

TALK

TROY

Insurance firm honored

In recognition of its outstanding service and partnership, InPro Insurance Group Inc. in Troy has received a 25-year award from Safeco Insurance, a Fortune 500 property and casualty insurance company based in Seattle.

FARMINGTON

City joins alliance

The city of Farmington has become the 27th municipal member of the Ferndale-based Michigan Suburbs Alliance. The group, a nonprofit, was formed by elected and appointed leaders in 2002 to encourage local governments to work together on regional challenges. Challenges facing older Detroit suburbs include decreasing or stagnant populations, perceptions that redevelopment is difficult and cuts in state revenue sharing, all of which reduce revenues needed for city services. Members span Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties. Farmington, which has a population of 10,000, has an established downtown that draws people from nearby areas.

— Staff writer Doug Henze

Japan adds car plants

At a time when Detroit's Big Three are closing plants and

automaker's future.

Tracinda on Friday said in a statement that because of the "brutal" economics of the North American auto market, the only realistic plan for Chrysler was one in which all parties had an equal stake.

The Kerkorian bid is slightly lower than at least one competing offer from Canadian auto parts supplier Magna International Inc., worth a reported \$4.7 billion.

Two private equity groups also have expressed interest in the Auburn Hills-based Chrysler Group.

Cerberus Capital Management LP and a consortium of investors led by Blackstone Group each have reviewed Chrysler's finances and were expected to make bids.

slashing jobs to revive their ailing businesses, their Japanese counterparts are busy opening plants in Japan for the first time in decades. That's because there's strong demand for fuel-efficient small cars such as the Toyota Yaris and Honda Fit, all of which are made in Japan, as well as luxury models and hybrids, most of which are made here. But there's also a shift away from the conventional wisdom that automakers are best off making cars in the same region where they sell. Toyota, Nissan and Honda realize that the roots of their success lie in the management and production strategies developed and honed

at home — from quality control to extensive supplier networks — and that expanding in Japan may be the smart way to meet demand. "It doesn't make sense to produce everything abroad," said Tsuyoshi Mochimaru, auto analyst with Deutsche Securities in Tokyo.

BMW new-car sales fall

German luxury carmaker BMW AG said Tuesday in Frankfurt that new car sales fell 1.9 percent to 141,568 in March, while first-quarter sales rose slightly. In the first quarter, the Munich-based automaker said it delivered 333,276 BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce brand cars, up 0.1 percent from the same period a year earlier. "We are expecting stronger growth," said BMW executive board member Michael Ganal.

— Staff and wire reports

Contact us

Is your business celebrating a significant anniversary or milestone, expanding or moving, or has it just earned an award? Do you have a new or newly promoted employee or manager? Please e-mail your information to business.news@oakpress.com for inclusion in "Business Briefing."

**STREET ASSESSMENT
HEARING ON OBJECTIONS
TOWNSEND ESTATES, TOWNSEND
ESTATES NO. 2, and WAUMEGAH LAKE
ESTATES SUBDIVISIONS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP - SECTION 12
S.A.D. NO. 21011**

WAUMEGAH ROAD

Official Declaration: This is a public hearing for comments in support of and objections to the project. In accordance with Act 246 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan for the year 1931 as amended, the Board of County Road Commissioners has determined the following described parcels of land, lots numbering 1 through 11 inclusive platted in Townsend Estates Subdivision, 12 and 13 platted in Townsend Estates No. 2 Subdivision, 1, 4 through 32 inclusive and Outlot A platted in Waumegah Lake Estates Subdivision, and acreage parcel under sidewalk number 07-12-177-002, all located in Section 12, Springfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan, may be assessed for benefits accruing from the proposed improvement.

PUBLIC HEARING

Hearing: Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Springfield Plains Elementary
- Cafeteria
8650 Holcomb Road
Springfield, Michigan

Inquiries may be directed to the Road Commission's Subdivision Improvement and Development Division at 31001 Lahser Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025, or by telephone to (248) 645-2000, extension 2270, TDD (248) 645-9923. If you require accommodation in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, please provide five days advance notice to our Legal Department at (248) 645-2000, extension 2245.

Board of County Road Commissioners
of the County of Oakland

Larry P. Crake, Chairman
Richard G. Skarritt, Vice Chairman
Eric S. Wilson, Commissioner

By: Brent O. Bair, Managing Director

Publish April 4 & 11, 2007

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Furnishing of Materials

ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY

BEVERLY HILLS, MI 48025

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County at their administrative office, 31001 Lahser Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, in the Clerks Office, until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Accepted bids will be publicly opened and read beginning at 2:30 p.m. for the following Six (6) bids:

- Sign Blanks Aluminum; IFB No. 6817-OQ; Annual Estimated Quantities
- Copy Paper; IFB No. 6804-OQ; Annual Estimated Quantities
- Spray Paint; IFB No. 6805-OQ; Annual Estimated Quantities
- Fuel Requirements; IFB No. 6803-OQ; Annual Estimated Quantities
- Gloves; IFB No. 6826-OQ; Annual Estimated Quantities
- Safety Footwear Program; IFB No. 6822-OQ

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained upon request from the Purchasing Division at (248) 645-2000, by TDD (248) 645-9923 or from the RCOC web site, purchasing page, at www.rcocweb.org. Bids must be made upon Road Commission bidding forms. All proposals must be plainly marked as to their contents.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive defects and to accept the proposals that in the opinion of the Board are in the best interest and to the advantage of the Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County, Michigan.

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

for Oakland County, Michigan
Larry P. Crake, Chairman
Richard G. Skarritt, Vice-Chairman
Eric S. Wilson, Commissioner

By: Brent O. Bair, Managing Director

Publish April 11, 2007