

Farmington Observer

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Thursday, February 28, 2002

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Authority: How state lawmakers vote on a proposed airport authority could determine what kind of mark County Exec Ed McNamara and Gov. John Engler leave on the facility./A8

ARTS

Fine selection: Viewers of this year's Michigan Fine Arts Competition probably will walk away shocked, but that's exactly what juror Nick Cave had in mind when he selected work for the upcoming exhibition./B1

AT HOME

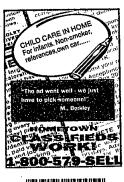
Carved in Michigan: Woodworkers from the metro-Detroit area are once again busily preparing for their upcoming showcase to benefit ill children,Wood 2002, March 10 at the Livonia Senior Center./C1

HOMETOWN LIFE

Watching you: Images of local private investigators vary from the gumshoe with his feet up on a desk, smoking a cigar in a dreary office, to high-tech spies./C4

Reaching out: Special Writer Ruth Moehlman looks Black history and the important part Farmington played in the story./C4

Apartments/Q5 Arts/B1 At Home/C1 Classified/E.F.Q.H HomeTown Life/C5 Jobs/97 Oblivaries/A10 Real Estate/E1





Hills city council denies rezoning

Officials say Manor's request could open other doors

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Saying they regretted the action,
Farmington Hills City Council memhers denied granting a rezoningrequest by Wilson Kassab to allow his
business, the Farmington Hills Manor,
to serve lunch to the public.
Kassab plans to put an addition to
the facility that also offers catering.
Architect Robert Allen, representing
Kassab, spoke to the council Monday,
asking for the zoning change to the
banquet facility on Orchard Lake near
Lamar.

He said asking the council was "we believe the most expedient way to do this."

this."

Allen noted the previous owners of the building, the Elks Club, offered lunch to the public and that is all Kassab wishes to do.

But under the current Office Service zoning, the Elks were operating what was considered a private club. A change to a B-3 general business zoning on the property would allow anything from drive-through restaurants to auto repair shops.

II 'This is an issue of law. As much as this is painful (to deny the request), I cannot support it.

Nancy Bates Mayor

Spot zoning

Spot zoning

City attorney John Donohue urged the council to deny the request because if Kassab left it would allow other businesses to use the site for something else.

"I think candidly that this is spot zoning," the attorney said. Spot zoning typically means a business is out of line with the existing land use nearby. In this case, the business buffers some residential homes.

Councilwomen Vicki Barnett said Kassab is a "great community citizen, but therein lies the difficulty" in making a decision.

Mayor Nancy Bates said Kassab's character is not an issue.

"This is an issue.

"This is an issue of law," she said.

"As much as this is painful (to deny the request), I cannot support it."



Denled: Farmington Hills City Council turned down a rezoning request by the owner of Farmington Hills Manor, located on Orchard Lake Road near 10 Mile.

Councilman Jon Grant said the request is clearly spot zoning.
"It would be totally inappropriate land use," he said.

Lamar Street resident Ron Achtenberg said he didn't have an objection to a restaurant being operated by Kassab, but had an issue as to what type of business could operate near his home in the future.

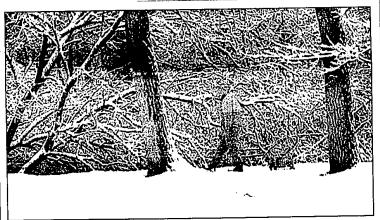
"It could include a strip mall," he said.

Council, in a 6-0 vote, denied the request. Councilman Jerry Ellis abstained from the discussion and the vote. His law firm represents Kassab on some legal issues.

Council members urged Kassab to

Council members urged Kassab to seek a variance in the zoning from the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve food to the public at the Manor. After the denial, Kassab said he would likely not seek a variance before the ZBA. He declined further comment.

Winter's last blast?



Stopping by the woods: The snow causes hassles when you're on the road but it can offer moments of peace, too. After Tuesday's brief winter storm, a man walks his dogs through the snow-covered landscape of Shiawassee Park in Farmington.

House plan would care for displaced Northville patients

BY SUE BUCK

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An innovative bipartisan plan that
would allow hospitals to help families
with loved ones who are mentally ill is
under discussion, along with the
planned sale of Northville Psychiatric
Hospital.

However, State Representative
Andrew Raczkowski said the idea is
still in the 'baby step' phase.

'The innovative plan that we are
working on the House side is this: if we
do end up selling Northville, hospitals,
especially community hospitals like
Grittenton, Betsford, Siani Grace, St.
John Systems have a lot of open bed
space, 'anid Raczkowski (R-Farmington Hills). "We're talking to the hospital association about potentially opening up a single floor in each hospital in
different regions and have consumers-your loved ones-stuy at those
hospitals as long-term care facilities."
Raczkowski made his comments at a
public forum Feb. 20 hosted by William
Allen, intorim executive director of the
Oakland County Community Mental
Health Authority. The seventh in a
scries of monthly meetings was held at
the William Costick Activities Conter
in Farmington Hills.

■ 'If it works, it will be a real win-win for all parties involved.

> Andrew Raczkowski State Representative

The Authority is dedicated to providing assistance and information about services, answering questions and providing community support.

Raczkowski explained the plan's advantages are: it saves the state money, which could be put hack into the community mental health program, and patients get better care and are closer to families.

and patients get better care and are closer to families.

'If it works, it will be a real win-win for all parties involved,' Rackowski said. 'You're thinking this is a proposal waiting to be passed. There will not be any closure of Northville, at least with my vote, until we have a solution for those individuals, a full, long-term plan. The hospitals are very much into it because they would receive more money... than they would be for a patient on Medicaid or Medicare or from the federal level, 'Rackowski said.

A whole floor could be set aside for mental health care, he said. Patients who were violent would be sent to another facility, which he did not name.

The industry responds

Peg Reihmer, vice-president of planning, marketing and development for Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills said Monday that this was the first she heard of the idea. She planned to contact Raczkowski's office for further information.

heard of the least She phime as the chart Rackkowski's office for further information.

"We have a governor who is trying to reduce state costs," Reihmer said: "Its ot as simple as consolidating and making a floor available. It would be looking at the occupancy rate.

She cited a number of factors to consider. Nursing shortages may affect occupancy rates. It's often necessary to isolate a patient, which cuts down on the number of beds available. Also, beds are needed to handle fluctuations in numbers of patients.

"Community hospitals may not be the appropriate location," Reihmer said.

Patrick Foloy, spokesman for the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, a trade association for 144 non-profit hospitals, called it a "brand new idea being floated about in various circles."

cles."

There's been no determination where the hundreds of Northville patients will be placed, he said, adding that

Please see PLAN, A3

City taps. Warthmanfor PSO-1 position

BY SULE BUCK

Farmington Public Safety Officer
Ted Warthman was promoted to Public
Safety Officer 1 on Feb. 11.

He replaces Jim Madigan, who
retired last October after 27 years of
service with the city, Madigan now
works as a court officer in 47th District
Court in Farmington.

In the absence of a Commander, a
PSO-1 service as the shift supervisor.

"A PSO-1 is in charge about eight
days a month, Warthman explained.
Warthman in charge about eight
days a month, Warthman explained.

Warthman progression in his five-year
career with the
Farmington
Tyou begin to
feel you should
move up the line
in the management chain,
Warthman said.
"Yea weiting."

Warthman sid:
"Yea weiting."

Warthman weiting.
"Yea weiting."

Warth

in other companies like Eaton Corpand Stroba.
Don, his father, was born and raised in Farmington and graduated from Farmington High School in 1959. Warthman said.
Ted Warthman is the first in his family to work in public safety. Warthman has also worked as a reserve officer for Farmington and was a paid-on-ball Novi firefighter for two years before being hired by Farmington.
Warthman and wife, Stacey, have a 21-month-old daughter, Hannah.



Moving up: Ted Warthman is the new sergeant at the Farm-ington Police Department.