

Most property owners complying with cleanup

The following are the commercial properties inspected by city of Farmington staff:

■ A&W, 30782 Grand River: Planting areas overgrown, peeling exterior siding, fire damaged sign, no address numbers, masonry wall in disrepair.
(Current Status: All violations corrected. Recent facelift to building approved by planning.)

■ Golden River Convey Island, 30746 Grand River: Front fence needs paint, grass/weeds growing in parking lot, bumper blocks needed painting.
(Current Status: All violations corrected.)

■ Vacant Building, 30748 Grand River: Repair or removed front fence, discard behind building, grass/weeds in cracks of asphalt, exterior wood in disrepair, need address numbers, storage at front and trailer.
(Current Status: All violations corrected, but building remains vacant. Prospective deal with Golden River has fallen apart. Will be investigated under the "Dangerous Structures" code.)

■ Marilyn K. Maher, P.C. 30752 Grand River: Grass/weeds along building and parking lot.
(Current Status: OK)

■ Joseph S. Barnett & Assoc., 30760 and 30766 Grand River: Debris behind building, damaged front signs, grass and weeds in parking lot.
(Current Status: All violations corrected.)

■ MV Contracting, 30780 Grand River: Debris behind building, grass and weeds in cracks.
(Current Status: All violations corrected.)

■ 9-Grand Party Store, 30790 Grand River: Signs in disrepair.
(Current Status: Repair work done.)

■ Crags Property, 30924-66 Grand River: Debris/discards outside, broken up parking lot near cabinet business, vehicles parked on unimproved surface (dirt and grass), broken up concrete near Taste of Asia.
(Current Status: Owner recently pulled out the old concrete and fence along Lido. He put down asphalt and new sod along Grand River and Taste of Asia. All violations now eliminated.)

■ Strip Center, 31148/31178 Grand River: Evergreens obstructing the sidewalk along Violet, dead planting and vegetation in rear planting area.
(Current Status: Evergreens trimmed back and new planting in landscape area.)

■ Rustic Pub, 31030 Grand River: Grass and weeds in parking lot cracks.
(Current Status: Area cleaned up.)

■ Emmitt Instruments, 31036 Grand River: Grass and weeds along building.
(Current Status: Area cleaned up.)

■ Hong Kong Restaurant, 31230 Grand River: Front fence in disrepair, landscaped areas overgrown, front ground sign rusted, no address number.
(Current Status: Building burned down in November, 1998. Violation has been issued for blight on a vacant parcel.)

■ Wash Hut, 31200 Grand River: Exterior in disrepair, loose wall sign, pot holes in parking lot, rear wall in need of paint.
(Current Status: Building burned down in November, 1998. Violation has been issued for blight on a vacant parcel.)

■ Jax Car Wash, 31500 Grand River: Dumpster enclosure in disrepair with debris, broken cement near Orchard Lake, landscaped areas full of grass and weeds, light posts and sign supports need to be scraped and painted.
(Current Status: Minor cosmetic items done - debris, grass/weeds and painting. Did not do cement work.)

■ Farmington Auto Wash, 22883 Orchard Lake: Damaged chain link fence, no address numbers, some missing aluminum siding, minor debris in grass areas.
(Current Status: All violations taken care of. Owner then gave building a fresh coat of paint.)

■ Harmon Glass, 22855 Orchard Lake: No address numbers, rear concrete drive badly broken up, front awning letters falling off, broken glass in cracks of access drive.
(Current Status: All violations corrected. New surface put down off Mooney, signs (awning) repaired. Current lawsuit with owners of The Tree House about doing proper roof repairs since building roof is joined.)

■ The Tree House, 22906 Mooney: Disposed outside of building, grass/weeds in parking lot cracks, grass right-of-way not maintained.
(Current Status: Violations corrected.)

■ Belle Tire, 22843 Orchard Lake: Rear right-of-way along Mooney not maintained, trees obstructing walk off Mooney, no address numbers.
(Current Status: Violations corrected.)

■ Midas, 22849 Orchard Lake: Discards outside of building and enclosure, grass and weeds in cracks around property.
(Current Status: Owner did a facelift to the building for the new Midas look. Other violations corrected.)

■ Uptown Plaza, 31530-630 Grand River: Trash/litter in alley, building soffit in disrepair, rusted rear doors to alley, trees on Mooney obstructing walk, front signs (support posts) needed painting.
(Current Status: Owner did building repairs, replaced rear doors and fixed the aluminum soffit. The owner has been cited twice this summer for not maintaining the areas along Mooney and Grand River. Fines of \$150 and \$250 were assessed.)

■ Parcel Behind Wash Hut, 22406 Violet: Old dilapidated garage structure.
(Current Status: Arbor Drugs (before CVS ownership) demolished the garage. Now just a vacant parcel.)

Theft

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al recent Devon Aire larcenies.

The two were stopped around 1 a.m. on Seven Mile at Brentwood in Livonia, about a half-mile west of Redford.

Hills police withheld the identities of the two, pending arraignment on larceny charges Wednesday in Farmington Hills 47th District Court.

A witness told Hills police of seeing one of the suspects enter the locker room at the Hills Arena, 35600 W. Eight Mile, carrying what appeared to be an empty hockey bag. A short time later, the witness said, the suspect was seen carrying the same bag while being chased from the locker room.

According to Nebus, the suspect ran out and jumped into a blue Ford Taurus, which had been parked - lights out and engine idling - near the arena's delivery area.

The second suspect was reportedly behind the wheel of the car, which hurriedly left the parking lot, heading west on Eight Mile, Nebus said.

A witness at the Hills arena identified one of the suspects as having been present when eight wallets were stolen there in an earlier incident, the assistant chief said.

Nebus said that, speaking as a hockey player himself, the locker-room thefts are "a good reminder that" such thievery is enticing to criminals and suggested hockey players leave their valuables at home or lock them in their cars.

Then, if someone steals a car, "there's only one victim," he said.

Nebus also said Farmington Hills had been having "a regular problem with thefts at the rink" and had spent a lot of money installing user-friendly locks with lights that indicate when the door is locked and unlocked.

"If coaches and players would keep the door locked, there would be no thefts," he said.

Al Strasser, Hills Ice Arena manager, seconded Nebus' statement, saying that even though both his staff and the police have been "trying to do everything we can" to keep thefts down, "we need the help of the public to secure the locker rooms."

He said there had been two instances of thefts this year and some last year.

The locker rooms had two doors, one at the back with an electronic system, the other at the front with a dead bolt, Strasser explained. The two rooms share a shower and toilet facility.

"In at least one of the recent instances, the team neglected to lock the front door," he said. Clothing is on hooks inside the locker rooms.

Besides encouraging people to use the locks, Strasser said, "we also have coin lockers in the lobby for people wanting to secure their valuables."

"We have a lot of people coming and going with large (hockey equipment) bags, and sometimes it becomes difficult to identify" who belongs there and who doesn't, he said.

And thieves always try to fit in with the crowd, he warned.

Clean up from page A1

River-Orchard Lake Road, burned down in November 1998. Violations were issued to both for "blight on a vacant parcel," according to a Nov. 3 report on the status of inspections from building inspector John Koncosol to Farmington City Manager Frank Laubhoff.

Gushman said the citations followed letters sent this summer informing both owners "that

they needed to restore their properties to some sort of green-belt areas." The citations are civil infractions, carrying maximum fines of \$500 each.

"To date they've done nothing but get rid of the buildings themselves," said Gushman to the council about Hong Kong Restaurant and the Wash Hut.

After receiving the city's initial letter, Gushman said the Hong

Kong Restaurant owner (Yock Poy Lau) explained that any delay in compliance was linked to negotiations to sell his parcel.

"But nothing's happened," Gushman said. "It appears to be a stall tactic."

Redevelopment of the corner remains a top city priority. But, said Laubhoff after the meeting, there are "three or four" parcels at the corner, compounding the

issue. "The people who own the (properties) have to sell ... to a single owner."

Laubhoff, meanwhile, said Gushman's mostly positive report is another indication that the majority of Farmington property owners want to pitch in.

"It's like a progression, I don't call it a crackdown (on blight)," he said. "And that's important to an older community. Your

streets, roads and buildings, it's the condition of all those things that creates your image."

Laubhoff added that he thinks many of those businesses cited by the city just needed a reminder.

"People have put in new sidewalks, parking lots, facades and roofs," he explained. "Sometimes, it's just telling people to bring it (a problem) to their attention."

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