

Parking lot woes continue to grow

By PATRICIA LaCROIX

Business growth isn't always a good thing.

Indeed Schubiner, owner of the Elliott Travel Service at 2000 Orchard Lake Road, said he "just didn't think" five years ago that his business would grow as fast as it has.

But it has, and now he is faced with the problem of finding more parking for his employees and customers.

The Orchard Lake office is the main branch of a 11-part chain in the Detroit area. Five years ago, Schubiner employed about 12 people, but now, he said it is necessary for him to employ about 45 people.

With room for about 27 cars in his lot, there isn't even enough room for all of his employees, let alone any customers.

Schubiner approached the Farmington Hills City Council with his problem, asking that they rezone two residential lots behind his property for parking.

This essentially amounts to "spot zoning," a practice which has been repeatedly rejected by the council. They rejected this request also, suggesting the that Schubiner purchase land across the road for employee parking.

Schubiner said that is a silly suggestion, considering his employees would have to cross the road during its busiest times.

"I know what I am going to do," Schubiner said Thursday. "If the council would have the street as a viable office/business strip, they are going to have to rezone some of the gravel will undoubtedly be swallowed in the process."

Schubiner said he did consider purchasing land next to his for employee parking, but the homeowner "wants \$80,000" for his property. Schubiner said his figure is "ridiculous."

He may be able to appear before the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals and plead a variance based on hardship. If granted, Schubiner would be allowed to use his front property for parking, said Floyd Cairns, acting city manager.

This could also cause problems, since this section is currently being used for drainage, Cairns said. This problem will have to be worked out by the city engineers, he added.

Meanwhile, parking along Orchard Lake Road continues to be a problem, especially near the Thirteen Mile intersection.

Just north of the intersection, little businesses line the roadside not much

more than 30 or 40 feet off the road. About 25 of these feet are paved and used for customer parking, while the rest is gravel and used for employee parking.

Orchard Lake Road is widened to five lanes as it is expected to be within a year and a half. The problem will be even worse for the merchants in that area, since some of gravel will undoubtedly be swallowed in the process.

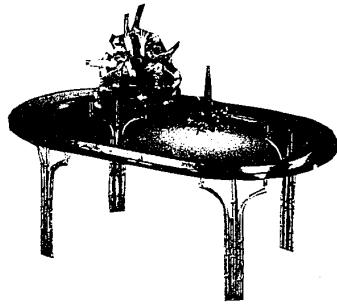
"It's going to be a real problem," said Oleg Humfleld, manager of the One-Hour Martinizing shop at 25600 Orchard Lake Road.

"We don't really have any problems now, because the ice cream people next door are busier during the summer, and that's when we are the slowest, so it worked out real good," she explained.

Bill Wilson, manager of Ken's Quality Meats at 2560 Orchard Lake Road, said problem is getting in and out of their lot, because of the heavy amount of traffic on the road.

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Obituaries

GUS H. DESKA

Lutheran Church in Redford officiating. He was buried in Glen Eden Memorial Park.

Surviving are his sister, Mrs. Sylvia Hicks of Farmington; his brother, Fred Deska of Muskegon; and two

sons, James and Richard, both of Livonia. He also had four grandchildren.

Deska was a retired accountant from Evans Products. He was a member of the Elks 1966, and was a member of the Aristocrats.

Services were held Aug. 24 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, with Pastor U. F. Halboth, Jr., of Grace

AAAers get some breaks

Farmington and Farmington Hills drivers insured with the Automobile Club of Michigan can look forward to a break on their payments.

While other drivers in nearby cities face hikes in their insurance rates, Farmington area motorists will see an average nine per cent decrease in their payments soon.

Although the cut goes into effect on Sept. 1, motorists are cautioned not to expect it to show up on their bills until they renew the policies, according to C. A. Spencer, Farmington AAA branch manager.

Motorists in neighboring areas will discover higher rates. Beverly Hills, Bloomfield Hills and Franklin will pay four per cent more for insurance.

And while AAA's 2500 Farmington drivers can look with envy upon motorists in Livingston County who received a 22 per cent decrease, they should be glad they don't live in Midland. Rates there went up by 20 per cent.

The fluctuating rates are the by-products of AAA's twice-yearly territorial adjustment. In areas where claims costs aren't great, the company is reducing rates. Increases are faced by residents in areas where costs were up.

AS SEEN by the rates which have risen dramatically, cities aren't the only places where insurance payments are rising. Higher costs in auto repair and hospital rates have caused the auto insurance payments to increase in some areas, says Spencer.

Auto repair jumped in costs over the years. Fourteen years ago, garages charged 46 an hour. Today, they're charging \$14.16 an hour in the Farmington area, he explains.

In other areas, the costs of repairs are averaging \$22.24 an hour, adds. While garage costs rose sharply, hospitalization costs skyrocketed, he adds. Hospital costs rose about 20 per cent in one year, bringing a 100 per cent increase over the past four years.

Blue Cross-Blue Shield's decision to forego paying emergency room fees for routine accidents transferred those costs to the Automobile Club of Michigan, Spencer maintains.

Hills posts agenda

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
3155 Eleven Mile
7:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28

• Consideration of changing the zoning of land at 1630 and 36160 Grand River between Halsted and Drake from planned residential to multiple housing.

• Consideration of changing the zoning of land north of Grand River between Farmington Road and Drake from single family residential to multiple housing.

• Consideration of changing the zoning of land on the north side of Twelve Mile between Orchard Lake Road and Alcyckay from residential to business service.

• Consideration of bond attorney's report on proposed tax amendment.

• Consideration of enactment of the city to adopt the 1978 BOCA Building Code amendment to chapter 20 of the city code.

• Consideration of motor vehicle highway bond resolution for major roads \$50,000.

• Consideration of resolution of intent to issue industrial revenue devel-

opment bonds for ACE Hardware in the amount of \$5,000,000.

• Consideration of a resolution to alter Minnow Pond drainage district to service Sudbury North Subdivision.

• Consideration of final plat approval for Sudbury Woods subdivision in section five.

• Consideration of setting date for necessity hearing for sewer on Fourteen Mile from Mid-diebel to the westerly terminus of Sudwell.

• Consideration of setting date for cost hearing for Pleasant Valley Farms Subdivision for sewer.

• Consideration of setting date for necessity in Franklin Oaks Subdivision for sewer.

• Consideration of waiving sidewalk requirements for St. Vincent's Sarah Fisher Home, 29475 Inkster.

• Consideration of resolution amending 1978-79 general fund budget.

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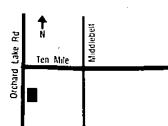
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