

In Plymouth?

From Napoleon's to Faneuil Hall

By Teri Banas
staff writer

Two Farmington attorneys have revealed plans to turn the former Napoleon's restaurant in Plymouth into an eating emporium with as many as 20 different food outlets service by a common eating area.

The attorneys said the project would be patterned after — although on a much smaller scale — Boston's Faneuil Hall, a collection of old warehouses which has been renovated into a highly successful emporium of markets, food enterprises and businesses.

The former restaurant has been vacant for more than a year and the building has been considered an eyesore.

ATTORNEYS BRACE Case and Rodney Sabourin said they are in the process of buying the 12,000-square-foot building.

The developers said their common eating area will contain picnic tables and that the establishment and a small central stage for entertainment and displays. Their plans call for two entrances, one of Forest and the other off Main Street.

"We hope there's a demand for this in the downtown area," said William Felbig, a Plymouth real estate agent and the project's real-estate managing agent. "It will provide a spot with variety for the entire family."

The attorneys said a similar development can be found at Tally Hall in the Hunter Square Mall, Farmington Hills, a venture which encouraged them to develop a similar operation in Plymouth.

The developers have not formally presented their plan to the planning commission though they made an informal visit before its site committee last week.

Yet to be worked out, however, is a critical detail in the plan — parking.

Under existing city ordinances, the site falls short of 64 required parking spaces for a restaurant-retail venture.

THE PARTNERS will have to make arrangements for additional spaces before getting municipal approval, said Plymouth City Manager Henry Graper. Sabourin said he and his partner are aware of the parking crunch and that they may need to spend "a couple hundred thousand dollars" in securing parking credits.

"There's a lot of hurdles to jump before we get there," he said, adding he's talked to local business people about the parking problem as well.

IN PLYMOUTH, when a business doesn't have enough parking spaces surrounding its site, the business either leases them, builds them somewhere nearby, or buys parking credits. The city uses parking credit revenue to build municipal parking areas.

The lack of parking at former Napoleon's site has been a continual problem. It limited the restaurant in its operations and it has hampered attracting possible purchasers of the building.

Planning commission chairman William Leonard said the tentative plan proposed by the developers "is a good

plan, but the big bugaboo is parking. They've got to find a solution to the parking problem. I don't think they can blissfully walk in and buy 64 more parking credits."

The parking problem in the central business district is particularly acute in its southern end, where Napoleon's is located.

Irritating fleas are no laughing matter

Unlike their fictitious and humorously portrayed cartoon counterparts, real fleas are irritating, even life-threatening parasites to pets and their owners.

Literally billions of fleas are hatched each warm-weather season (just one female can lay 500 eggs within her average six-month to one-year lifetime), and their imprints have been recorded in fossils 65 million years old.

Fleas were carriers of the bubonic plague which killed one-fourth of Europe's population in the 14th century. The plague, from the rat flea, still exists, with 105 cases reported in the 1970s by the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Most cases occurred in the U.S. Southwest.

A secondary problem with flea infestation is the transmittal of tapeworm. Check with your veterinarian if you notice rice-like segments around the anus of your pet.

With 1,200 species, female fleas lay their eggs in warm environments, including carpeting, furniture, baseboards, or cracks of wood floors, but rarely on a dog or cat.

The pearl-white, oval-shaped eggs are the real menace. Destroying a flea's ability to be born can check the problem at its source, but doing so effectively requires constant and special care.

The most effective and respected method to control the spread of wingless, flat-bodied creatures is via chemical insecticides, according to a poll of Michigan veterinarians. Many flea control products are available on the market. The products attainable from veterinarians are stronger and much more

effective than over-the-counter typical insecticides.

Flea collars are not really effective in controlling flea infection. The collars many times provoke skin irritations and illness. The most effective deterrent is daily or twice daily vacuuming of indoor areas frequented by pets. Veterinarians also recommend determinators if people are unable to control the problem themselves.

Crash kill count cut countywide

Oakland County traffic deaths reached 55 in the first half of 1981, down 20 percent from the 81 killed in the same period last year, reports the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County.

Last year's total county death count was the lowest in 18 years, and preliminary counts suggest traffic was heavier this year than last.

Statewide traffic deaths were off 16.4 percent, dropping to 665 in the first six months of 1981 compared to 796 in the same period last year.

Sun's output

In one second, the sun gives off more energy than all that people have ever produced on earth, the National Geographic Society says.

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