

Hills developer pulls out of Plymouth Township plans

BY SUE BUCK
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A Farmington Hills developer has pulled out of a Plymouth Township project but the reasons behind the move are unclear.

Gary Sakwa of Grand Sakwa

planned to develop land owned by Don Massey, a Plymouth Township auto dealer, at the corner of Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty with four one-story restaurants and offices and a 300-unit condominium complex.

"He didn't give a reason," said

Jim Anulewicz, Plymouth Township public services director.

However, other developers are now interested in carrying out the same plans, Anulewicz said. Phoenix Land Development has approached Anulewicz with questions about the property, and another unnamed developer reportedly is talking with Massey, Anulewicz said.

Neither Sakwa nor Massey returned phone calls.

The proposed complex would wrap around the Bill Knapp's restaurant that already exists on the corner. Preliminary site plans called for the four restaurant/office sites to front Ann Arbor Road with all parking to the side and rear of the buildings.

Much of the existing treeline was to be used as a buffer between the rear of the restaurants and offices and the con-

dition development complex that was to be built to the north. Four vacant homes on the property were razed last fall.

Restaurants like Applebee's and Papa Vito's were planned in much the same fashion Sakwa included them in the development of the shopping complex at Haggerty and Six Mile in Northville.

Anulewicz considered the plans a good transition from commercial to residential that would be respectful of the surrounding area.

Landscaping and the preservation of the wooded area at the northern portion between the condos and the existing single-family residential homes to the north and west were planned.

Sakwa, who has developed other sites in metropolitan Detroit, sent a letter to Anulewicz two weeks ago stating

he "wasn't moving forward," Anulewicz said. Sakwa has also developed condominiums in Southfield's new City Centre area on Evergreen across the street from the Southfield municipal complex.

Massey originally intended to build a large Saturn auto dealership on the site, but those plans fell through. A lawsuit ended in a consent judgment restricting that type of project.

"We have to wait and see," Anulewicz said of the change. "Sometimes life is full of curves."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy told township board members the news at the end of the study session Jan. 18.

"The agreement between Massey and Sakwa has ended," Keen McCarthy said. "There may be some other developers who are interested in negotiat-

ing with Massey about purchasing the property. It's not going forward (with Sakwa) but it may go forward with a different developer."

In the meantime, Anulewicz said, because of the possibility of other developers' interest in the plans, he has delayed sending letters to inform the residents of the news.

Dodie Santana, a Haggerty Road resident who lives across the street from the area to be developed, said she wouldn't mind if the area remained undeveloped. Prior to the four vacant homes being razed, Santana had safety concerns.

"We're a little bit disgusted because of the uncertainty about what will happen to the neighborhood and property values," Santana said. "Right now, I am happy with the way it is. We feel like pawns, like our opinions don't count."

RECREATION NEWS

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads can treat their daughters to an evening of fun on Feb. 4 or 5 at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. The cost is \$16 per couple and \$8 for each additional daughter. The fee includes flowers, refreshments, picture and dancing. Pre-registration is required. Limited 500 per evening.

SWIM LESSONS

Lessons from parent/tot adults

are available beginning the week of Feb. 17 through April 19 at the William Costick Activities Center pool. The pool's temperature is 86 degrees, which provides a comfortable setting during the lesson. The session will run for 9 classes. A \$46 pre-registration fee is required at the Recreation Office.

DOWNHILL SKIING

The Farmington Hills Recreation Division is offering a com-

plete downhill ski program for all participants, 5th grade through high school, every Friday night at Mt. Brighton. A bus will leave the designated pick-up location at 4:30 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. Fee includes lift ticket, ski lessons, and bus transportation. Ski rental is not included and will be collected on the bus. Pre-registration is required.

WINTER STAFF

The Recreation Division is in search of Youth Basketball Referees, Sled Hill Supervisors, Cross Country Ski Center Attendants and Special Events Assistants. If you are interested please call the Recreation Division at 473-9570 or stop by the city of Farmington Hills, Department of Special Services for an application.

Applications now available for 2001 Rotary Club scholarships

Applications for 2001-02 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships are now available from the Rotary Club of Farmington.

The scholarships, which are designed to further international understanding and goodwill, provide for study abroad in more than 160 countries where Rotary clubs are located. Some 1,300 scholarships of various types will be available from clubs worldwide.

During their studies abroad,

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars act as "ambassadors of goodwill." Through appearances before Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations, and other forums, the scholars represent their home-lands and work to further international understanding.

Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships are for one academic year abroad and provide funding for round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room, board, some educational sup-

plies, and language training (if necessary), up to a maximum award of US \$25,000 or its equivalent.

For more information and an application, please contact Jan Dolan, 22587 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, 48335. Deadline for students to submit applications is March 15. Interested students may also want to consult the Rotary Web site at www.rotary.org where the application may be downloaded in English. The Rotary Foundation

MARCH 15

Ambassadorial Scholarships is the world's largest privately sponsored international scholarship program. Focused on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy, and academic excellence, the program has sponsored more than 30,000 Rotary Scholars abroad since it began in 1947.

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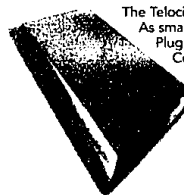
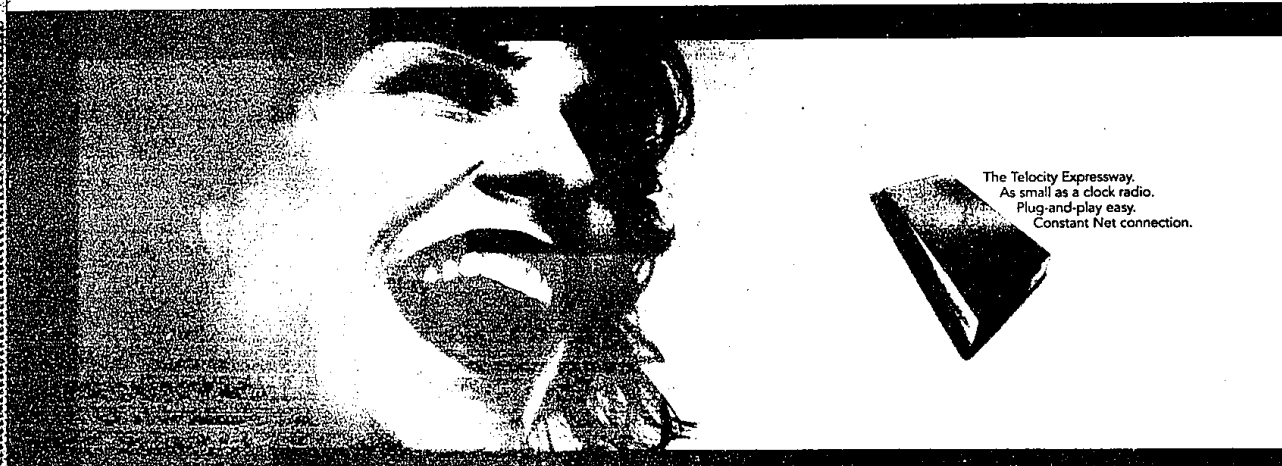
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