

New Perry store worries druggists

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ton site. The addition of the Perry store was a surprise.

"I talked to Harry Watson of Godmar and some other drug store owners and none of them knew anything about it... the fact that the plans had changed," he said.

"We were all under the impression that the city was going to allow things to happen the way they agreed to at that planning commission meeting - just the Farmer Jack and 10 smaller stores."

City planner Bob Deadman said the site plans were changed to include a Perry Drug Store because Borman Foods Inc., which owns Farmer Jack, wanted the drug store in the center.

"The developer (Waterford/Walker Developments of Farmington Hills) took the (original) plan back to Borman, at Borman's executive board turned it down... said they wouldn't build a (grocery) store without a drug store," Deadman said.

"They felt the drug store would add \$1 million to their gross annual sales. At the same time, they came back and indicated that they would like to amend the site plan to include a larger center. The planning commission restudied the whole lot and indicated that the only larger center they would consider would be one with enough space for a

drug store, but with no additional square footage."

DEADMAN ADDED, "The bottom line is that zoning permits the use of a drug store. The planning commission thought that the developer had accepted the center without one. However, the tenants had not accepted it."

Deadman's explanations, rational as they might be, did little to ease Abdelnour's concern.

"Screw the little guy," he said. "That seems to be what they're saying. They're going to use this EDC (Economic Development Corporation) to finance the center. The EDC can provide low-cost loans, but we're too small to get them. If we tried, they'd probably laugh at us. We have to get our loans on the open market."

Abdelnour, who said he has shelved plans to start an ice cream parlor in the new center, has had a past dealing with the Nine Mile-Farmington location.

"About eight years ago, my father and I wanted to purchase that property with the idea of building a shopping center," he said. "At that time it was zoned for multiple dwellings."

"We were informed in no uncertain terms that there was no way they were going to let us have a commercial center. They said that a center at that corner would draw traffic from downtown and hurt the businesses in that area."



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Basim Abdelnour examines shopping center plans in his Farmington drug store. Abdelnour is one of several area druggists who are concerned that a large Perry Drug Store will be included in the new center.

Thursday, July 28, 1983 O&E

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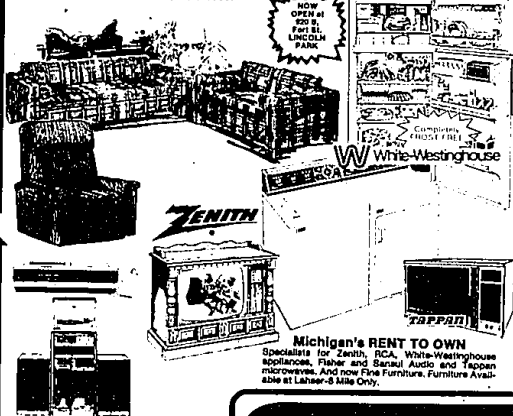
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