



DIAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Moving on: Sue Weiss of Farmington Hills plans to work for Borders when the Metro News closes.

End of chapter: Metro News loses war of words

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE
STAFF WRITER

They all felt sorry about it. "It's really too bad to see that unless you're big, you just can't make it," said Paula Butler of Bloomfield Hills.

"I liked that little store. It was nice and personable in there," said Nancy Powell of West Bloomfield.

But there they were — shopping at Barnes & Noble.

The newest book superstore, on Telegraph just south of Maple in Bloomfield Township, has already felled its nearest competition.

Metro News Center, the cozy bookstore which for about 20

years has served the area from its long, narrow nook across Telegraph in the Bloomfield Plaza shopping center, will close at the end of the year.

"Our lease is up," said manager Sue Weiss, of Farmington Hills, who has been part of the store's operation for 13 years. And its owner Ludington News, a Detroit-based magazine distributor, is not renewing that lease.

"We're going to miss it here. It's been like a second home to us. Our customers are going to miss it, too," Weiss said. "There are going to be lots of disappointed people — we're a neighborhood fixture."

But Weiss, too, is adapting to

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the era of the super bookstore. She will go to Borders's when Metro News closes. Life goes on, she says. And she's happy to con-

tinue working in her field. "I'm sorry. I was hoping that we would both be here and work together," said Janice Keramedjian,

Barnes & Noble store manager, when asked about Metro News closing. "I'm sorry for the whole area."

But as is evident when you walk into the spanking new mega store, even Metro News with its renowned selection of magazines and well-read staff couldn't compete.

Besides its row upon row of books for all interests, it has a Barnes & Noble Jr. section for children, a coffee house featuring

Seattle's legendary Starbucks coffee, and a giant music section.

"It was just a matter of time," said a realistic Jerilyn Nathanson on Metro News closing. Nathanson, seen browsing at the new bookstore, says she, her husband and children often pop over from their Franklin Village home.

"It's like a family outing for us. There's coffee. It's such a nice touch. It's nice to have those small places, but this has everything."

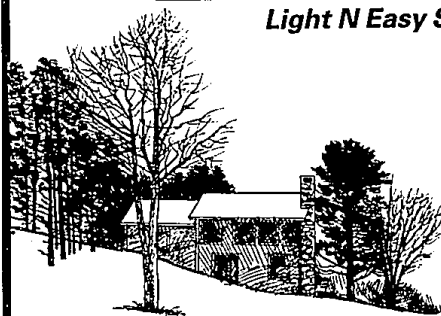
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