

This view is looking south down Orchard Lake Road, toward the intersection of Grand River.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Improving the image

Uptown may get colorful banners like downtown's

By Casey Hane
staff writer

The first step toward creating a more colorful uptown Farmington image has been taken.

Merchants and business people in the Grand River and Mooney area are planning to install cloth banners, similar to those used in downtown Farmington, to symbolize the area designated as "uptown" about one year ago.

But members of the Uptown Farmington Business Association still face an uphill battle. They must get approval from Oakland County, the state of Michigan and area utilities before installing them on poles along Grand River, Mooney Street and in the Uptown Farmington Plaza shopping center.

And local approval from the city council wasn't a consensus decision. The Farmington City Council voted June 19 to allow installation of 12 banners, after a lengthy philosophical discussion and a 3-2 split council vote. The approval granted the association a temporary, one-year permit.

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"I believe, sincerely, we should do all we can to help," said councilman Ralph Yoder, voting to approve the measure. "Let someone else turn them down — I don't want to be the one to do it."

ALSO VOTING in favor were councilwoman Shirley Richardson — whose husband is a former city councilman and has a business in the uptown area — and Mayor Richard Tupper.

"I think we ought to take a look at how fortunate we are to have the city in the shape it's in," Tupper added. "We should encourage this... unless it's going to be a hindrance to this city."

Councilmen Arnold Campbell and William Harisock voted against the measure, following the recommendation of city attorney John Donohue, who formerly sat on the Downtown Development Authority, which controls use of signs in the city's central business district.

"One of the major concerns is the content of the message being placed on public property," said Donohue, who formerly sat on the Downtown Development Authority, which controls use of signs in the city's central business district.

"Here you have a worthy association, but it is commercial. I have a serious legal concern. We can't cen-

sor what the message is."

DONOHUE SAID he was also concerned about setting a precedent in the city for similar requests.

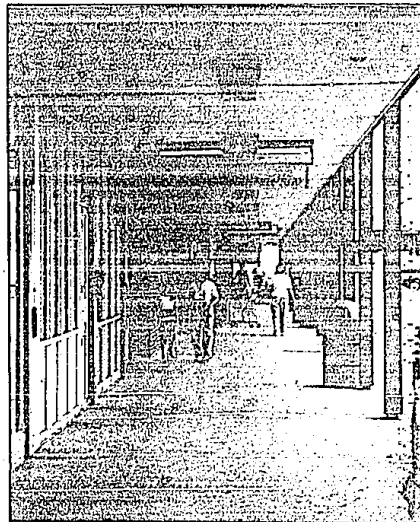
In bringing the issue to the city council, City Manager Robert Deadman cautioned the council about the precedent, saying he could see the program extending beyond the proposed boundaries and into other commercial districts in the city.

"If this were to occur, the (downtown) program would certainly lose its impact and may even become objectionable to the community," Deadman said in his report.

"They've got some real stumbling blocks to overcome, in addition to this council," he added, during council discussion.

Local veterinarian John Richardson, who owns a store and practice in the uptown area, said he didn't feel the effort would compete with downtown, but enhance another area of the city.

"It's a geographic area. We're trying to create an identity," he said. "I didn't realize the downtown was a sacred cow in this community."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Shoppers pay a visit to the Uptown Farmington Plaza.

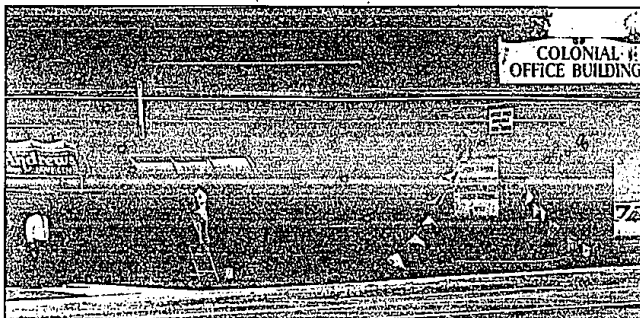
Uptown move ment has upbeat theme

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BUSINESSES IN the downtown area have watched the uptown effort with interest, but are in a slightly different situation because of the city's Downtown Development Authority, which has taxing authority to do physical redevelopment work. DDA executive director Wendy Strip Sittsamer said she supports the uptown effort, adding that any such effort strengthens the city's base. The UFBA is incorporated as a

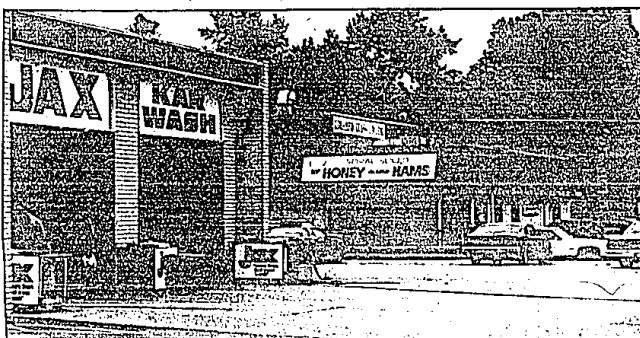
non-profit organization, and is required to hold regular quarterly meetings. The association has a six-member board elected by the membership, which meets monthly. Any business in the general vicinity of the Orchard Lake Road-Grand River intersection can become a member, according to the group's bylaws.

Dues range from \$50 to \$100 per year, depending on the size of the business. Information can be obtained by calling Nasley at 474-7070.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

These businesses are on the east side of Orchard Lake Road, about a quarter mile north of Grand River.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jax Kar Wash is on the left, with Don's Subs in the background in this view of Grand River and Orchard Lake Road.

Hills man shot; car stolen

A man shot during a robbery June 29 at a gasoline station in Southfield is in stable condition at Botsford Hospital in Farmington.

The 34-year-old Farmington Hills man was pumping gasoline into his car in a service driveway of the Total Station at Eight Mile and Shawwassee when a man began to steal his car, said Southfield police information officer Gary Coast.

The car owner resisted, grappling with the thief, who was already inside the car. The owner reached in through the open window to try to take the keys, but the thief pulled out a pistol and shot the car's owner in the face. The bullet traveled along the man's face and lodged in his shoulder.

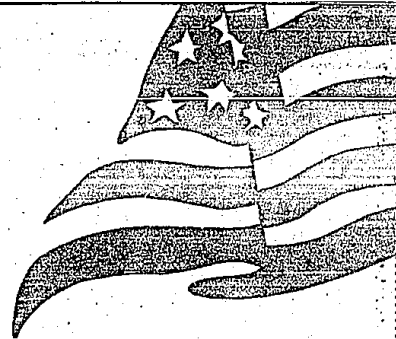
The gunman drove away in the car. A witness took the wounded man to the hospital.

The gunman is described as a

black male in his early 20s, medium complexion, five-foot eight-inches tall with a thin build. He wore a thin mustache and matching "Bad Boy" dark blue T-shirt and pants. He is armed with a semi-automatic pistol.

The stolen car is a blue 1989 Chevy Sereno, with Michigan license plate number 284 WVR.

Anyone with information can call the Southfield police department at 354-4720.



When an
American says
that he loves
his country,
he... means that
he loves an
inner air,
an inner light
in which
freedom lives
and in which
a man can
draw the
breath of
self-respect.

Adlai Stevenson—1952

Jacobson's

CLOSED TOMORROW, INDEPENDENCE DAY. SHOP WEDNESDAY UNTIL 8 P.M.