

Hills planners deny rezoning

Residents along Howard Road — Farmington Hills' only designated natural beauty road — are pleased that the cards are stacking up against a proposed mini-mall becoming a part of their landscape.

A request to rezone approximately 11 acres at 28950 Halsted, south of Howard, from single-family residential to B-3, the city's most liberal commercial zone, was defeated in a 9-0 vote by the Farmington Hills Planning Commission Nov. 20.

The Farmington Hills City Council must still consider the planning commission's recommended denial of the rezoning request.

Proponent J.H. Hudnut sought the rezoning to build a specialty restaurant, boutique and offices on the acreage, which faces Howard Road.

Plans included using two existing 2,300-square-foot buildings for a restaurant and a boutique. If the property had been rezoned, a third 47,000-square-foot building would have been built for offices, City Planner Ed Gardiner said.

Planning commissioners defeated the rezoning request for several reasons. The commercial zone on Howard Road should not have conformed with the city's master plan, would infringe on the natural beauty road

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— Ann Schulkin
Howard Road resident

and would be incompatible with current and future land uses in the area. The proposed rezoning would also have been a form of spot zoning, Gardiner said.

"We are thrilled with it (request's defeat) at this point. We want it (Howard Road) to remain residential," said Howard Road resident Ann Schulkin.

Howard Road residents strongly opposed the proposed rezoning, which prompted them to organize a homeowners association, Schulkin said.

"We would like it (Howard Road) to remain residential and retain it as a natural beauty road," Schulkin said. "It's really such a pretty area."



RANDY BONGIATRI photographer

Helping

Dunkel Middle School students set a new school record when they collected 6,792 cans of food to donate to the Farmington Area Goodfellows this holiday season. The collection total averages 12.3 cans per student. At left, students (from left) Karen Sermet, Jennifer Stanton and Scott Jamrog pack boxes for pickup by the Goodfellows. Donated goods will be distributed to families and seniors who need can be documented. The Goodfellows have been spreading holiday cheer for about 40 years. On Friday, Goodfellows and Goodfellow boosters will sell special Goodfellow newspapers at several major intersections throughout the Farmington area.



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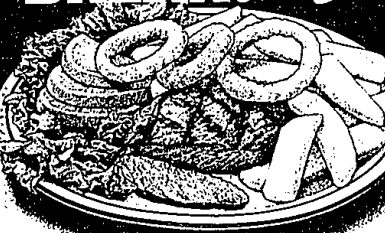
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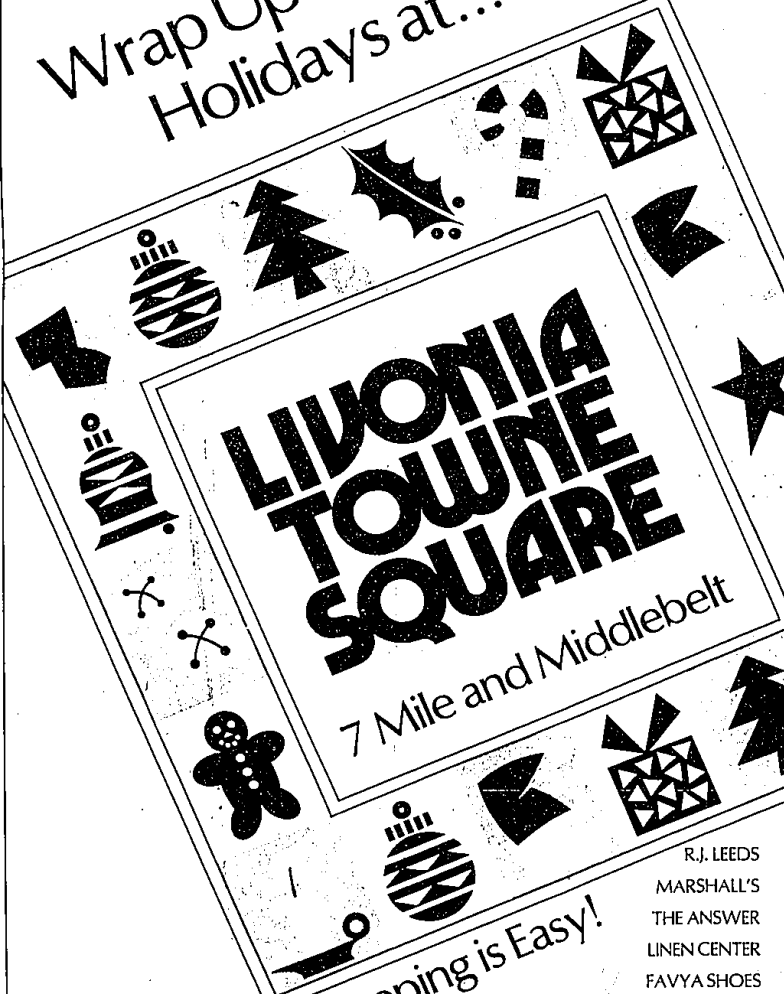
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