

Toys, anyone?: Total Fitness, a health club at 23311 Orchard Lake Road, Farmtoys, anyones: Total Fitness, a heatin cluo at 2311 Orchard Lake Roda, ramington Hills, is a drop off point for the Marine Corps Reserve "Toys For Tots program." Total Fitness' Russ Pauling (left), Farmington Councilman Richard Tupper and District Judge Fred Harris are involved in the program. Unwrapped toys may be dropped off anytime before Tuesday, Dec. 8. For more information,

Cops hail shoplifting crackdown

Farmington police say they are pleased that retailers and shop-keepeers are cracking down on shoplifters.

shoplifters.

"We're glad to see increased enforcement by retailers," said public safety director Frank Lauhoff at a recent city council meeting.

Lauhoff's third quarter operations report reflected an increase in reported shoplifting reports.

Some 88 incidents were reported as of the September report.

'This is the second year that we've seen the lowest rate in part one (serious crimes) in 20 years.

Frank Lauhoff public safety director

This compares to 55 reported incidents in last year's report.

"This is the second year that we've seen the lowest rate in part

one (serious crimes) in 20 years," Lauhoff said.

For example, both Farmer Jack and Kmart have independent accurity companies, said deputy director Gary Goss.

Increased diligence and vigilance overall by retailers has resulted in more reports, Goss said.

Each retailer determines his in-dividual stance on shoplifting. Smaller retailers often stop sho-plifters at the door or have in-stalled detection devices, Goss sold.

Sometimes, all the retailer can do is observe and take down the alleged shoplifters license plate number, Goss added.

Although nobody got what they wanted, a zoning settlement will allow the completion of a senior housing complex in Farmington Hills.

"All that was needed was a curb access," said Robert Winters, a former GRV resident.

"We had tried before, but it didn't

"We had tried before, but it didn't work out."

Then Winters, who has since moved to Northville, contacted the Novi South chapter of the Kiwanis Club. After attending a few meetings, he proposed having the club make an access. After only 2½ months, the project was completed at a cost of \$625 to the club.

The new access, which was ready in late October, has made a big difference for many of the 160 GRV residents, and its administrator, Ann O'Dell.

"The residents tried to initiate it, but didn't get anywhere," O'Dell said. "They'd been trying for maybe a year and a half."

Winters found the bank and restaurant more than willing to help. Thanks to the combined efforts of a bank, a restaurant, a retirement residence, a service ground one dedicated man, some handicapped and senior citizens are enjoying eating out again. For many residents of Grand River Village, an assisted living residence at Grand River and Haisted in Fermington Hills, the short trip to the nearby Bill Knapp's family residence wasn't possible. Wheelchnir-hound seniors

Seniors wheel into dinery

thanks to new curb access

possible.

Wheelchair-bound seniors could not get from the lower (employee) parking lot at Comerica Bank to Bill Knapp's because of a

"He didn't actually need the ac-cess, because he had moved out," said Julie Lezenby. Comerica branch secretary. "He continued to work to help them get the ramp."

And the change has been a real benefit for Bill Knapp's. "What surprised me was how many more senior citizens we gained as customers," said res-taurant manager Richard McCar-

thy.

Although the Kiwanis Club paid for the access, Winters said the restaurant and bank have offered to help, And according to O'Dell, the improvement hasn't been lost on GRV resident hasn't been lost on GRV resident, as he said. "They're really happy about it."

Zone compromise paves way to complete senior complex

BY BILL COUTANT

The Mecropolis Village on Edgehill Street ran afoul of city zoning regulations, because it restricts tenants based on age. The special RCE zoning designed for multiple senior housing, would have required residents to be at least 62 years old.

Some neighbors also complained about the number of units, which would affect the "density" of the neighborhood.

The original project would have included 68 single-family units on the nine-acre site. The city agreed

units in a RA-1, single family zoning.
"We have to cut our losses," said councilman Terry Sever. "It's dengerous to leave it RCE. Now we're protecting the (lower) density."

density."

The project, planned as a community for elderly parishioners of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, ran into problems because prospective mortgage least site daws from an agerestrictive condominium that might present resale problems. Those problems didn't surface until 17 units and the water, sewer and concrete curbs had been installed. In addition, some residents in

In addition, some residents in the area of Middlebelt between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads said they were worried about increased traf-

fic created by the project. The in-complete project, with vacant fields, has also become an eye-sore, they said. Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi agreed.

"Why weren't they (Mecropo-lis) required to take care of those problems?" he said.

But City Manager William Costick said the project will not be a blight on the neighborhood once it's complete.

once it's complete.
"It's just not finished," he said.
The council gave the agreement the green light by a 6-1 vote, with Vagnozzi voting against at its Nov. 23 meeting. Councilman Larry Lichtman, whose law firm represents Mecropolis Village, abstained.

Vagnozzi said he voted against the agreement because it puts the city in "too defensive" a position.

Dr. Lee Roberson will be the guest speaker during the 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 13, at Northwest Baptist Church in Farmington Hills. Roberson pastored the Highland Park Baptist Church. in Chattanooga, Tenn., for 40 years. During those years the church world in membership. In 1946, he inaugurated Tennessee Temple School, which later became Tennessee Temple School, Students attend Tennessee Temple from and from your school of the school. Students attend Tennessee Temple from any foreign countries. Now in his 80s, Roberson continues to speake daily all across the country, and is in great decountry, and is in great decountry, and is in great decountry and is in great decountry. The public is invited to attend. The public is invited to attend. The church is at 23845 Middle-



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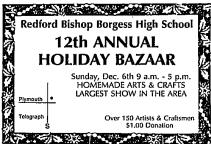
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