

Zoning Board of Appeals grants NFHS theater garage sale planned

variance to banquet facility

BY PAUL R. PAGE
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills Manor along Orchard Lake Road is expected to offer a portion of its building for restaurant patrons, while it maintains its banquet facility operation.

The Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals, in a 4-2 vote last month, approved a use variation request for owner Wilson Kassab, to use a smaller banquet room as a restaurant, with a portion of the larger room for overflow patrons.

ZBA members Joe Mantey and Betty Cook voted against the proposed change, which will be allowed for up to three years and provides that a portion of the Manor can be open from noon to 2 a.m. seven days a week.

In February 2002, the Hills City Council denied a rezoning request to allow Kassab to serve lunch at the facility.

At the time, council members said if they changed the zoning from Office to B-3 general business and Kassab left, a new developer could put up anything from a drive-through restaurant to an auto repair shop.

Considering the land abuts homes, council members were reluctant to grant the request would amount to "spot zoning."

Council members urged Kassab to seek a variance at the time.

In the past year, Kassab has also made a request to the Planning Commission to expand the Manor by another 14,399 square feet to accommodate a restaurant and catering business.

The request was denied, because the plan failed to meet requirements and didn't include enough parking spaces.

Kassab could not be reached for comment this week.

His architect Robert Allen said this week there is no set time when restaurant services will start, and a plan to expand

the facility is shelved for now. Allen also said the facility's interior is not expected to change to serve restaurant guests.

According to minutes of the meeting wherein the request was approved, ZBA member Mantey said he perceived the proposed use would be not so much a restaurant but a bar.

He stated it would be best to start with a smaller bar area and after the restaurant were to be run successfully, the proponent could return asking for additional space.

Member Cook stated hardship conditions for the request were not met. She said the land is not zoned for such use because it abuts homes and a nearby school.

In 1995, Kassab was granted a use variance to open a banquet facility even though the property was not zoned for such use.

The building was formally owned and used by the Elks Club.

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The North Farmington High School theater department will hold its first annual garage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 12.

It will be held in the cafeteria of the high school located at 39200 W. 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Items for the sale are being collected from all cast, crew and orchestra members of "Once Upon a Mattress," as well as staff from North Farmington High, said Sue Cobb, a co-director.

"We plan to have large and small items with something for everyone. You can also perk

yourself up with coffee and doughnuts that the choral department will be selling. If you weren't able to talk to cast, orchestra or crew members of 'Once Upon a Mattress' after performances, you'll be able to have a chat with them as they work the sale." Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new stage curtain, Cobb said.

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Math Scholars
The following Farmington Hills high school students won \$500 scholarships in the recent Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematics Association of America:
Prasad Gullapalli, Huanan Zhang, Douglas Anderson and Devin Sullivan.

Essay Winners
Two students at Our Lady of Sorrows School were winners in a national essay contest run by the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Shannon Landsberg, a seventh grader, won first place and Jason Bloink, also a seventh grader, won third place in the contest.

Their essays will be printed in the summer issue of the Hallowed Ground magazine.

Destination Imagination
The following five teams from Farmington's Destination Imagination program will compete in the State Destination Imagination competition on April 12 at Central Michigan University:
Dunckel/East Middle School: Lisa Bence, Sarah Eklov, Erik Eklov, Cassie Fossen, Netta Goldenberg, Allysa Martin and Amy Rosenfeld. (Team manager, Diane Eklov).

Longacre Elementary School: Theater SmARTS team members are: Chris Blaker, Sarah Fredericks, Matt Gutknecht, Chrissy Healy, Abbie Heath, Kelih Kornacki and Katie McGraw. (Team managers, Pam Healy and Keven Blaker).

Longacre Elementary School: VIDIo Adventure team members are: Aoi Ichinose,

Breanna Naglich, Bobby Nielsen, Trevor Schorer, Brad Seeger, Hannah Vertin and Corey Voorman. (Team managers, Faye Voorman and Scott Seeger).

St. Fagan Catholic School: Theater SmARTS team members are: Liz Brady, Sarah Choss, Claire Higginbottom, Lauren Preininger and Keilyann Wargo. (Team managers, Mary Beth Choss and Michele Wargo).

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School: VIDIo Adventure team members are: Robert Cernak, Robert Fergan, Alyson McAdams, Evan Paddock, Lily Patterson, Jimmy Padar and Emily Walsh. (Team managers, Susan McAdams and Nick Pudar).
The top two teams in each state competition will advance to the World Destination Imagination finals.

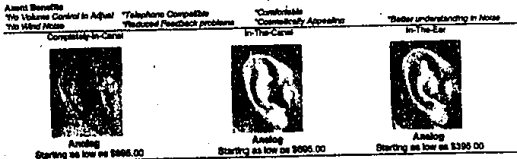
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* April 5th: 11am-4pm - Saturday
April 6th: 12pm-4pm - Sunday

April 12th: 11am-4pm - Saturday
April 13th: 12pm-4pm - Sunday

April 18th: 10am-5pm - Friday
April 19th: 10am-5pm - Saturday



Photos available with the Easter Bunny!

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