

# For sale: Botsford owner drops price

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ing with McNabney & Associates of Bloomfield Hills.

THE SALES offer comes at a time when both commercial and residential real estate markets are tight, and when the hotel and motel industry in general is facing an abundance of rooms and not enough customers. Also, larger hotel chains aren't interested in maintaining the history of the local property, he said, and consider the inn on the city's south-east side a small operation.

"There's no doubt we're overbuilt," Anhut said of the industry. "You're selling a room for less than you were five years ago and you can imagine how the overhead has grown."

Still some businesses, like wedding receptions, have remained strong and Anhut said he is hopeful the economy will turn around soon.

"I'm optimistic — I think we're going to bounce out of it," he said.

Maureen Brassert, a sales associate with McNabney & Associates who is marketing the property, said he would like to sell to an Anhut clone.

"It needs a hands-on manager," he said. "I think we need an innkeeper like John Anhut. Someone who walks the halls and loves it."

Brassert said he is seeking out specialty concerns, like catering businesses and bridal salons, in addition to talking with other hotel and inn owners and entrepreneurs who might be interested in buying the Botsford.

THE ANHUT family bought the building in 1951 from Henry Ford's

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— Jean Fox  
historian

family for a five-percent, \$225,000 land contract. John Anhut got involved in the business to support himself while attending law school, and has stayed with it. He operated hotels in Detroit before coming to Farmington Hills, and maintains contact with clients from over the years who visit the Botsford.

Local historians are watching the inn's sale listing with interest, since it is a historical landmark in the community and is listed on both the state and national historic registers. It has 68 rooms, three apartments, 10 banquet rooms and a 100-seat restaurant.

"We just would like to see anybody with an interest in history — somebody as wonderful as he (Anhut) is," said Ruth Moehlman, who chairs the Farmington Hills Historic District Commission. "It is such an asset to the community."

There is little the local history community can do, except offer its support and encourage a private investor to come forward to keep this bit of local history, said Jean Fox, a local historian and former mayor who wrote a book on the his-

tory of the inn.

"I think this is one of the treasures of the Farmington-Farmington Hills area," Fox said. "I feel that it is in the interest of both communities that this operation keep going for another 150 years."

"I think the community has to be aware this is a crucial time for this landmark."

HISTORIC REGISTER listings do not ensure the future of buildings like the inn, say those at the Michigan Department of State.

"If we knew about a sale where there would be some kind of adverse impact, we would talk to them, of course," said Robert Christensen, national register coordinator for the state. "There (are) no legal restrictions as to what can or can't be done."

The only threat the state or federal government has, he said, is to revoke the designation.

Laurey Ashlee, state register coordinator for the state, said the designation is considered only honorary, entitling them to a historic marker.

# Two men arraigned in coach's murder

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ington Hills bar and never returned home, according to Farmington Hills police.

Bud Moore and Farmington Hills police did not receive word of Moore's death until New Year's Day. Moore apparently was not immediately identified by Detroit police because he was found without identification.

IT IS BELIEVED Moore was killed while being robbed of his coat and car, although Detroit police would not elaborate on details of the incident.

Funeral services for Moore were Monday. Burial followed in North Farmington Cemetery on Farmington Road.

Moore was a 1988 North Farmington High School graduate and

member of the Raider football team. He also was a well-known coach for the North Farmington-West Bloomfield Viking recreation football program for youngsters, as well as the North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball league.

Moore completed two years at Oakland Community College and was working toward an education degree at Wayne State University, said Mike Heath, president of the Vikings.

In Moore's memory, the Viking organization and the North Farmington-West Bloomfield baseball league are accepting donations for the Cary Moore Scholarship Fund.

The goal is to provide two scholarships annually for kids interested in football and baseball. For more information, call Heath at 737-4118.

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He is a 1987 graduate of Farmington High School and a 1991 graduate of Eastern Michigan University.

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