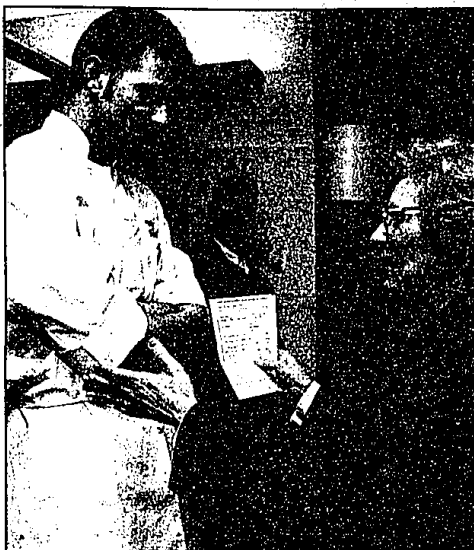


Taste of Farmington's business



Getting the business: About 375 people visited the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Farmington & Table Top Business Expo Tuesday at Michigan National Bank. Dozens of restaurants served their specialties, such as Thai Kitchen owner Chee Yang, above, who serves Paul Blizman of Farmington Hills. Businesses showing their wares included Jim Jablonski, lower right, of AirTouch Cellular, which offered free air time; below left, Denise Bowen of Whimsical Baskets of Farmington Hills talks with Botsford Hospital volunteers Adele Gartner and Norma Hubenschmidt; and, top left, Macaroni Grill chef Tom Yoakam gets his spine checked by Sandy Kresh of Health Awareness Institute, a non-profit organization.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRADLEY LARSEN



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Bond from page A1

Farmington schools said will be done. Welayd argues that's a bookkeeping issue.

"The reality is we will defer the payments on the buildings on the capital projects until this \$23 million is already paid," Welayd said.

Computers would not be purchased all at once, school officials said.

Instead new machines are going to be brought in during a three-year period, allowing the district to rotate in the latest technology with the newest software.

Older machines will be used for word processing, text-based research and keyboard instruction, Jones said.

Outdated computers are not a problem. The computer industry has hit a plateau, said the district purchasing supervisor.

"What we're seeing is increased speed and memory," Paul Hain said. "We haven't seen where that would lead us to upgrade on a year-to-year basis."

Another issue is whether the district should lease computers.

Walled Lake School District leases computers for its students. Cost for a five-year lease can be twice as much as buying them outright, Hain said.

"The only problem is that it is a cost issue in the long run," Hain said.

A fiber optic network is not a

frill expense either, officials said.

Wiring would allow high speed voice, data and video transmission

throughout the district's 25 school buildings and seven support facilities. That would enhance access to the Internet and allow for more distance learning programs, which is done through remote video hookups in classrooms.

Novi School District has a fiber optic network in place.

The district has its hardware and software available at a faster rate through the network. Fiber optics also allows instructional videos to be downlinked from the Oakland Intermediate School District and off satellites, a Novi school official said.

Distance learning is also possible, but Novi hasn't explored that yet.

"We hope to one of these days," said Rita Traynor, Novi schools' assistant superintendent for instruction. "Maybe we can interact with Farmington."

The Farmington district spent \$3.24 million during the past two years on its "Stepping into the Future with Technology" program, which included Internet access and new computers.

The current network, though, uses leased T-1 lines.

"They're great for where we are right now," Jones said. "But it's just that if we utilize everything to the maximum, we're going to choke."

"We'd have to acquire more and more bandwidth."

Leasing existing fiber optic lines from telephone or cable companies is not feasible because of costs involved.

"It would be a high operational expense instead of a one-time capital improvement cost," Jones said.

Increased transmission speed of wide area network.

Provide fiber optic wide area network connecting 26 school buildings and 7 support buildings in the district for high speed/volume data, voice and video transmission.

TOTAL: \$5,158,593

OTHER ITEMS

Video access, TV-10 and distance learning

Add TV monitor and VCR to instructional areas that do not already have data and video access.

Add headend to middle schools and high schools for cable TV access by classroom and in-school channel in secondary schools without this access.

Upgrade TV-10 and its production truck.

Upgrade existing distance learning rooms in each high school and add 4 new distance learning rooms.

TOTAL: \$1,177,767

Increased capacity of every building network (including servers, switches, concentrators) to accommodate increased access, speed and volume of data/voice.

TOTAL: \$13,668,876

GETTING CONNECTED

Building infrastructure

Provide cabling infrastructure within each of 25 schools and 7 support buildings to provide for new instructional areas.

Increased computer access in existing instructional areas.

Connection to TV monitor for data and video display.

Hills crashes send 2 to hospital — 1 is officer

A Redford police officer is in critical but stable condition at Botsford General Hospital after his car rolled over off M-5 east of Haleside March 12.

The driver, John Morgan, 32, was on his way to roll call when his eastbound 1997 Nissan Altima went off the road, struck a tree and landed upside down. The accident took place between 6:10-6:25 a.m., but there were no witnesses and Farmington Hills police are still investigating.

In another accident, a Farmington man, 38, was injured Thursday morning at 11 Mile and Grand Lake.

David John Kokko of Farmington was on his Harley-Davidson motor cycle, stopped behind a car driven by Alan William Rushid, 30, that was stopped at the red light on eastbound 11 Mile at 8:20 a.m.

The motorcycle stopped but was hit from behind by a red 1991 Subaru driven by Susan Jean Patton, 46, of Farmington Hills. Both Rushid and Patton were wearing seat belts and were not injured.

Kokko was taken to Botsford General Hospital where he was treated and released.

Patton was ticketed for failure to stop in an assured clear distance.

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Patton was ticketed for failure to stop in an assured clear distance.

AGENDAS

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

Farmington Hills City Council

Study session

Lower level conference room

Farmington Hills City Hall

8 p.m. Monday, March 17

Agenda items include:

■ Presentation of a proposed motor carrier enforcement program.

Farmington Hills City Council

City Hall, 474-8115

Regular meeting

Council chambers

7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17

Agenda items include:

■ Presentation by police Chief Bill Dwyer on a proposed alcohol/tobacco abuse ordinance and underage "reasonable cause" alcohol consumption ordinance.

■ Consideration of setting a study session meeting date with the parks and recreation commission to discuss a millage renewal.

■ Consideration of adoption of a resolution in support of an act to assess a service fee to enhance

and maintain 9-1-1 service and delivery in Oakland County.

Farmington City Council

City Hall, 474-5500

8 p.m. Monday, March 17

Agenda items include:

■ Consider participating in purchasing consortium to buy Advance Mobile Operation Simulators for public safety department.

■ Set public hearing before city council April 7 on Class C liquor license application process.

■ Consider adopting similar liquor control "zero tolerance" law.

Farmington Public Schools

Board of Education

Schulman Center, 489-3300

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18

Agenda items include:

■ Recognitions of teachers of the year: Carl Gippert, Karen Green and Dolores Harris; support staff person of the year, Delphine Jablonski; Teaching team of the year, Karen Green, Patti Merritt, Jan Griebel and Sheila Gappy; and parent of the year, Madeline Carlson.

■ Harrison/TRW partnership presentation



Write on: Lanigan fifth graders Shelly Knoche, left, and Stephanie Pappas compute.

Here's the price tags for technology

MORE COMPUTER ACCESS

Elementary schools

■ Increase computer access in every elementary classroom by 3 computers.

■ Increase computer access in every elementary school for the average-sized classroom: 25 computers in a lab (or on carts if lab space is limited), 10 computers in media center, 4 multimedia production computers, 5 computers in office or shared access areas for staff.

Middle schools

■ Increase computer access in every middle school classroom by 1 computer.

■ Increase computer access in every middle school with: 8 carts with 7 laptops to be shared by teaching teams, 25 computers in the media, 3 labs of 25 computers, 8 multimedia production computers, and 10 computers in office or shared access area for staff.

High schools

■ Increase computer access in every high school with: 40 computers in the media center, 4 labs with 30 computers, 1 portable lab consisting of 7 or 8 laptop computers on four carts, 10 multimedia production computers and 20 computers in office or shared access areas for staff.

Data/voice distribution

■ Increase capacity of every building network (including servers, switches, concentrators) to accommodate increased access, speed and volume of data/voice.

TOTAL: \$13,668,876

GETTING CONNECTED

Building infrastructure

Provide cabling infrastructure within each of 25 schools and 7 support buildings to provide for new instructional areas.

Increased computer access in existing instructional areas.

Connection to TV monitor for data and video display.

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