



Trees for the mall: Pete Ridley of Ray's Landscaping in Walled Lake plants a tree in the new parking lot for Loehmann's in northern Farmington Hills.

Homestretch

New mall nearly done

BY MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

The end is near . . . and for shoppers at Loehmann's Hunters Square, that should be good news.

Redevelopment-related construction of the shopping mall should be complete by Thanksgiving and ready for the rush of holiday shoppers, according to Andy Shaw, project manager for Sherr Development.

Loehmann's Hunters Square, which is in northern Farmington Hills on Orchard Lake south of 14 Mile, once housed the festival food court known as Tally Hall. Redevelopment began early this year after Sherr Development bought the center from Cardinal Savings of Cleveland.

The new mall covers about 136,000 square feet — all of which is leased.

Last spring, an exodus of boutiques from the center raised eyebrows of area shoppers. But according to Shaw, the mall owners were not alarmed.

"The shopping center has changed," Shaw said. "The reconfiguration changed the for-

The shopping center has changed . . .
Andy Shaw
project manager

mat of the mall. We went from housing small boutiques to housing large value oriented stores.

New tenants include stores which Shaw describes as "category killers": Bed, Bath & Beyond; Marshall's; Men's Warehouse; Famous Footwear; and Winkleman's.

Tenants which remained even through the construction dust include: F&M; Loehmann's; Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum; Max & Erma's; Anita's Kitchen; and the Honey Tree.

Pierre Farah, who along with his wife, Anita, own Anita's Kitchen, said business was not hurt by the redevelopment rubble.

"It improved business," Farah said. "It created a curious atmosphere and people came to see what was happening. Once they paved the parking lot, there was as much business as usual if not more."

Anita's Kitchen has been at the center for eight years, and Farah says that competition at the north Farmington location can be tough.

"It's a competitive market," he said. "This market is difficult for mom-and-pop operations. Competition is keen."

But Farah said the new tenants, as well as road improvements, will help attract more shoppers.

A new driveway connects Loehmann's Hunters Square with Orchard Place, the shopping center south of the square; and deceleration lanes were added on Orchard Lake.

Landscaping and architectural improvements were also made.

"It's the north entrance point of the city," Shaw said of Loehmann's Hunters Square. "It's really cleaned up. It's a lively new shopping center and it's the product of cooperation between tenants, the developer and the city."

"It's a pleasure to be part of something that has a positive impact on the city and I think this project has been exactly that."

Pizza proceeds aid drug fight

Attention pizza lovers. Wednesday, Nov. 18, will be Farmington Families in Action day at Domino's Pizza. Participants can treat their families to pizza and say no to drugs at the same time. Both Domino's locations, Orchard Lake Road near 14 Mile and Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road, will donate 10 percent of their sales for every order for FFA.

Tell the order taker: "I support Farmington Families in Action's substance abuse education programs."

Heritage Friends host 3rd annual park tour

Friends of Heritage will host the third annual Holiday Tour Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 3-6, at the Heritage Park Visitor Center in Farmington Hills.

The theme of this year's event will be "The History of the Decorated Tree." Many examples of how trees were decorated in the past will be displayed.

The tour has been expanded to include a Hanukkah display, antique toys, a model train setup, and visits from Santa that weekend. Friends of Heritage and other groups will have a holiday

Site from page 1A

IMT is also considering a lawsuit to make previous owners of the site — known as the Selastom site after a former owner — also share in cleanup costs.

David O'Neill identified that owner as Fruit of the Loom, formerly NW Industries.

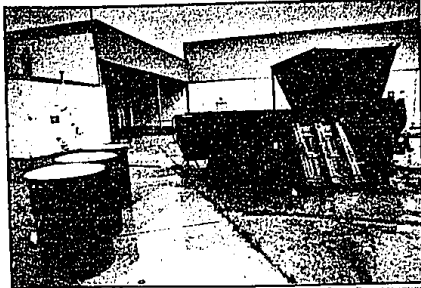
Bill Costick, Hills city manager, was informed of the contamination Oct. 23.

The site once housed a large production facility using a foam injection molding process, according to DNR records. It's located in an industrial park near mixed residential and commercial development.

"Contamination was discovered during an environmental audit of the facility for a real estate transaction," said Dave Wahl, MDNR project manager.

Highly contaminated soils and pure solvents were discovered in an area near bulk above-ground solvent tanks inside the facility and also near a solvent storage area, according to DNR records. Contaminants include volatile organic compounds and halogenated hydrocarbons.

"Most properties and residences in the vicinity use municipal water supplies," said a DNR file memo. "However, some production wells for industry and limited private wells for horticultural uses do exist."



BILL BREASLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Contaminated site: The photo shows the back of a building and loading dock area at 23800 Research Drive, Farmington Hills. The site is chemically contaminated, according to the state DNR.

Clayton Environmental Industries, located in Novi, is the environmental consultant in this case. The consultants identified the former location of the above-ground storage tank and the former location of the indoor tank as the two principle sources of the contamination.

Both tanks were used to store trichloroethene during plant operation.

Trichloroethene was pumped from the above-ground storage tank through an above ground transfer line to the indoor tank, according to the Clayton study.

"What is the proper way to clean it up?" Costick asked. "That's between the owner and the DNR."

Taste changes, but water is safe

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Perrier it's not.

Some Farmington residents have complained about the odor and taste of their tap water lately. Not to worry, though. The water is perfectly safe, said Earl R. Billing, Farmington's director of public services.

"Due to the new EPA regulations for the Safe Drinking Water Act, the city of Detroit has been required to make some changes in the method of filtering the water

at the treatment plant," Billing said. "On Nov. 4, Detroit began to use a carbon product in its filtering plant, for corrosion control. This product has caused some water users to notice a change in taste and a different odor."

The water is safe to drink, Billing stressed.

"With adjustments to the filtration operation, the taste and odor will subside," Billing said.

Only one Hills resident complained, and Jean Barrett, assistant to the director of public ser-

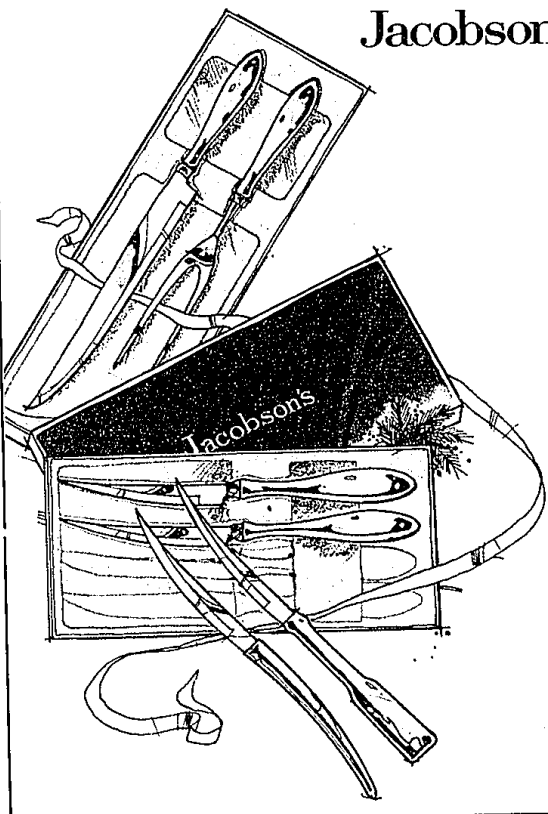
vice. Most Farmington-area residents have water from the Detroit system.

Every fall, bodies of fresh water invert, that is turn over, when temperatures dip. This process affects Detroit's water system when impurities from the lake bed rise to the surface with warm water.

When the water from the lake bottom rises to the surface, silt, algae and other impurities also rise. Chemicals are added to insure the water's safety.

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