

ATTENTION

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Hills said business was slower than usual for a Thursday, and no one was particularly paying attention to the dozens of televisions on display giving up-to-the-minute war news.

At the Book Mark cafe at the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile, a new wide-screen television inside the cafe was broadcasting war coverage, but no one was staying inside to watch while they went about their library business Thursday afternoon.

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer sent out a letter to area churches, mosques and synagogues

March 18, letting leaders know the department is in constant communication with federal, state, county and other law enforcement agencies and assured them the department was doing its best to provide a safe environment.

Dwyer said 69 letters were sent out and some religious leaders called to thank him for the note.

As of Friday morning, he said there were no reported complaints of ethnic intimidation or hate crimes as the war continued.

He said he is in contact with local FBI officials who are willing to assist if any complaints are made.

Farmington Hills police will also assist with the FBI's

'We're praying for peace and the safety of everyone. And for the return to normalcy of people every where.'

Sohail Khan Tawheed Center member

interviews of the 320 people identified statewide who are being asked to voluntarily talk with federal officials about terrorist activities.

Dwyer also said if an attack anywhere in the U.S. resulted in raising the alert status to red, the highest rating, his staff would be put on 12-hour shifts.

Sohail Khan, a member of the Tawheed Center on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills, where area Muslims come to worship, said members are still coming to pray five times a day.

'We're praying for peace and the safety of everyone,' he said. 'And for the return to normalcy of people every where.'

He said the center hasn't taken an official stand about the war, but instead has used prayer as a way to address the conflict.

'What we are doing is asking God for help for everyone,' he said.

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Teacher Elias Khalil adds his perspective to the war discussion.

DISCUSSION

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would be next for Iraq once Hussein is removed from power.

Teacher Stenius said the ultimate goal is to let the Iraqi people choose their own system of government, but noted the country is already divided

into three major factions. Student Stephanie Salwen, 18, asked how long the U.S. would have to stay in Iraq to secure the peace.

'What we need to do whether you are for or against the war is to push your government to install a fair government in Iraq,' said Khalil. 'And make sure America doesn't abandon Iraq.'

He said he didn't want the U.S. to create a short-term solution.

After the discussion ended, Khalil said the after-school meetings are a way to help students understand the conflict.

'It's not like there is a clear identifiable enemy here,' he said. 'It's a state of confusion for a lot of people.'

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Dennis Page talked about the last Gulf War, when his son was a soldier.

BANK

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mony Thursday with city officials in attendance, including Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell, Farmington Assistant City Manager Bill Richards, Farmington Downtown Development Authority Director Brent Morgan and Chamber of Commerce Director Carlisle Flaherty.

The building was built was renovated in 1995. Michigan Heritage Bank, the former occupant, opened an office in Troy, Stephens said.

'This is a nice area and geographically desirable,'

Stephens said.

'We're hoping to grow and have quite a bit of space. We're looking for quality people.'

Mitchell said the City of Farmington is happy to welcome the new business.

'It's a good business to have in the downtown. It's not retail but service oriented. It's a good business to have on the north side.'

This is the second location for the company, which has been in business for 13 years at 24609 East Jefferson in St. Clair Shores 'Nautical Mile,' between 9 and 10 Mile Roads.

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College offers employability workshop

Oakland Community College is offering an Employability Preparation Skills Workshop for OCC students and the general public at the Southfield Campus from 4-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3. Admission

is free, but participants must pre-register. Presented by OCC's Personal and Professional Development Initiatives, this interactive workshop is designed to help participants gain skills that will assist

them in entering or returning to the workplace. Topic areas include interview techniques and follow up, resume writing and effective interpersonal communication. Food, beverages and door prizes will be featured.

For further information, or to pre-register for the workshop, call (248) 233-2780.

The Southfield Campus is located at 23222 Rutland Drive, just south of 9 Mile between Greenfield and Southfield roads.

YMCA seeks former board members for celebration

The Farmington Family YMCA is looking for all former local board members for a special celebration on April 3 during the group's annual Community Breakfast. The organization will be honoring Kevin Bush, who served as a long-time executive director, said Rick DuRet, cur-

rent executive director. Also at the breakfast, plans for a past chairman's plaque will be announced; there are plans to honor Gary Unruh, who also served as executive director, at a later date. Former board members may contact Jerry Wils at (248) 553-1959 to receive their address.

Read the Observer for local news

Advertisement for Blue Dot HVAC services. Includes text: 'Doesn't Your Family Deserve Total Comfort?', 'Up To \$900 OFF', 'Speed Amana And Air Conditioning Or \$490 Off Single Package', 'Blue Dot HVAC Conditioning', 'Free Estimates (734) 525-1930', 'Call Today (800) BLUE-DOT (734) 522-1350'.

Advertisement for Lennox Air Conditioning. Includes text: 'THINKING ABOUT CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING? LENNOX', 'FREE ESTIMATES (734) 525-1930', 'Our 29th Year!', 'UNITED TEMPERATURE 8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA'.

Advertisement for Dittich Fur Care. Includes text: 'Final Inventory Clearance Prepare For Winter 2004', 'SAVE 60-75% ON HUNDREDS OF FURS', 'Lowest Prices Of The Year!', 'Dittich Quality MINK COATS \$2,397', '0% Financing until fall\*', 'Last Week!', 'Dittich Since 1923', 'Detroit • (313) 871-8300 • Bloomfield Hills • (248) 642-3344'.

Advertisement for Waltonwood Independent Living Senior Apartment Homes. Includes text: 'Independent Living Senior Apartment Homes', 'Visit us during our OPEN HOUSE Sunday March 23rd from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.', 'Join us for a tour and refreshments Register to win a trip to Florida!', 'Spacious one and two bedroom apartment homes', 'Optional services: lunch and dinner, housekeeping and laundry services are all available', 'Canton Waltonwood at Carriage Park', 'Waltonwood Redefining Retirement Living', 'SINGH'.

Advertisement for Blue Dot services. Includes text: 'SERVICE SAVINGS FREE! SERVICE CALL With Repair (A \$59 Value)', 'PLUMBING SAVINGS \$200 OFF! A Whole House Repipe', 'CLEAN AIR SAVINGS \$75 OFF! A Whole House Duct Cleaning with FREE Dryer Vent Cleaning (A \$225 Value)'.