



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Heavy machinery knocks down what's left of the Loehmann's-Hunters Square shopping center on Orchard Lake Road. The new center should be completed by November.

## Center knocks out old to bring in new stores

By Tom Beer  
Staff writer

Knock down the old, put up the new... that seems to be the development philosophy of the people who run the Loehmann's-Hunters Square shopping center in northern Farmington Hills.

The wrecker's ball and other heavy construction equipment this week are leveling the structure that once housed Tally Hall, the "festival food" court that used to attract upscale shoppers.

In its place will rise a new shopping center with several new stores, said Andy Shaw, project manager for Sherr Development, the Farmington Hills-based company that owns the facility.

About 35,000 square feet will be demolished, Shaw added, and the new mall cover 130,000 square feet. A grand opening is planned for Nov. 16 in time for the holiday shopping season.

"I would say this will be more of a strip shopping center," Shaw said, "not an enclosed mall."

WHEN COMPLETED, Shaw said, the new mall will include an additional Bed, Bath & Beyond, a dry goods store, two clothing stores, Marshall's and Men's Warehouse, and Famous Footwear. A Winkelman's ladies store will return.

Still functioning among the debris and expected to remain are Loehmann's, a ladies clothing store; F&M discount drug store; Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical

Museum; and three restaurants, Max & Erma's, Anita's Kitchen and the Honey Tree.

"Probably the hardest part is keeping the businesses open during the construction," said Greg Czarnik, project engineer for Turner Construction, which is demolishing the old mall. "We want them to be inconvenienced as little as possible."

Shaw refused to say how much the renovation cost or how much Hunter Square paid for the Loehmann center last November.

"We have to keep that confidential," he said. "You never know who might pick up on that."

FARMINGTON HILLS and Oakland County will combine to provide new "deceleration" lanes on busy Orchard Lake Road to make it easier for motorists to enter

the mall, said Dale Countegan, the city's director of Planning and Community Development.

"Ultimately, we think this'll pay dividends for the city," he said.

Tally Hall closed with little notice in December 1988, the owner claiming that the "festival food" concept had lost favor with upscale shoppers. The owners then attempted to attract stores to replace the food shops.

The center was sold to its present owners — Sherr Development — by Cardinal Savings of Cleveland, Ohio, last November.

Several weeks ago, about 10 specialty stores left Loehmann's-Hunters Square to relocate at the enclosed Crosswinds Mall on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield Township to the north.

## police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

### ARMED ROBBERY

An unidentified woman held a Farmington Hills gas station employee at gunpoint as she rifled through a cash register and walked away with \$60 in quarters Sunday evening, according to a police report.

The woman entered a Mobil gas station, 38030 10 Mile, and asked the 22-year-old clerk for cigarettes. She pulled out an automatic pistol from her purse and demanded money. The clerk told police the clip appeared to be in the weapon and the hammer was cocked back.

The woman reportedly went to the cash register and demanded \$1 bills and quarters. The woman told the clerk to go to the backroom and count to 10 before returning to the front of the station. A white Pontiac Fiero was reported seen outside the gas station at the time of the robbery.

The woman was described as about 42 years of age, 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 250 pounds, with long blonde hair.

### THEFTS REPORTED

A 1991 Suzuki valued at \$5,500 was reported stolen from a house on Freedom Road, April 17.

Forty-nine lawn chairs valued at \$392 were reported stolen from Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake Road, April 16-17.

A purse valued at \$180 was reported stolen from the Magic Thimble, 31535 13 Mile, April 17.

Wheelcovers valued at \$150 were reported stolen from a Plymouth at Target, 30020 Grand River, April 17.

Wheelcovers valued at \$400 were reported stolen

from a 1991 Plymouth parked at the Clarion Motel, 31525 12 Mile, April 17-19.

Tools valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a 1983 Chevrolet on List, April 17-18.

A VCR valued at \$450 was reported stolen from a trailer at Little Valley Trailer Park, 20332 Tuck, April 18.

Wheelcovers valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a 1991 Chevrolet on Grand River, April 17.

Approximately \$1,700 cash was reported stolen from Farmington Hills Chrysler, 29301 Grand River, April 17-20.

Cocktail tables, trophies, medals and an ice chest valued at \$740 were reported stolen from a storage area on Madison Ct. in the Independence Green Apartments at Grand River and Halsted, March 19-April 19.

A 1990 Corvette valued at \$20,000 was reported stolen from Wing Hong restaurant, 31455 14 Mile, April 20.

Hubs caps valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a Dodge on Berrywood in the Beechwood Condominiums, April 17-18.

A 1991 Corvette valued at \$45,000 was reported stolen from the Clarion Motel, 31525 12 Mile, April 18.

A 1989 Jeep valued at \$10,000 was reported stolen from Boisford Hospital parking lot, 28050 Grand River, April 18.

### DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was not estimated when three youths apparently threw eggs at two houses, one on Country Ridge, the other on Pine Cove, April 17.

Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when someone dented the siding of a house on Old Homestead Ct., with a pellets from a BB gun, April 20.

## Man faces felony charge in breaking and entering

A 39-year-old Walled Lake man believed responsible for 11 break-ins at businesses in Farmington and Farmington Hills and other communities primarily on Easter Day faces a felony charge.

Ralph E. Landry stood mute to one count of breaking and entering of a building before Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court Tuesday. He remains in custody on a \$5,000 corporate surety bond. A preliminary exam on the charge is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 24. Conviction of breaking and entering of a building is 10 years in prison.

Landry was arrested about 6 p.m. Sunday at his Walled Lake home. His wife and sister who arrived at the house later were not arrested. Farmington Hills police executed a search warrant on his house and some items that may be used as evidence were

**Ralph E. Landry stood mute to one count of breaking and entering of a building before Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court Tuesday.**

recovered, according to Det. Charles Hubbard of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

FOUR FARMINGTON Hills businesses were broken into Sunday and small amounts of cash were stolen, according to Detective Sgt. Charles Nebus. The businesses included two pet supply stores, a pizzeria and a Mail Box Etc. store.

"Based on a witness description of a car and license plate, we found out who was driving the car," Nebus said.

The information led police to the house in Walled Lake, where the search warrant was conducted Sunday night, Nebus added.

Four Farmington businesses also were broken into — through door locks — in Farmington Hills businesses. They include two pizzerias, a beauty shop and a book store. The largest amount of cash taken from these businesses was \$180, according to Gary Goss, deputy director of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

Police believe the same man responsible for business break-ins Sunday in Farmington and Farmington Hills may be responsible for others in South Lyon and Warren, Hubbard said.

## State rep to talk insurance

Republican State Rep. Jan Dolan of Farmington Hills will talk about Michigan auto insurance at a 7 p.m. meeting of the Farmington Area Commission on Aging Tuesday, April 28.

The meeting will be in council chambers in the

Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile, at the corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Talk about auto insurance is expected to draw many senior adults, who, like others, are concerned about increasing premium rates. The meeting is open to the public.

# Stiffel®

## Spring SAVINGS

Traditional, Elegant, Especially appropriate  
in lending a graceful touch to any  
season. Affordably available at  
Brose, we care about your home.

Prices start at  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**  
While supplies last.

A Stiffel lamp. The heart of a well-loved room.

Lighting Solutions For Every Room • Wiring Supplies and Light Bulbs

**BROSE**  
ELECTRICAL  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

37400 W. 7 MILE ROAD  
LIVONIA, MI 48152 • (313) 464-7211

**HIS**

MON. - TUE. - WED. - SAT. 9:30 - 6:00  
THURS. - FRI. 9:30 - 6:00