

carrier of the month Farmington



Ken Lipka

Ken Lipka, 14, has been delivering the Observer to Kendallwood subdivision subscribers for three years.

The son of Richard and Norma Lipka, Ken is a sophomore at North Farmington High School where his favorite subject is science.

Ken belongs to the bowling league at North Farmington, and participates in the Olympics of the Mind competition where he won the local competition for three years along with the regional title in 1984.

Ken's hobbies include bowling, reading and computers.

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call
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By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

Another shopping complex will be built on 1.45 acres on Orchard Lake Road, just north of Northwestern Highway, in West Bloomfield.

Developer Jeffrey Surrow and landowner Frank Gruda narrowly (4-3) won rezoning approval Monday from the West Bloomfield Township Board after several months of controversy.

Trustees Dennis Vatsis and Dorothy McIntosh and Treasurer Andrew Lobodocky, with backing from Peblecreek subdivision homeowners and Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield, could not persuade Supervisor John Doherty, Clerk Betty Sue Dupree and trustees Jeffrey Leib and Raymond Holland to stop the rezoning.

The proposed shopping complex will be built in what was an office zone, as proposed in the master plan.

"Office use is Monday through Friday, try driving down Orchard Lake Road (shopping district) on a Saturday. There are three traffic lights between 14 and 15 Mile roads. Pretty soon there'll be six," Lobodocky said.

But Leib agreed, "I acknowledge a lot of people don't want more shops. For 12 years on the planning commission, I saw the same people who always oppose everything. If you want to be popular with them, vote with them."

"You want open space? Go walk in the woods," was Leib's advice to the treasurer.

McINTOSH ARGUED the board would set a rezoning precedent by adding more stores. "If others are subsequently turned down, they'll take the township to court."

However, Doherty said, "Everybody

gets out of offices at the same time, but stores traffic is all hours. This zoning will safeguard the future of surrounding property."

Rezoning serves only the developer and landowner, charged Gordon Allardice, who represented Peblecreek. "The planning director has testified retail generates more traffic than office. There are one million square feet of shopping from 12 Mile Road (to Farmington Hills) to Maple (on Orchard Lake Road). More shopping is not needed."

Allardice, a planning commissioner who will become a trustee in Novem-

ber, brought up Surrow's earlier threats to erect an "ugly" two-story office building when his petition was turned down earlier this year. "He ranted, stormed, threatened and tried to intimidate you," Allardice said.

"I WASN'T at that meeting, so I couldn't be intimidated," Doherty said.

Lobodocky also referred to Surrow's asking to have the rezoning tabled before the August primary election, pleading financing difficulties because

of interest rates. The treasurer said those rates haven't changed since that time.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, the board:

• Amended the zoning ordinance to allow for rear-yard setbacks of at least 20 feet in a business (B-3) district — except when adjacent to a residential district. Then, the setback must be at least 75 feet.

• Appointed Alexander Ferguson to the building authority for three years, replacing Donald Van Evert, who has moved out of the township.

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