

# Christmas Walk scheduled for Sunday

**'It will really be a big open house, and an opportunity for people to see what downtown Farmington has to offer for the holidays.'**  
— Wendy Strip Sittsamer  
DDA executive director

**By Casey Hans**  
staff writer

Holiday carols, hot refreshments, local actors dressed in Dickens-era garb and general merriment will be the order of the day Sunday, as merchants and civic groups invite the community to an "open house" for downtown Farmington.

Eighteen merchants throughout the downtown will participate in this year's second annual Christmas Walk, scheduled from noon to 5 p.m., when stores will be open and com-

munity and school groups will entertain visitors with holiday music and skits of classic Christmas plays.

Most everyone agrees extra coordinating for this year's launch of the holiday season has brought more excitement to the downtown.

"There are a lot more activities involved," said Sara Beck-Hart of the Rocking Horse, who is coordinating the event. "And we're doing praying for good weather."

Trees will be lighted, 22 festive

red banners will line the streets, and windows will be decorated in preparation for the holiday season, which traditionally begins just after Thanksgiving.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT**  
Authority director Wendy Strip Sittsamer is working with other downtown groups in coordinating Sunday's efforts.

The DDA, the Downtown Farmington Business Association, the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, Farmington

High School, the Farmington Jaycees and the Farmington Players are just a few of the groups participating in events in addition to merchants.

"I think we're trying to create a holiday atmosphere," Strip Sittsamer said. "It will really be a big open house, and an opportunity for people to see what downtown Farmington has to offer for the holidays."

Deejay John Marshall from WOMC-FM will be in town with the station's mascot, WOMCEE.

Marshall will be one of three judges for the merchant window decorating contest, where winners will be selected in two categories for the best window or facade decorating treatment.

Top place winners will each receive \$1,000 in free advertising on WOMC.

Winners will be announced sometime during the Christmas Walk in the fountain area of the Downtown Farmington Center, Strip Sittsamer said. Other judges include Farmington

ton councilman and former mayor William Hartsock and Farmington Beautification Committee chairwoman Carol Kurth.

**TWENTY-THREE** businesses are participating in this year's window decorating contest, Strip Sittsamer said.

Instrumental and vocal music students from Farmington High School will wander throughout the district performing seasonal carols.

The Farmington Players will be dressed in Dickens-era costumes doing skits, plus members of this group will be on hand for children who want to visit with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Frosty the Snowman and Mrs. Frosty.

Last on the agenda for the day is the annual Jaycee Tree Lighting, held at the Farmington Historical Museum just west of the downtown crossroads. The lighting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. It will include a candlelight ceremony, caroling and refreshments at the museum carriage house.

# Appeal dropped due to illness

**By Bob Sklar**  
staff writer

A Korean-born woman convicted of soliciting at the now-closed Kim's Spa, an Oriental health spa in Farmington Hills, has dropped her appeal because of a "serious medical condition," her attorney said.

In a related ruling, her jail term was suspended.

Tae Sun Matteson, 36, was among four women and one man convicted April 14, 1986, by a six-member jury in the 47th District Court, Farmington.

"There are some medical circumstances now present that weren't present at the time of the original sentencing," said Matteson's appeal attorney, Ronald Pentz of Bloomfield Hills.

"My decision to drop the appeal was exclusively based on my client's current medical condition."

Matteson was found guilty of one count of prostitution, two counts of loitering in a place of ill repute, two counts of engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and two counts of aiding and abetting — all misdemeanors.

On June 2, 1986, District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington sentenced Matteson to 90 days in jail and ordered her to pay \$500 in fines and court costs. Four days later, Pentz told Oakland County Circuit Court he was considering an appeal.

**APPEARING BEFORE** Schaeffer Oct. 13, Pentz voluntarily dropped the appeal. At his request, the judge reconsidered Matteson's sentence and suspended the jail term.

"She hasn't had any contact with the police in over a year," Schaeffer said Tuesday. "She has married and resides with her husband and child in Canton, is the manager of a restaurant in Oak Park, isn't involved in any illegal business enterprises and

goes to church regularly. Her husband has had the same employer for 28 years."

She also has been treated for psychological stress in light of the jail sentence, the judge said.

"I think she got the message that this sort of activity isn't tolerated," Schaeffer said. "I felt what occurred in the past was not likely to occur again, at least with her."

"I felt incarceration would serve no good purpose. I felt it would interfere with further rehabilitation."

The sentence had been stayed pending appeal. Matteson had been free on bond. She still must pay the fines and court costs.

**FARMINGTON HILLS** Special Patrol Operational Team (SPOOT) members raided five Oriental health spas Oct. 7-8, 1985, after a six-week investigation of neighbors' complaints that sex-related offenses were occurring at the storefront spas.

The raids led to the arrest of one Korean-born man, one Japanese-born woman and 15 Korean-born women on soliciting-related charges. All 17 either pleaded no contest or were convicted at jury trials, said Sgt. Al Hawner, SPOOT commander.

During the raids, police also ticketed seven men for loitering in a place of illegal occupation.

The Michigan State Police, the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service are investigating if there's any connection between the local spas and an Asian-based international prostitution ring, Farmington

Hills police said.

The five Oriental spas operating in Farmington Hills in 1985 were closed after either the police raids or the court proceedings.

In March 1986, Farmington Hills' tough new massage regulation ordinance took effect. Violation is a misdemeanor that upon conviction carries a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.



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