

# Many tenants at mall close

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Farmington Hills said, "For what we were doing, the location was a wise choice." She hasn't found a new location yet for her first business venture, which closed Saturday.

"I didn't want to pursue it during December," she said.

Basil Stavropoulos of Farmington Hills and restaurant manager Janet McCre of Farmington Hills were making their last croissant and French sandwiches at Cafe Francophile Friday.

"I was the fourth person to open here in Tally Hall (eight years ago)," Stavropoulos said, adding he saw the roller coaster ride of business ups and downs.

He feels promoting Tally Hall could have improved business. "I still think it's a good concept — it could have made it."

Stavropoulos has been in the food service business for 10 years. He plans a full-service restaurant in the Farmington Hills area.

His clientele will follow him. "All our customers are asking us where we're going," he said. "We have 350-400 names and addresses on our mailing list already."



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Preparing croissants at Cafe Francophile in Tally Hall are Bossie Kanaras of Detroit, manager Janet McCre of Farmington Hills and owner Basil Stavropoulos of Farmington Hills.

COREY FARRIS of Farmington, owner of the Haagen-Dazs ice cream shop, however, doesn't know where he'll be going.

Farris said he borrowed \$80,000 to buy the business in August, and now is being offered 10 cents on the dollar to sell out his lease.

"I borrowed \$80,000, and they're (the Schostaks) giving me \$5,000," Farris said.

In all honesty, though, he said, "they did make an amendment in the lease: They said, 'We're going to

bring an anchor (store) in,' but they said they didn't know what or when. Then, three months later, they know all the answers!"

Farris said he'd like to stay in the area, but without the festival food court, "there's no business to draw."

Honey Tree owner Thomas Goulas is one tenant who plans to stay. He's already in negotiations with Schostak to relocate to the southeast corner of the converted Tally Hall.

Goulas, in the restaurant business for 15 years, formerly had another

restaurant on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

"It's always been very busy here," he said of his Tally Hall location. "It was number one for several years." He said he'll stay "as long as they can let me." He plans to be open during the mall's renovation.

"I do have a lot of customers who want to know," he said.

The enlarged Hunters Square "will present the right balance of fashion, specialty stores and promotional retailers," Schostak said last month.

# School finance reform fallout could hurt DDA

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman warned his counterparts on the Downtown Development Authority this week that impending school finance reform could affect financing for the on-going downtown redevelopment project.

He said he was not overly concerned because some of the project is being tackled with private dollars, but cautioned the board against spending any large, non-budgeted amounts.

"(School finance reform) has me a little bit concerned," Deadman said Tuesday, as DDA members debated whether to expand the second phase of the five-year, \$1.4 million streetscape project. "If (school) funds are reduced, . . . DDAs are affected by that. Those revenues are gone forever."

"I don't want to get too far over our heads, unless you folks are aware of the risk. A change could affect our ability to finance this project in its entirety."

DEADMAN'S COMMENTS came as DDA directors considered and approved the second phase of the downtown Farmington rejuvenation project, which is funded by a method called "tax increment financing." The second phase will cost about

\$132,000, according to estimates given by city planner Christopher Wzacny.

Under a TIF plan — like the one in Farmington — dollars generated by increased property values are captured for a certain period of time in a designated district. This money is used to finance the downtown redevelopment project.

As the state legislature broke for the holidays, state officials were on the verge of revamping the way schools in Michigan are financed to equalize money going to all districts. The issue is expected to remain at the top of the legislative agenda in 1989; local school officials have said they expect reform to occur either through the legislative system or the courts.

It will particularly affect taxing entities like Farmington Public Schools where the bulk of the general fund comes from local property taxes. Any school reform package will likely lower property taxes, thus affecting authorities such as the DDA.

WITH DEADMAN'S warning in mind, and on the recommendation of planner Wzacny, the DDA board voted to start the project's second phase conservatively. It will extend along Farmington Road from State

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John Engler  
State Senator

## Senate leader Engler to address local GOP

State Sen. John Engler, majority leader in the Michigan State Senate, will address the Farmington Republican Club at its annual meeting Friday, Jan. 13.

The meeting will be held at the Boisford Inn dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m., following a social hour.

The annual meeting also features election of officers for 1989, says Jean Fox, club president. Chairing

the nominating committee is county commissioner Donna Wolf, with Chris Stiehl and Julie Pulgini assisting. A special club presentation will be made to Sandy Brotherton, who represented Farmington/Farmington Hills for 14 years in the Michigan House.

Reservations are to be made with Shirley Wolf, 477-5088, before Sunday.

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Ten semi-finalists will be selected to compete on stage in the mall, Saturday, January 21, at 6 pm.

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