

AKEBONO FROM PAGE A1

MEGA (the Michigan Economic Growth Authority), she said. MEGA is the state board that considers state tax breaks for companies.

"We've been at odds with state policy, but we cannot jeopardize our future tax base," she said.

"Alan Swiech of Akebono said, 'We did not leave the last meeting with a positive feeling.'"

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said the council ended up shooting the messenger at that meeting.

Because a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation was on hand at the Sept. 9 meeting during Akebono's request, "we wanted them to listen to us," she said.

Councilman Jerry Ellis said, "The frustration was not with Akebono but with the state."

A public hearing for the tax abatement request was held Monday, but company officials before the meeting requested the proposal be tabled until figures from the state could be obtained, said Bates.

After discussing the issue, the council tabled the request. No date was set to address the issue again.

Contacted Tuesday, David Grupenhoff, director of finance for Akebono, said the company is reviewing its options and may present a smaller scale expansion proposal.

"We don't have a firm date to get back to the council," he said. "It may be sometime in the next few months."

The company on 12 Mile, with headquarters in Japan, originally considered a \$32 million investment to expand its existing 80,000 square-foot American headquarters and engineering facilities.

The project would include construction of 85,000 square

feet of space, site improvements, new personal property and about 180 new jobs within 10 years of completion.

The competing site for the project is Springfield, Ky., where a new manufacturing plant has been constructed on a large site. Locating there instead of Farmington Hills would save the company \$30 million, say Akebono officials.

Grupenhoff said earlier this month that Akebono would save \$1.7 million in the six-year abatement for real and personal property taxes while bringing about \$30 million in new taxes to the city in just two years.

As required by the state, to qualify for employee tax credits from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through MEGA, a tax break must be approved by the local government. In Farmington Hills it is typically 50 percent savings for a six-year period on new taxes.

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Edward Papler

Services for Edward Papler, 83, of Livonia, will be held at 1 p.m. today, Sept. 26, at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia with the Rev. Raymond Bucon officiating. Burial will take place at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Mr. Papler was born June 25, 1919 in Detroit and died Sept. 21, 2002.

He is survived by his niece, Rosemarie (Carl) Troutaud; nephew, Bernard (Joanette) Kolodziejki; great-nieces and nephews, Tim Troutaud, Gerri Powell, Renee (Scott) Courtney, Danielle DePriest and Rynun (Amy) DePriest; and great-great-niece, Chloe Noelle.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Priscilla Catholic Church.

Arrangements made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral

Home in Farmington.

Alger E. Green A memorial service for Alger Eugene Green, 80, of Farmington, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack officiating.

Mr. Green was born Dec. 24, 1921 and died Sept. 23, 2002. He worked as a production controller for the auto industry and was a member of Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife Joyce; sons, Donald (Kitty) and David (Tracy); brothers, Kate, Jonathan, Jackie, Andrew and Melissa.

Memorial contributions may be made to Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

OBITUARIES

Joe Jagotka

Services for Joe Jagotka, 74, formerly of Farmington, will be held at noon today, Sept. 26 at St. Helen Catholic Church in St. Helen with the Rev. Albert Couturier officiating.

Mr. Jagotka was born Dec. 21, 1927 in Piney Fork, Ohio and died Sept. 22, 2002 in St. Helen.

He was a former member of Our Lady of the Lake Huron Catholic Church in Harbor Beach and a former member of the AmVets in Port Hope. He was also a member of St. Helen Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Rose; sons, Vincent, Michael (Rhonda), and Stanley; daughters, Lisa (Allen) Butler, AnnaJo (Rocky) Taylor and April (Jeffrey) Deslippe; and grandchildren, Vincent, Becky, Eric, Alisha, Amber, Joshua, Kayla, Joseph, Abby and Zoey. Arrangements made by

Sturmol & McLaren Funeral Homes Inc. in Houghton.

Thomas C. Chwalki Services for Thomas C. Chwalki, 59, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27 at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. Visitation will be held 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. today, Sept. 26 at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Chwalki was born in Romulus and died Sept. 23, 2002 at Huron Valley Hospital. He worked as an engineer for Ford Motor Company.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Robert, William and Barbara; one brother; one sister; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Retreat House.

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munity sectors," said Estralee Michaelson, executive director.

Co-presidents are John Cotter, a psychologist and Cathy Webb, a Farmington Public Schools school board member.

To strengthen Farmington Families in Action and utilize more volunteers and support, it will merge under the umbrella of Call to Action and become formally known as the Families in Action Sector of the Call to Action Coalition, Michaelson said.

"The beauty of this is we have all the sectors united and we are growing. There are no short-term solutions when you are talking about addiction."

Michaelson also works as the director of Safe Schools and Student Services for the Farmington Public School system.

Nicolay, who started Farmington Families in Action, in the early 1980s was out of town this week and could not be reached for comment.

The breakfast will feature a three-person panel. Penny Norton, a CEO of FACE will redefine the importance of community-wise coalition building. Jeff Jay, a nationally-known interventionist, will provide a strategy for helping addicts recover with love. Nan Reynolds, a family educator for Brighton Hospital, will speak to the issue of parents doing too much.

To obtain \$12 tickets or for more information, call (248) 489-3329.

Following the breakfast, Norton will lead a community-wide strategic planning session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The goal of the session is to identify action plans and "red flags" identified by local surveys.

The Coalition will then design and plan forums throughout the upcoming year to address those issues.

The first event hosted by the Family Sector of the Call to Action Coalition will be presented by Reynolds from 7-9 p.m. Oct. 23. She specializes in chemical use and dependency and its effects upon the family. This is a free workshop in Room 1 of the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, just north of Grand River in Farmington.

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