees. We always knew there was tremendous community support for the library, but now we can actually observe and acknowledge it in a very dramatic way."

Staff members Allyson Redmon, Diane Serresaque, Sally Campbell, and Wendy Cerullo, now have to search for space on the boards to put the many more leaves that keep fluttering in to the library.

The Friends organization sponsors the Children's Summer Reading Club, Middle School Battle of the Books, Young Adult Advisory Board, Teen Read Week Mystery Party, CyberSeniors program, and many other programs for children and adults. Also, the Friends purchase books, CDs, videos, computer equipment and online resources for the library.

Once a year, in the spring, the Friends host a Gala to thank their members for their ongoing support and generosity. Last year, over 350 library supporters, turned out at the Costick Center to enjoy an evening of refreshments and entertainment by the Los Gatos Latin Jazz Group.

"Thanks to great community support," said Fertig, "our organization is growing and blooming just as are our library trees. We hope many more people will decide to 'give the gift of reading' and join the Friends of the Library!"

Membership envelopes are available at both library branches.



Leaves galore: Beverly Papai, Library Director, and Rose Marie Fertig, President of the Farmington Friends of the Library, admire the Library's "Giving Trees."

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