



Thursday, September 12, 1985 O&E

It won't be your typical office setup

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

IMAGINE CURING the office blains with a dip in the pool, 30 minutes in the exercise room or a round of golf.

Farmington Hills real estate broker Thomas Duke Jr. calls it "workstyle." And it's part of the theme behind the 80,000-square-foot, three-story office building he's developing near Halsted and Grand River.

"It's going to be an enjoyable place to work," Duke said. "We are not renting cubicles with views of walls and roads."

Expected to be completed by mid-summer 1988, the V-shaped building will overlook Independence Green apartments' 18-hole golf course.

Duke's family built the large apartment complex in the early 1960s. The family sold it in the 1970s but retained the commercial property that surrounds the complex.

A ROUND of golf will be a walk away for office tenants, who will be able to walk to the building's basement and out the back door onto the first tee.

The basement will offer men's and women's private lockers with golf clubs and shoes, Duke said.

Although Duke will provide a certain number of membership passes to his building's executive clients who want to use the nearby swimming pool, tennis courts and golf course, office employees have to buy them.

Duke considers the available recreational facilities a big draw for his new project. But he's quick to point to other pluses: "It combines a good location, excellent amenities and quality building."

WHILE THE office boom areas in the Hills are along Northwestern Highway and the 12 Mile Road corridor, Duke makes his case for the Grand River/Halsted area.

Restaurants, gas stations, motels and shops may dot the area but there's a noticeable absence of offices, Duke said.

When the building is completed, it will be the only one of its kind within a two-mile radius, he said.

Location is also a big draw for clients, who would travel only a few minutes

for access to Detroit's major freeways — I-275, I-596 and I-96.

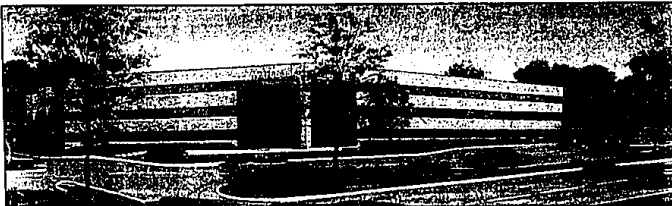
TO DATE, Duke has leased about 30 percent of the building to five clients.

Metropolitan Bank of Farmington's new headquarters will sit near the front entrance of the building. Driveup and lobby banking will be available.

Duke also plans to move his offices to the new building.

The proposed building will feature four entrances, large horizontal glass areas and a three-story lobby atrium in the building's main entrance, Duke said.

Although rent in the new building started at \$15 a square foot, it has gone up to \$15.50 to, as Duke put it, "keep up with the marketplace."



This is an artist's rendering of the Metrobank Office Center planned for the northeast corner of Grand River and Halsted in Farmington Hills.

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"It's going to be an enjoyable place to work. We are not renting cubicles with views of walls and roads."

— Thomas Duke Jr.,
real estate broker

The planned 80,000-square-foot, three-story office building — on the north side of Grand River, east of Halsted — is already 30 percent leased to five clients, according to the real estate broker.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. This column appears every other Thursday. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

• NATIONAL HONORS

Joe Neussendorfer, president of the Farmington Hills-based Masonry Institute of Michigan, has earned the national "Rebuilding America Award."

As an award winner, Neussendorfer joins others who have helped increase awareness of the need for repair and maintenance of Michigan's and the nation's decaying roads, bridges and public buildings.

The awards program is sponsored by CIT Corp., the nation's leading source of dollars for business and industry.

In addition to awarding a plaque, CIT will make a cash donation on behalf of the winner to the Road Information Program. That Washington-based, non-profit research and information agency is supported by highway-related industries and other organizations with an interest in better and safer roads.

Neussendorfer is a member of the Governor's Infrastructure Task Force, a member of Pontiac's Builders Appeal & Zoning Boards, and a promoter of masonry construction in Michigan.

• HE'S PROMOTED

Thomas Doyle of Farmington Hills was promoted to audit associate at Southfield-based Plante & Moran, certified public accountants and management consultants.

Doyle is experienced in all phases of accounting and auditing, as well as in tax-return preparation for all types of businesses and individuals.

• CALENDAR FOR KIDS

A new calendar to help children ages 3-8 learn about the important concepts of time has been published by Us, Too of Ann Arbor.

The Children's Four Seasons Calendar features songs, poems and drawings about the months and seasons.

Children are encouraged to mark on and color the calendar in a number of ways to help them understand how days and seasons fit together. Stickers are included to mark special events.

A section of the calendar gives parents and teachers a monthly list of suggested reading books about seasons and holidays.

Alan Heathblom, the calendar's creator and Us, Too's founder, said he developed the calendar while teaching his then 3-year-old daughter about the passage of days and weeks.

The concept behind Us, Too is to promote learning in children about the world around them. It's also to encourage parents to share in that learning.

For a copy of the calendar, send a check for \$2.50 (\$7 for the calendar, \$1.50 for postage and handling)

to: Us, Too, 3352 Williamsburg, Ann Arbor 48104.

• OU SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the efforts of the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce's Council on Small Enterprise (COSE), two \$700 scholarships are available to selected Oakland University seniors specializing in business-related fields.

Ronald Horwitz, dean of the School of Economics and Management, accepted a check on OU's behalf. COSE is dedicated to providing quality educational programs that offer businesses a chance to keep abreast of new technology and methods.

Reeves credits Michael Gidings of H.L. Gedrich & Associates, Bloomfield Hills, and Richard Balamucki of Capital Analysts Inc., Troy, with developing the scholarship program and initiating the fund-raising through a series of seminars featuring well-known motivational speakers.

The scholarships are available to OU seniors who are Oakland County residents and to Oakland County Chamber of Commerce members and their families.

Interested students should contact Gladys Rapoport, OU's director of financial aid, Rochester Hills 48063.

"As an organization dedicated to improving the business climate in Oakland County, we feel that it is important to assist and encourage young people in preparing to enter our free enterprise system," said Earl Kreps, Oakland County Chamber of Commerce president.

• AD FIRM NAMED

Tractech, manufacturer of positive traction differentials for the off-highway, industrial and off-road markets, has appointed Thompson Advertising Productions (TAP) of Farmington Hills as agency of record.

TAP will assist in the development of advertising, marketing support and other promotional materials for the firm's original equipment manufacturer and aftermarket sales.

• WORD PROCESSING

A word processing course for beginners on the Wang system, which helps increase both new job opportunities and office productivity, will start at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 at Oakland University, Rochester Hills.

Conducted by OU's Division of Continuing Education, the hands-on course will be taught by Wang Systems analyst and trainer Mary Rice.

The four-session course will meet 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 3 and 10, and for four-hour labs Saturdays, Oct. 5 and 12.

The office-oriented course will provide experience in text editing, personalizing form letters, copying, printing exercises and filing on diskettes. Tuition is \$90. Call OU to register: 370-3120.

• DEAN'S LIST

Carol Leonard of Farmington was named to the winter-semester dean's list in the Wayne State University School of Business Administration, Detroit.

Round the Clock fall sale



A sale like this not only comes around twice a year, it comes around at the right time of the year. Like now. When your fall wardrobe needs the right pair of hose. Come to our Round the Clock® sale and find the perfect fit, color and style for you. For example. Nude n' Naughty pantyhose, reg. \$3.50, sale 2.90. Control top pantyhose, reg. \$4, sale 3.30. Sheer Radiance pantyhose, reg. 4.25, sale 3.50. Givency Body Smoothers, reg. \$7, sale 5.90. Silky Silhouettes pantyhose, reg. 4.25, sale 3.50. Silky Silhouettes Control top pantyhose, reg. 4.75, sale 3.95. Fit For Me pantyhose, reg. \$4, sale 3.30. Fit For Me Control top pantyhose, reg. 4.50, sale 3.75. Made in the USA. Sale ends September 29. Women's History.

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