

■ E-mail Farmington Observer letters to the editor to  
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**Christmas Eve**

**9:30 AM - 4:00 PM**



BILL BRASLER / OBSERVER

The senior transportation bus is ready to leave Costick Center.

### VANS

FROM PAGE A1

works out of the Costick Activities Center where the Farmington Hills Senior Division is located.

The transportation program is funded by a .6 mill tax for the Suburban Mobile Authority Regional Transportation program from both cities, federal transportation funds, donations, a specialized services grant and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The program works on a first-come, first-served basis and serves people who are residents of the two cities, 55 years and older and those with disabilities who have a written statement of need from their doctor, said Bracciale.

Many seniors in the area use the service to get to and from the senior center as

well.

Farmington Hills resident Christy Millat said she wishes more people like her with a disability knew about the service that takes them to area stores and malls.

"I think if more people knew about it, they would use it," she said.

The program has seven vans serving 900 clients in the community, 75 percent of whom are seniors, said Bracciale.

Those with disabilities and youth services kids needing transportation also use the program. The service makes about 80 trips a day.

She said when Botsford Hospital canceled its free transportation service for people who use the hospital and care facilities in July of last year, it had a direct impact on the service.

"We're there (at Botsford) every day, usually three times," Bracciale said.

Anne Krolly who lives at Farmington Valley View said she uses the van to go to the senior center three days a week.

"There's no other to get here," she said while waiting to leave to go home Thursday afternoon. "It's always on time, too."

The program operates from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The service goes to grocery stores such as Kroger (who also donates to the service), Meijer and Target, malls, hospitals, nursing homes, banks, beauty salons and pharmacies.

Call dispatch to sign up for rides at (248) 473-1864.

For rides needed outside the program hours, the service works with ABC Cab to offer participants a reduced fee, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Bracciale said.

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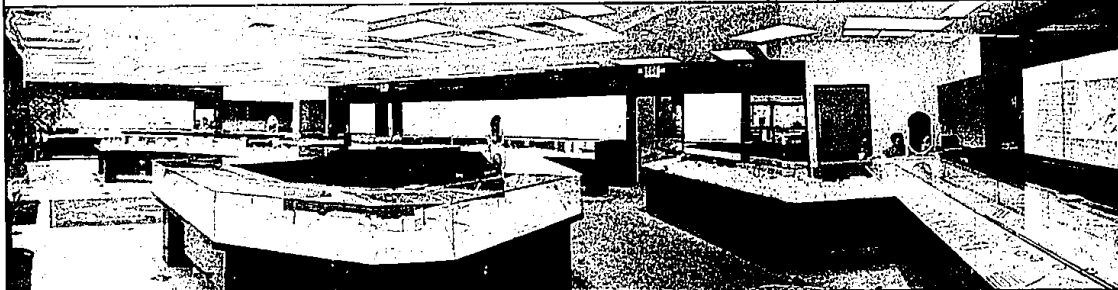
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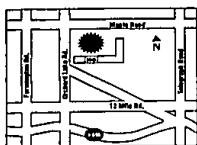
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