

Neighbors from page A1

creek residents) are at a different point," said Steve Brock, Farmington Hills assistant city manager. "Woodcreek is long established and has a history of talking to developers around them."

The developer is frustrated because he feels he's already compromised with surrounding homeowners.

Hickory Oaks initially called for 42 lots, but the developer pared the number to 37. The area is zoned RA-1 B, which calls for lot widths to be at least 140 feet wide.

Hickory Oaks' lots vary from 110 to 140 feet. Smaller lots need to be widened in order to fit in with surrounding Woodcreek

Farms and Woodcreek Hills subdivisions where they are larger, Morris said.

Woodcreek Farms lots run 1 to 2 acres and more; Woodcreek Hills is RA-1 B where some lots are under an acre.

"The 42-lot proposal was certainly worse, but when you talk about upholding the city's zoning requirements, compromise shouldn't be a factor," Morris said. "You either comply with the zoning ordinances or you don't."

"This happens frequently when there is a development proposal. The developer comes in and proposes something horrendous and hopes people will settle for something that is simply

unacceptable."

Hickory Oaks would meet the open space option under the zoning ordinance. The development more than meets the criteria, Schaefer said.

"We complied with the ordinance with 42 lots," Schaefer said. Morris doesn't believe the planning commission fully took into account the provision in the open space ordinance that the development be consistent with adjoining neighborhood.

"The easiest way to look at this is to look at the lot sizes and look at the lots we have. It's readily apparent they're simply smaller lots," Morris said.

Mall work takes shape



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE H. MCKEE

Big plans: Exterior work at the Downtown Center mall in Farmington Hills is taking shape. Checking plans recently are, from left, Rick Dreus, Dave Dowler, Bernie Ronnisch, Frank Granzdahl, all of Dowler-Ronnisch, property manager Patricia Brooks, Sue Dubin, Dr. Howard Dubin, Optometrist, DDA Director Judy Downey and Construction Supervisor Bruce Mataghi.

POLICE CALLS

The following police and fire incidents were reported in the Farmington area in the past week.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills:

A \$250 miter saw and \$250 air compressor were stolen from a construction area at St. Andrew's Church on Halsted and Eight Mile between Aug. 29 and Sept. 2.

An air bag and a cellular phone were stolen from a 1996 Ford Probe parked at Inverary Condominiums on 12 Mile Road between Sept. 1-2. An air bag was also stolen from a 1997 Ford Probe parked at Gateway Apartments between Sept. 1-2.

A \$4,400 Dell Latitude was stolen from Computware on Northwestern Highway between Aug. 23-25.

A \$1,200 Schwinn racing bike was stolen from an Ontaga residence Aug. 30.

In Farmington:

A Commerce Township man, who sells figurines on consignment out of Cratigue, a crafts and antiques mall in the 33000

block of Slocum, reported Wednesday that several Royal Daltons were missing from their place in a curio cabinet. The figurines, valued at a total of \$1,275, were taken sometime between the afternoons of Tuesday, Aug. 26 and Friday, Aug. 29.

BREAK INS

In Farmington Hills:

A radio was stolen after the rear driver vent window was broken on a 1997 Jeep Cherokee on Farmington and 12 Mile Sept. 2, causing \$300 damage.

A vent window was broken on a 1992 Jeep Cherokee parked in an attempted break-in at Computware Corp. on Northwestern Sept. 2, causing \$300 damage.

A compact disc player, stereo and cellular phone were stolen after the driver's side vent window were broken on a 1994 Jeep Cherokee parked at Liberty Mutual on 12 Mile Sept. 3, causing \$200 damage.

ASSAULT

In Farmington Hills:

A 28-year-old Walled Lake suffered a broken jaw after being

hit with an unknown object in the side of the face and kicked several times in the head by three males outside of the Cadillac Cafe on Grand River at 2:15 a.m. Aug. 30. Friends took the man to Providence Hospital where his jaw was wired shut. He lost a tooth and had several facial cuts and bruises.

CHILD NEGLECT

In Farmington Hills:

A Novi woman, 44, was ticketed for assault and battery and leaving a child under the age 11 in a vehicle after a 1-year-old girl was found alone in a locked Buick Park Avenue outside the Old Navy store on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile around 3:30 p.m. Sept. 2.

The mother slapped a woman who confronted her about leaving the child inside a car with the windows rolled up. The child was in the car for approximately 20 minutes and was warm and sweaty when police arrived. The mother told police she didn't want to take the sleeping child inside the store and also admitted striking the woman, adding "I can do what I want to do."

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