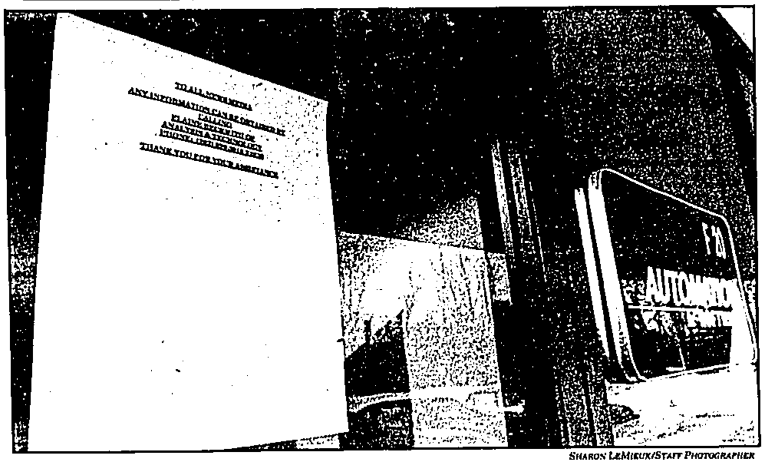

Message to the media: *A note taped to the door of Automation Software Inc. in Farmington Hills directed questions to a Connecticut publicist.*

SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mexico *from page 1A*

Those factors and doubts about the plausibility of a story of bandits capturing McCarthy and his business colleague Ed Hughes have caused FBI investigators and Mexican authorities to turn their attention to Hughes as a suspect.

Hughes, who reported the "kidnapping/murder" after he had returned to his Rhode Island home, was still at large and wanted for questioning Friday afternoon.

Sign deflects questions

A sign taped to the door of the Farmington Hills business referred all media inquiries to another parent company of Automation Software in Connecticut. An employee answered the locked door but said all questions would have to be handled from the Connecticut office.

A press release issued by Analysis and Technology Inc. in Connecticut said McCarthy had been "on business."

"We're still covering all leads," said FBI special agent Hank Glaspie from the bureau's Detroit office.

Davis' company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tremec, which is in historic Queretaro, a city of more than 1 million people about 125 miles northwest of Mexico City.

■ 'It's (the area by the freeway near Queretaro where McCarthy's body was found) very busy. It's a freeway with trucks, people, police. And it's a toll road, so there is a lot of security, and people are watching.'

Carlos Cuadriello
Mexican consul in Detroit

It is where the Mexican Constitution was written and where the ruler of Mexico, Maximilian, was executed in 1867. It hosted a major PGA senior golf tournament last week.

"It's an unfortunate stereotype," said Davis, a Novi resident, of stories about dangers in Mexico. "There have been isolated problems in the north, but I've never heard of anything like this before in Queretaro."

Cuadriello, who has been in Detroit for the past three years, said this is the first problem he's heard of in Queretaro. He added that he's not concerned that any stereotype will hurt his country's image.

"There are stereotypes for every country in the world," he said. "I think any serious person will not believe it."

Mexico is important

The North American Free Trade Agreement aside, Mexico is an important trading partner with Michigan, he said. The Mexican Consulate in Detroit issues about 6,000 permits a year for Michigan concerns wanting to trade or do business with Mexico, Cuadriello said.

Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, said she has not heard of any problems among local business people traveling to Mexico, either for business or vacation.

"My husband and his mother, who is from Mexico, just got back from there," she said. "Except for a little Montezuma's revenge, they had no problems."

Davis, whose company manufactures power trains for automotive companies in both countries, said NAFTA will probably benefit both countries over the long term, and especially Michigan and the United States in the short term.

"If it's made in the U.S.A., most Mexicans want it," he said. "I see McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and other restaurants more and more. I'm waiting for them to open a Taco Bell," he quipped.

Davis said that still does not lessen the tragedy for McCarthy's family.

"It's important to remember that someone lost a father and a husband," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

'Wonderful' husband was 'great' dad

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Shock waves rocked Brian McCarthy's neighborhood and the schools his children attend after the West Bloomfield man was found slain in Mexico.

Brian McCarthy

The 40-year-old McCarthy, president and CEO of Automation Software Inc. in Farmington Hills, was described as a devoted husband and parent and someone who — despite the demands of his job — found the time to chit-chat with neighbors.

McCarthy's survivors include his wife, Clara (who goes by the nickname Tiki); a son, Anthony; and daughters Jessica and Allison. The funeral service was scheduled for 11 a.m. today at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple Road in Birmingham.

"He was a wonderful person; it's a wonderful family," said Kathy Sheiko, principal at Green Elementary School in West Bloomfield, where Allison McCarthy attends the fourth grade. ". . . They're the kind of kids, and the kind of parents, that every principal and every teacher would love to have. It's a tragedy."

Sheiko said news of the killing "has devastated us at Green. It's hard to make children understand when people are taken away in such a violent manner." Students were informed of the death on Wednesday, she said. Despite the tragedy, Allison briefly attended school Thursday morning, according to Sheiko.

Helping the family

Although they might not have fathomed why the popular executive met such a terrible fate, Allison's classmates made their actions speak louder than words in attempts to console her. According to district spokeswoman Polly Friend, on Thursday they made Allison her favorite meal — lasagna, with salad — and delivered it to the McCarthys' stately brick home, where the family has lived for five years.

"And the parents also are organizing a meal program, so three times a week meals will be delivered to them," Friend said.

At Abbott Middle School, where Jessica attends the seventh grade, students were spoken to individually by principal Teri Giannetti, teachers and counselors, and given an opportunity to "talk about the incident and their feelings," Friend said. Others dealt with their grief by making sympathy cards.

The family's oldest child, Anthony, attends a private school in Birmingham.

Education was nearly as important to Brian McCarthy as his family and his profession.

According to Sheiko, McCarthy and his wife would always be "in and out" of the school for various functions. They were active in the Green PTO and, neighbor Walter Zelinsky said, once had school

See SHOCK, 4A

Hills won't dump Dumpster ordinance, despite trashing

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills policy aimed at beautifying the city by screening trash bins is either impractical or hasn't been enforced enough, depending on who you talk to.

Several businessmen made the case at a city council study session Feb. 7 that the ordinance, which took effect Sept. 1, 1993, was costly, impractical and made the situation even worse at their businesses.

"The screening of the Dumpsters has been a disaster," said David Miles, a developer and owner of four buildings where the trash bins must be screened. "This has made more of a nuisance than the Dumpsters themselves."

Dale Countegan, the city's director of planning and community development, said the ordinance had been proposed to beautify the city and control litter. But the city has received about 3,000 letters about the trash bins from property owners, tenants and businesses affected. The city has the option of strongly enforcing the ordinance, modifying it or rescinding it, he said.

"We initiated a survey and found that about 75 percent of those contacted in Sections 35 and 36 were in compliance," Countegan said.

There were supporters of the ordinance, adopted in November of 1992, as well.

"I'm tired of looking at other people's trash," said Betty Cook. "If they can find some way where I don't have to clean up trash blowing on my property, then that's OK (to change the ordinance)," said resident John Ellis.

But several businessmen asked that the ordinance be either changed or scrapped. Dan Andrew, a Troy developer with apartments in Farmington Hills, said it costs from $4,900 to $6,300 for each to build and maintain.

"This is a cost we're paying after the fact," he said. "It would be different for a new business that knows this going in."

The ordinance requires a permanent building wall, obscuring wall, solid fencing or earth mound that is not less than 6 feet tall or at least 1 foot higher than the enclosed trash bin.

Miles said that he has had to replace gates, at $100 a crack, on the new enclosures because the trash haulers break them when they empty the trash bins.

"I complain and they (trash haulers) just laugh at me," Miles said.

City manager Bill Costick said the city would look into Miles' complaint but would enforce the ordinance.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith said developers could afford the cost of maintaining the screened trash bins.

"If churches and small businesses can afford this I think a developer . . . should be able to scrape together the money," she said.

The ordinance was not designed to add unnecessary costs for doing business in Farmington Hills, but served as a benefit for those very businesses, councilwoman Nancy Bates said.

"Ordinances like this are the reason businesses come here," Bates said.

Costick said there were special circumstances where the trash bins couldn't be screened at certain locations, but he added that the ordinance should be enforced at those businesses not complying in fairness to the majority that are complying.

The council also discussed using part of the proceeds from Community Development Block Grant Program loan repayments to the city for capital projects.

The grant program involves two types of low cost loans, sometimes in conjunction with grant money, to fix up housing in the city. The money, which comes through a federal grant/loan program, is repaid to the city, not the federal government. The city then uses the money for other qualified home improvements.

There is a surplus in that fund that could be used for needed capital improvements including the Linden storm drain improvement (Section 26), resurfacing and drainage improvement, Fendt Drainage Improvement (Section 33), Grand River/Eight Mile Road right of way and sidewalk improvement (Section 36) and the Grayling drainage improvement (Section 36), Countegan said.

The council also discussed an alarm ordinance revision that would place criminal sanctions on violators who don't pay outstanding balances for false alarms. Southfield has already enacted such a policy that eliminates the cost and time problems with taking the cases through district court.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council regular meeting
Farmington Hills City Hall, 474-6115
7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14

Agenda items include:

■ Consideration of Liberty Avenue vacation between Hancock Avenue and Waldron Avenue in the Richland Gardens subdivision, Section 36.

■ Review of police department liquor enforcement operations.

■ Consideration of introduction of ordinance providing for cable system customer service standards.

■ Consideration of approval of contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for installation of Sydney Coordinated Adaptor Traffic System on Orchard Lake Road north to Walnut Lake.

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