

## Bosch Corporation is looking for tax break in Plymouth Township

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

The Robert Bosch Corp., one of the world's largest automotive suppliers, wants to build a new research and development site in Plymouth Township and is going to need a tax abatement to do it.

Bosch received an abatement in 1998 from the City of Farmington Hills for an expansion that grew to the point where the abatement was adjusted in 2001.

Altogether, Bosch received \$2 million in abatements of real and personal property taxes over a period of six years.

In late November, the Plymouth Township board took the first step in making the same thing happen there, by approving the area where Bosch will build, at Haggerty and 5 Mile, as an Industrial Development District.

The move clears the way for Bosch to purchase the property from its current owners, MAV Development Company, and build its new facility on some 75 acres in the area.

The request, made by MAV in an Oct. 16 letter, will allow Bosch to apply for an

industrial facilities exemption certificate once negotiations for the purchase of the property are completed. The township board will hear the request for the exemption at a public hearing set for Dec. 17.

According to township officials, MAV Development had planned an office complex with space for several leases on about 60 acres, which would have left an additional 15 acres in the area available for another developer.

Instead, if the agreement between Bosch and MAV works out, Bosch will develop the entire parcel, which will actually make it less dense, according to Supervisor Steve Mann.

According to Becky McDonald, Bosch's director of communications, the automotive supplier will use the development for research, development, applications engineering, sales and as administrative offices. She couldn't say how many jobs that would bring to Plymouth Township.

"We have more employees in Farmington Hills than we have space for in the building we own in Farmington Hills," McDonald said. "We

**'We have more employees in Farmington Hills than we have space for in the building we own in Farmington Hills.'**

Becky McDonald  
Bosch spokeswoman

haven't made a decision on which division or functions would move, so I couldn't speculate on how many jobs there will be. We're doing a lot of analytical work right now."

Bosch's chances of getting the tax abatement they're looking for would seem to be pretty good. The Plymouth Township board as a general rule is favorable to such exemptions. In this case, even clerk Marilyn Massengill, who generally votes against abatements on principle, said she might be able to support this one.

"It's a lot less dense than what was being proposed there," she said. Staff writer Jon Hubred contributed to this story.

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DILL BRESTER / OBSERVER

Susan Crespo is busy making holiday decorations for clients. One of her wreaths took Best of Show in the Festival of Trees at Cobo Hall.

## Massage-a-thon proceeds to benefit Farmington Area Goodfellows

Healthy Touch Massage is hosting an eight-hour massage-a-thon on Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 8 p.m. at 32295 Grand River, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

All proceeds will be donated to the Farmington Area Goodfellows, a nonprofit organization that assists area needy families and senior citizens during the holiday season. The organization's motto is "no child or senior citizen without a Christmas."

Based on need, families and seniors receive a food box and grocery store gift certificates. Families also receive a toy box and senior citizens receive a health/home box. Suggested minimum massage-a-thon donations are \$25 for a half-hour massage and \$45 for a one hour massage.

Donations will be accepted in the form of cash or check made out to the Farmington Area Goodfellows. No credit cards, coupons or discounts can be accepted for this event.

According to Melanie Parker, owner of Healthy Touch Massage and a certified massage therapist,

**Proceeds will ... assist area needy families and senior citizens.**

"By working hand and hand with the Farmington Area Goodfellows we can help make this holiday season a happy one for Farmington families and seniors who may be encountering financial hardships. Healthy Touch massage specializes in relaxation, deep tissue, trigger point, hot stone, and Belavi Face Lift massage. Healthy Touch Massage also provides out-call therapeutic massage for guests of hotels such as the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn, the Townsend in Birmingham, and The Athenaeum in Detroit.

For an appointment call Healthy Touch Massage at (248) 426-8860.

## Woman's wreath wins honor at show

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Susan Crespo of Farmington Hills likes putting her creative talents to good use. And her skill at designing wreaths won her a best of show honor at the recent Festival of Trees event at Cobo Hall.

She's won best of show before in 1998 for the special gala that benefits Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Crespo said donating wreaths for sale to benefit the hospital makes her and

her family enjoy the holiday even more.

It's the hospital's largest fund-raiser, said Crespo, who noted didn't expect any special awards this year.

Crespo runs her own floral design business out of her home called Creation Station.

"I always loved decorating, and I picked up things and it just came naturally," she said of deciding to open her business 10 years ago.

She said helping with Festival of Trees is a wonderful tradition in her family

that includes husband Ruben, Sr., and children Ruben, Jr., Lauren, Nick and Crissy.

Festival of Trees started in 1985, and it attracts more than 300,000 visitors from Michigan, Ohio and Canada.

It is a public display of more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, a gingerbread village, wreaths, entertainment and more.

Crespo's business can be reached at (248) 478-7266.

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Nat. Russian Lynx Ct.	40,800	10,972	73%	B/A Fitch Ct.	10,700	3,662	66%
Nat. Russian Lynx 7/8 Ct.	35,000	8,829	75%	Sheared Mink Cape Ct.	10,600	3,062	71%
Nat. Stone Marten Stroller	19,500	6,125	69%	Burgundy Sheared Mink Jkt.	8,200	2,437	70%
Nat. Russian Sable Jkt.	17,000	4,887	71%	Silk Screen Blue Mink Jkt.	8,000	967	88%
Nat. Black Forest Stone Marten Ct.	17,000	4,887	71%	Nat. Russian Sable Patterned Jkt.	7,000	2,437	65%
Nat. Ranch Mink Ct.	16,000	6,492	59%	Nat. Mahogany Mink Jkt.	6,000	2,437	59%
Nat. Rovalia Mink Ct.	15,000	5,512	63%	Dyed Orange Fox Jkt.	2,275	722	68%
Black Sheared Mink Ct.	15,000	6,847	55%	Nat. Mahogany Mink Vest	2,275	967	58%

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