

the farmington enterprise & observer

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City Planners Approve Site Plan For Shopping Center

By KATHY MORAN

Farmington planning commissioners have approved plans for a Kmart shopping center with some concessions to nearby residents and "complete cooperation" from the developer, Standard Home Construction.

The shopping center will be located at Grand River and Halstead Roads, an area which has been zoned commercial for years, according to Commission Chairman William Burke.

Residents of neighboring Chatham Hills subdivision initially opposed the development but won assurances that the center will be screened from their view, parking lot lights won't shine in their windows and water

won't drain onto their property. Burke noted that the developer's initial plans met all qualifications before it was brought to the commission in January.

He commended the developer for making several changes which increase the distance from Grand River to the stores, reduce the entrances, relocate parking areas and traffic flow through the center, increase green belts and assure that adequate surface drainage will be installed both during construction and after completion.

A committee composed of Commissioners John Allen, Dennis Pheny, Jesse McDonald and William Mitchell met with citizens, representatives of the developers, engineers, traffic experts, city engineers and a planning consultant to satisfy their concerns as well as those of subdivision residents.

Neighbors initially opposed the development, but won concessions that the center will be screened from their view, lights won't shine in their windows, and water won't drain on their property.

Because of State Highway Dept. plans to widen Grand River to five lanes, the developer agreed to put the three foot high berm in the front on its property. This insures the stores will still sit a distance from the road when it is widened.

Due to concessions in several areas, the developer gave up 3,000 square feet of store space, Burke said. The complex plans show a 95,000 square foot Kmart department store, approximately 16 smaller stores and a large supermarket.

Commissioners stipulated that the certificate of occupancy will be contingent on their approval of landscaping plans.

"I want the developer to realize that he may come to us with the plans and we may not agree with it," Mitchell said. "I have some concerns about the degree of landscaping." A sign advertising the shopping area will be subject to the sign ordinance in effect at the time the sign plan is submitted.

The Kmart site plans were approved by five commissioners but Mitchell and Charlotte Bruce voted against and J. Lee Radloff abstained.

today's hot line

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what's inside

Water Show

The Harrison Aquastars will dive into their annual show this weekend. This and several other local school performances are on:

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Red Ball

Operation Red Ball, a project to protect children and the elderly in case of a house fire, is being launched by the Farmington Jaycees.

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Fashion For Hospital

The benefit for St. Mary Hospital drew women from all over Observerland, and the hospital is \$3,000 closer to draperies for its new wing. See our pictures in Observing Life.

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A Capital Blow

A proposed constitutional amendment to bring back capital punishment in Michigan was dealt a death blow in the State House of Representatives. Observerland lawmakers split 5-3 against it, and they had strong feelings.

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Back To Nature

It's nice to get back to nature, but sometimes you need to carve a path to get there. Steve Barnaby tells how students at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College have carved the first leg of a five-mile trail.

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AS GOOD AS CASH

Nothing is as good as cash. Oh yes, it is... when it's a popular item which can be converted into cash! The motor bike which no one rides any more, and the many other valuable, but unused items you own, will find cash buyers in a hurry when you advertise them for sale with an Observer Want Ad. Call **522-0900**

HOURS: MON. thru FRI. 8-5:30 SAT. 9-12



CHAMBER DANCE -- The Farmington Chamber of Commerce kicked off ticket sales Monday for its annual dinner dance May 5 at the Holiday Inn. Chamber President William Flattery (left)

purchased the first two tickets at the meeting of the dance committee from John Courville, while Elinor Morandi looks on. Tickets are available at the Chamber office. (Ever photo)

New Charter Is Approved In Lansing

The governor's office has approved the proposed charter for the City of Farmington Hills, which will be on the ballot along with 20 council candidates May 8.

The charter commission was expected to adopt a resolution approving the document with minor changes Tuesday night.

"The only change requested was technical in nature, about the authority of the city manager to initiate traffic ordinances," charter commission attorney Joseph Brennan said.

The attorney general's office called the charter "conservative" in terms of granting power to the city," he added.

The office of the attorney general did the legal review for the governor. Ward came from the attorney general Tuesday morning that the review was complete.

Charter commissioners were anxious to get the las legal step out of the way in time for publication of the document.

The charter will be published complete in a special supplement to the Enterprise and Observer.

"We didn't want to have any changes at the last minute, either," Commission Chairman Robert McConnell said.

Israeli Students View Schools

By JAN WILLIAMS

"It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live here," says Avner Shomroni, one of four Israeli students visiting the Southfield-Farmington area this week.

"You have a nice country, but our place is in Israel," Shomroni continues. Agree-

ing with him were Itzhak Ezra and Rachel Ben-Meir. The fourth student, Dorit Bar-On, didn't accompany the others on their tour because of illness.

Visiting this country as part of a cultural exchange program, the students visited recently in Southfield High, North Farmington and Harrison High schools.

"Our main purpose in coming to this country," Shomroni said, "is to clear up misconceptions that American students have about Israel, and misconceptions that Israeli students have about America."

All agreed they've found there isn't much difference between students here and in Israel.

"In our country, we like to do the same things that students here do," Miss Ben-Meir said. "We have recrea-

tion and sports to participate in, too."

One difference, however, is that a school week for Israeli students here do," Miss Ben-Meir said. "We have recrea-

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Jaycee Egg Hunt Is This Weekend

The Farmington Jaycees annual Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, beginning at 10 a.m. in the city park, Shlawassee and Powers Road.

All children from toddlers to age 15 are invited to the affair, according to the Jaycees.

Candidates To Speak

The Council of Homeowners Assn. will present a "meet the candidates" night Thursday, April 12, at 8 p.m., in East Junior High, 25000 Middle Belt.

The 20 candidates for the proposed City of Farmington Hills have been invited. They are running for election May 8, on the same ballot as the question on approving the proposed city charter.



NORTH FARMINGTON High School student Carole Hughes points out Farmington on the globe to Israeli students visiting the area as part of a cultural exchange program. From left are:

Mickie Schelling, North Farmington student; Itzhak Ezra, Avner Shomroni, Carol Hughes and Rachel Ben-Meir. (Ever photo)