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pointed in Farmington officials. "I don't think it's fair that they bought residential property and turned it into community property," she said. "The city let us down. We plan to move eventually. I love this neighborhood, but I just can't stand the Greenery."

But City Manager Frank Lauthoff feels the city and the Greenery have both worked hard to accommodate residents' concerns.

"We invited all those residents to public meetings by letter," he said. "All of them were invited to make suggestions and comments. All suggestions were made part of the project."

"There's also very strict criteria about the construction of the lot," he continued. "That includes a special brick wall around the entire new parking

area, no entrances from Pickett, special lighting to keep it all in the lot area, and expensive plantings, including over 50 trees and evergreens around the perimeter.

"The Greenery has invested a large amount of money to make the lot as attractive as possible, much more than you normally see parking lots cost."

Deck would not comment on any neighbors' complaints.

But even for the angriest resident, the new lot brings some welcome news.

"There will be no other expansions permitted, period," said Lauthoff. "The planning commission guaranteed that to the residents. The Greenery is at the size it will stay."

How to plan for college

Sheryl E. Krasnow, a college and career counselor, will be at the Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, to offer advice on planning for a college education and how to obtain financial aid.

"Strategies and Timetables" will be the topic of the Sept. 26 session. Other sessions with Krasnow will be held Dec. 27 and Jan. 6. The library is located on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads.

Kroger from page A1

to prevent the loss of trees." Dan Bellinger, president of the Meadowbrook Homeowners Association said his board voted against the proposal.

"This would be the law of unintended consequences," he said. "Every time a road is improved, there's more traffic. I've never had a problem shopping."

Attorney Norman Hyman, representing the developer, said that the center combined with improvements to the roadways would actually improve traffic.

"Every member of this neighborhood has to eat," he said, adding that there was no super market in the southwest quadrant of the city. "People are already on the road to the market. This would just make it more convenient for them, not add traffic."

Hyman said the center would not be like the "Meijer's monster" on Eight Mile and Haggerty in Novi, but would be for local residents.

"It's mind boggling to think that such a project would not add to the traffic," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.

Claude Cones, the city's planning consultant, outlined the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal that had gotten a mixed review (4-4 vote) from the city's planning commission.

A shopping center would provide convenient shopping, additional tax base (of from \$55,000-\$60,000 to the city), would provide a use for land that has been unused for a long time, and would improve the adjacent roads.

He said the project would be used as justification for other commercial projects in the area and have an impact on Novi's residential area, would add more traffic, would add to traffic burdens on Haggerty, could add to an oversupply of commercial buildings and force Novi to change its land use.

Vagnozzi said he was disappointed with the change in the master plan that would allow rezoning, especially after the city council had met with residents and the planning commission before the change.

"The idea was to get input from the residents," he said. "I'm

very unhappy it was done after we met with residents."

Residents from both cities supported the proposal, just as some residents opposed it.

Albert Ludwig, who lives near the Kroger center at 112 Milo and Halsted, said he had reservations about that center when it was built.

"If anything, I wish it were closer," Ludwig said. "It's a convenience. It was a chance for us to go away from traffic on Orchard Lake."

But Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said the proposal at 125,000 square feet on 17 acres, was much larger than the Kroger site at the Mid-Eleven Center on Middlebelt and 11 Mile, which is 75,000 square feet.

"I don't consider that a convenience," she said.

Councilman Jerry Ellis said his council had a planned unit development, which is a negotiated project, could ensure traffic and other improvements and still permit the project.

But other council members did not like that alternative.

"I would not encourage a scaled down version," said Councilman Terry Sever. A smaller commercial strip would be less successful.

Mayor Vagnozzi said he was skeptical about the need for retail in the area. Citing the new retail center on Middlebelt and 12 Mile, Vagnozzi said it had a stores that had been in other area centers, not new retail.

Councilwoman Nancy Bates said office use was the appropriate use for the land.

"This is not going to be for the bunnies and the birds forever," she said.

After the 7-0 denial, Hyman said he was not sure what the next move would be.

"We'll take a good hard look at it," he said.

YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

WHO, WHAT, WHERE...Y?

The new fall series of television shows that will begin airing Monday, Sept. 16, at 8 p.m. and every Wednesday beginning Sept. 18, at 8 p.m. on INFO Channel 12. Mark your calendar to see how the Farmington Area YMCA will be providing more services to our community. This first show discusses the history of the YMCA in Farmington and also lets the television audience get a sneak preview of the new expansion which is to be launched Oct. 12 with an open house to the community.

OPEN HOUSE

"The UFOs are hovering." That is a phrase you will be hearing a lot during October. That is because on Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Farmington YMCA will be hosting an Open House where you may bring your family and try our facility. There will be refreshments, gifts and more. Call 659-4020 for more details on this exciting event. This will give the community a chance to see how the YMCA will be doing even more programming to meet the needs of the Farmington/Farmington Hills community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NITES

The second middle school night of the fall will be held Oct. 12 from 7:30-11 p.m. Activities include: movie, friends, racquetball, basketball and swimming. Building is open to middle schoolers only. Food is provided. Bring a bathing suit.

DRIVERS' EDUCATION

Beginning Oct. 15-Nov. 7,

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. This course included both classroom and behind the wheel training.

The instructors are Accurate Driving School and the programs meets the Michigan law requirements for Driver Education. Students must be at least 15 years old when the class begins. Bring birth certificate to the first class. Class meets from 7-9 p.m.

Wanted: Top citizen to honor

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good citizens. Any suggestions?

Each fall, the chamber honors the Farmington-area's Citizen of the Year — this is the 25th year for the award — and nominations are sought from the community beforehand. Past award-winners are excluded, and government officials may be nominated for their volunteer achievements only. Past nominees who were not winners may be renominated.

Cathy Webb, Farmington School Board member, won last year's award.

Some other recent winners: Walter Sundquist, Lloyd Smith Betty Nicolay, Kay Blakeney, Benard Tupper, Jean Fox, Jim Ellis, Harold Gibson, Robert McConnell and Terry Sever. Nomination forms are available at the chamber office, 33000 Thomas, Farmington. Deadline for entries is Friday, Oct. 20. The award will be presented in November at the Chamber's annual dinner.

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