



Striking Kroger employees attempt to convince a union truck driver, known only as Joe, not to cross their picket line at the 11 Mile line. Middleleibt store. Some truckers dropped off their goods in the street rather than cross the picket line at the 11 Mile line.

Strike could help smaller stores

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area like Meijer, Farmer Jack and A&F are getting their share of business from shoppers who won't cross the picket lines — for whatever reason.

"It doesn't take too much to know that there's extra business... that's all I can say," said a man who identifies himself only as a manager of the Farmer Jack in the Crossroads Center in Farmington.

THE STRIKE could help some of the smaller markets in the Farmington area, owners and managers say.

"I do expect an increase," said Joe Warda, part owner of the Country Ridge Quality Market in northern Farmington Hills, "but I

haven't seen anything yet." The market is right around the corner from a Kroger at 12 Mile and Halsted.

"I'm not real big on unions," Warda continued, "but if what they say is true... they haven't had a raise in 10 years... then they should strike."

Where you shop is a matter of habit, according to Chuck Tarnowski, manager of the Fresh Approach market in Farmington Hills. And he hopes shoppers get the Fresh Approach habit during the strike.

"That'd be a nice option," Tarnowski said, "but I'm not sure there'll be any great influx. I'm not rewriting my schedule, put it that way."

ONE MARKET manager who has noticed an increase in customers and sales is Russ Hayward, who

runs the IGA on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington.

"Detroit is a union area and a lot of people won't cross those picket lines," Hayward said, who added that the windfall will mean more hours for IGA's non-union employees.

"We're going to give them good service and we're going to honor their Kroger check cashing cards," he said.

At Oak Farms Fruit Market and Deli in Farmington Hills, manager Mike Schwab expects to see an increase in business.

"In a union town like this, maybe a lot of people won't cross (the picket lines)," he said. "But you want to know the bottom line? The bottom line is that people will go where they think they're getting the best price."

Residents vow to register rehab complaints with feds

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members complained of problems.

Roberts says he believes there are 11 violations of federal guidelines regulating block grant programs. Among them are the use of block grant money for a code enforcement officer, for which the council approved a decreased funding level from block grant money Monday night.

Roberts says he is fed up with what he believes are the city's attempts to cover up problems, such as a contractor who cashed a \$13,000 check without the required signature of the homeowner who received repair work through the housing program.

Roberts is interested in how the city intends to repair shoddy workmanship at the house of at least one man — his contractor cashed the \$13,000 check — whose date "He (homeowner) wouldn't sign the check because the work was so shoddy," Roberts said.

Michigan National Bank, Roberts said, issued notice of forged or altered checks that included the \$13,000 check, as well as one for \$520 used to buy new windows for the house. "More than \$2,300 was approved for those windows," Roberts said. "That's price gouging."

money to provide sewer to an historic house on Drake Road. Costick, however, says the loan was legitimate. The owner was given a \$5,600 loan based on his income. HUD also allows loans for historic houses.

"In terms of conforming with CDBG guidelines, we are. We are audited twice a year. We conform to the rules and the laws."

The Plante & Moran audit, which reviewed procedures of the housing rehabilitation program, has been completed. "There was no financial wrongdoing. There are many changes we are going to make," Costick added.

Changes include broadening the role of the loan board "so the board will be more involved in the initial intake (of applications). Board members will have more information," Costick said.

The bidding process will be revised and the board will now have a chance to consider the contractors and costs for a specific project. Homeowners also will evaluate the repairs, which will be reviewed by the loan board before payment is made," he said.

Costick also said he understood Roberts' anger because the board was accused of being "crooked" by one or more homeowners who received help through the housing program. "The loan board never really had anything to do other than approve the loan."

But Roberts is seeking others who may have received repairs through the housing program and are unsatisfied. He is asking homeowners to send a postcard with their name and telephone number to him at 21421 Ontario, Farmington Hills, 48336.

COSTICK ACKNOWLEDGES problems with the two houses that have had problems with repairs. "If we made one or two mistakes, we'll take care of it. There is room for improvement. But for the most part, people are happy with the program."

Roberts also is critical of using housing rehabilitation

Protest continues over rezoning plan

The Farmington Hills City Council will hear from Farmington's Downtown Development Authority over the issue of rezoning property for an expansion of the Muirwood Square shopping center.

The DDA is maintaining its position that such an expansion of the Drake/Grand River center would cause an overbuilding of retail space in the area and could damage the downtown. It has been reported that the owner of the center, Bestak of Farmington Hills, plans to expand the center with a possible anchor grocery store.

The DDA board agreed April 7 to send a resolution to the neighboring city council noting their concerns. They sent a similar resolution to the Hills Planning commission recently. Planning commissioners have sent a recommendation to the council to

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The issue of rezoning land around the shopping center is not new. Bestak attempted to rezone the land several years ago and eventually withdrew their request.

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