

Bosch marks 20th year in the Hills

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Bosch Corporation will celebrate its 20th year of automotive operations in Farmington Hills Friday.

The massive campus on Hills Tech Drive serves as the company's North American automotive headquarters, covering 410,000 square feet and employing about 1,300 people.

By comparison, at the time of its opening in 1983, the facility was only 32,000 square feet and had 35 employees.

Marc Robling, manager of engineering support and coordination, was on the company's committee to find a new headquarters site more than 20 years ago.

He said he found

Farmington Hills the best location considering its green space and offer of help from city forefathers.

"We did not want to be another high-rise building," Robling said.

A lot of factors came into the decision, but we kept coming back this is really the spot to be in."

The building has undergone several expansions since opening, most notably in 2000 when it nearly tripled in size by expanding to 260,000 square feet — a project estimated by the University of Michigan at the time to be worth about \$79 million to the state.

"Farmington Hills is a perfect location for Bosch's North American automotive headquarters," said Kurt Liedtke, chairman, president and CEO.

"Our customer relationships benefit tremendously through our ability to provide local, centralized support. We are very pleased and grateful for the city's support and look forward to continuing our long-term relationships."

The Farmington Hills campus provides integrated engineering and sales support and comprehensive research and development capabilities, including extensive product testing, software development and environmental durability studies.

The company recently received a Good Partnership award from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce for the company's support of the city through fund-raising events for the area's Community Foundation and being active in the local

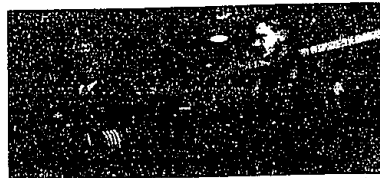
YMCA, the schools district's Community Advisory Council and Farmington Founders Festival.

Robling said the company has been a leader in designing components that are standards in vehicles today, such as fuel injected engines and anti-lock braking systems.

He said because the company's labs are in-house, the engineers get a chance to play with the products they design. "It's a great company to work for and we're known world-wide for our products," Robling said.

On Friday, employees will take some time to celebrate the occasion and hear about the building's history and the people who helped make it happen.

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Sgt. John Markey was honored last week as Farmington Hills Police Department's Officer of the Year.

OFFICER

FROM PAGE A1

The officer kept a hand in politics during his first two years of college, serving as a legislative aide, but decided becoming a cop would better meet his goal of public service.

"For me, it was hands-on helping people, besides sitting behind a desk," he said.

Dwyer noted Markey's courage and quick thinking helped resolve a domestic violence case last March.

The caller, a 27-year-old woman, was hysterical after being beaten by her husband. Officers arrived to find the woman, who was injured and bloodied from the assault, running in the street after fleeing the home. The woman said her husband had locked himself inside and was threatening to kill their three children.

Markey negotiated with the man, who at one point dangled his son out a bedroom window, threatening to shoot everyone in the room with him.

Markey convinced the man to come to the front door and seized the moment, grabbing the son and tackling the man at the same time.

Two officers were injured in the process, including Markey.

Thanks to his efforts, none of the children were physically harmed, said Dwyer.

Markey said taking care of the incident was a team effort that involved four other officers on the scene.

"There are many talented officers here, and it's a real pleasure to work with this quality of people," he said.

While Markey has served in the uniform patrol division, traffic section, the crime suppression unit and the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium, he said being on patrol is his favorite part of the job, because it gives him a chance to meet people.

The officer, who is also a member of the department's Honor Guard, is married to Beth. They have five children who are 1 to 12 years old. He said family comes first and that he owes his wife and kids credit for the support they show him. Being involved in his children's many activities and school events keeps him busy, he said. And one thing is for certain: He's glad he didn't win that seat on the village council or he probably wouldn't be where he is today.

"I would have never met my wife or worked here."

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HOME DEPOT

FROM PAGE A1

today. Its hours of operation will be 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

For contractor Bill Barry of the Farmington-based construction firm Bezte, having a Home Depot in town will save him and his co-workers a long trip to other stores.

"We had to go to Wixom," he said.

Asked why he likes the store,

Barry said convenience is the best answer. Staff member Doug Kinninger said the store employs about 130 people, most from the area.

The 95,000-square-foot store will stock about 40,000-50,000 products for home, lawn and garden needs.

"We are excited about opening in such a fantastic community like Farmington Hills," Kinninger said.

The company also touts a philanthropic budget of more than \$25 million, which is directed back to the communities Home Depot serves and

the interests of its associates through a matching gift program. The company's major focuses are affordable housing, at-risk youth and the environment.

To show support for the community, Kinninger presented a \$2,000 donation to the Farmington Hills Youth and Family Services program.

Todd Lipa, program director, said staff from the Home Depot donated their time to help rebuild the new teen center at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

"Thanks for supporting our kids," he said.

Bates, who joined other city officials in wearing the store's famous orange work aprons, said, "We're very excited to have you here."

Kinninger noted the store will have a professional contractor center where the builders can get their supplies much quicker "so you can get back to your job sites."

"We're looking forward to working with the contractors in the area," he said. "And those people who work on their homes."

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William Tyndale College

William Tyndale College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 7-9, 2003, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. William Tyndale College has been accredited by the Commission since 1988. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation and General Institutional Requirements.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to:

Public Comment on William Tyndale College
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602



Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

All comments must be received by March 7, 2003.

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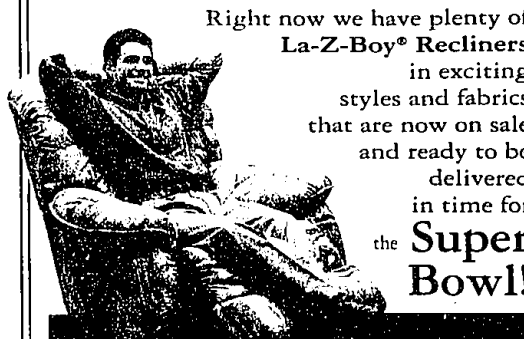
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