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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Signing off: Pro-bond issue signs have been reported stolen off lawns in a northwest Farmington Hills subdivision that is part of the Walled Lake School District. /A3

OPINION

Vote yes — again: The are many good reasons to say yes to the bond issue in the Walled Lake School District, the Observer thinks. /A16

Write on! As usual, there's plenty of local opinion. /A16

COMMUNITY LIFE

Spurned spouse: State lawmakers are considering a reform package that would make splitting up more difficult. /B1

Quick change: The role of the local library is changing at breakneck speed, says Clark Doughty, guest columnist. /B1

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'New Art': Quality reigns in the "New Art at Meadow Brook" outdoor festival Sept. 28-29. /C1

Curtain up! Meadow Brook Theatre features works by modern playwrights this season beginning with James Sherman's comedy "Beau Jest." /C1

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Hills says no to Kroger



BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Shoppers won't be "Krogering" anytime soon at a proposed site at Nine Mile and Haggerty in Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills City Council voted not to consider a rezoning request that would have allowed the Midland Group to build a retail center with a Kroger store, drug store

Arguments were presented for and against a Kroger supermarket and a shopping center in southwest Farmington Hills. The city council listened — and then said no.

and other retail outlets on property sandwiched between the I-275 freeway and Novi.

After hearing representatives from Kroger, the property owner and residents, both for and against the proposal, for three hours, the council voted against rezoning the property from office use to commercial.

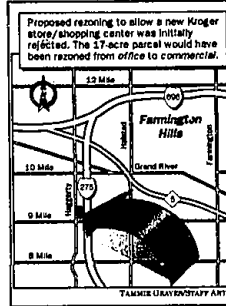
The proposed center would have allowed developers to build a 125,000

square foot shopping center and with it, road improvements including widening Nine Mile and Haggerty to four lanes from two.

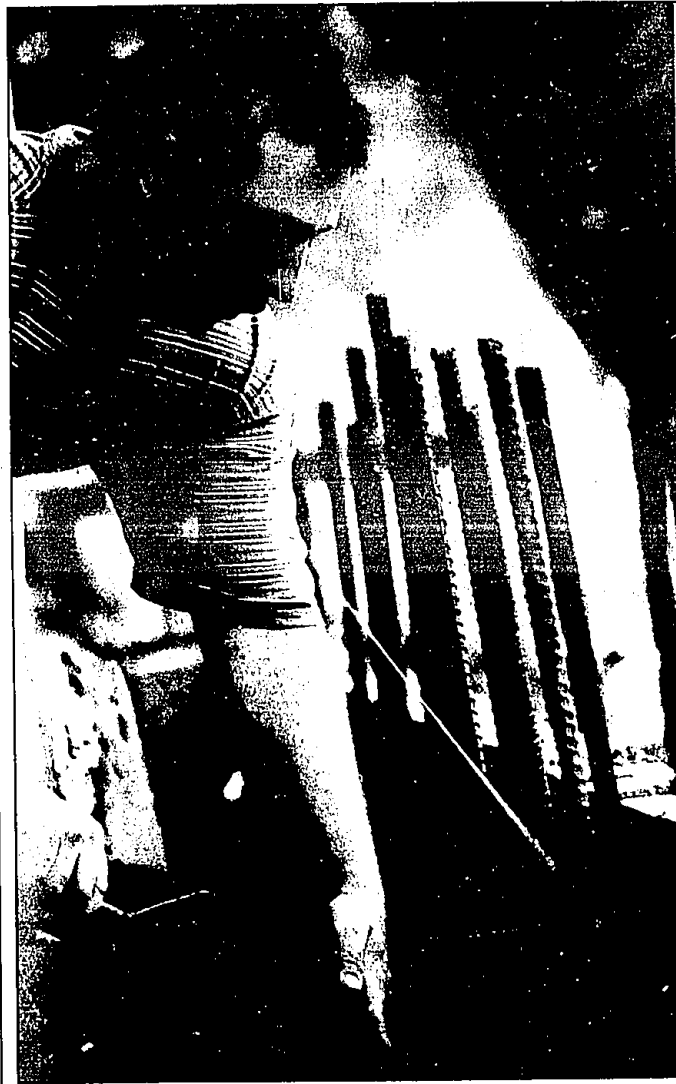
But the city council, and many residents from both Farmington Hills and Novi were concerned about the added traffic, noise and cost in property values.

"We chose to live here so we didn't have an intersection," said one Farmington Hills resident. "There hasn't been a hush and cry for a place to get groceries and film," he said. "There has been one

See KROGER, A2



Finishing up the Greenery's lot



STAFF PHOTO BY BRADON LEMBERT

Fenced off: Kirk Feltz lays brick in the "privacy fence," otherwise known as a wall, that will surround the new parking lot at the Greenery senior citizen residence in Farmington.

Greenery project's a lot of woe for some

BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

The expansion of the Greenery Extended Care Facility parking lot is drawing to a controversial close.

Construction at the Grand River and Pickett site officially began July 1, with a hoped-for completion date of Nov. 1.

"It's been in the works for a while," said Greenery administrator Deborah Deck of the new 22-space lot. "There's a need for both our employees and our visitors, and it's taken a while, getting city permits and everything."

The nursing home received a special expansion permit last year and bought a single residential lot on Pickett, upsetting some residents to this day.

"Oh, you could say we've had some problems with it," said Brad Dalhofer, the lot's next-door neighbor. "How would you like to live next to a parking lot?"

Dalhofer pointed out a newly-constructed stone wall near the lot that stretched only halfway across his property. "We've got half a backyard now...We're surrounded on two sides. This area was zoned residential, and the Greenery got the zoning changed. We had no say at all."

"We're determined to get out of here," he said.

Karon Paterson, who lives a few houses down on Pickett, felt similarly frustrated. "I would have liked it to be a house. This is a residential area. When I found out about it, it was a done deal."

"I don't mean to sound so passive, but I felt that nothing could have been done," she said.

Meanwhile, residents who have dealt with Greenery employees' cars for years are grateful that the lot is almost open.

Patricia Kramer's mailbox on Gill boasts a sign reading "DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT PARKING HERE." Her house, like many others on the first block on Gill off of Grand River, bears the brunt of the overflow parking.

Of the new lot, she says "it's great. (The overflow cars) park so close to my mailbox, I have to back my car halfway into the street to see if there is any oncoming traffic. The mailman is not obligated to deliver my mail if he can't get to my box."

Even if the lot does alleviate parking troubles, Mary Kress, of adjoining Earl Court, is disappointed.

See PARKING, A2

Lucky Hills teen escapes serious injury in accident

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Some fortunate circumstances may have saved a Harrison High School student from serious injury or worse.

Anthony Angelella, 16, was riding his bike to school at 7:25 a.m. when he was struck by a 1988 GMC Suburban driven by Dawn McSungle, 33.

Farmington Hills police Sgt. Dennis Green said the boy had been crossing Middlebelt east to west on 12 Mile on his way to Harrison when the Suburban struck him while making a right turn from northbound Middlebelt.

"It looks like the driver was making a right turn on a red light, which is legal there," said Green. "But the intersection must be clear."

After being hit by the Suburban, the boy's clothes were caught up in the undercarriage and he was dragged for 50 feet.

"The vehicle has a high clearance," Green said. "We believe because of that the he went under the Suburban. Had it been lower, this could have been very bad."

Green said the police are still investigating and had not issued a ticket as of Tuesday afternoon.

The teen was taken to Botsford General Hospital with a broken ankle and lacerations. He was kept overnight for observation and his ankle was operated on Tuesday morning. He was expected to be released Tuesday.

Meet Sparky, Max and Herbie

Borders book store and the Farmington Hills Fire Department are getting together to kick off National Fire Prevention Week.

Fire department personnel will visit the Farmington Hills Borders, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, south of 14 Mile, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28. There will be a fire engine and an ambulance in the parking lot, with lots of opportunities for youngsters to sit on the truck.

Also on hand will be Sparky the Fire Dog, Max the Dalmatian and Herbie the Talking Fire Hydrant. There will be coloring books, fire safety brochures and lots of tips on fire safety.

They're appointed!

The Farmington Hills City Council has made appointments to two city commis-

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slions.

Carl Christoph, who ran unsuccessfully as a Democrat for the State House, was appointed to the Commission on Aging. His wife, Rose Christoph, a longtime teacher in the Farmington School District, was named to the committee to Increase Voter Participation.

Both terms expire Feb. 1, 1998.

Applause! Applause! for her

Christie McClain is the Botsford Continuing Care Corporation's "Applause! Applause!" winner for September.

McClain has served as a housekeeper for the

Botsford Commons retirement community for about a year. Known for lending a hand when needed, McClain can often be found holding a door for a resident or helping to carry groceries.

"I'm glad I've had a chance to get to know a lot of the residents," she said.

McClain and her husband Frank have two children and live in Livonia.

Botsford Continuing Care Corporation oversees a senior living community in Farmington Hills.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; faxed to 477-9722; or dropped off at the newspaper office. For the computer literate, the Internet E-mail address is packy@online.com.