

Farmer Jacks jumps another hurdle in moving

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Joshua Fellenberg, a resident of Farmington, submitted petitions bearing the names of 372 persons opposed to the proposed closing of Farmer Jack's downtown Farmington store at Farmington Road and Liberty.

Fellenberg doesn't drive and enjoys the convenience of walking to the existing store. She said many senior citizens living at Farmington Place on Grand River are in a similar situation.

AFTER HEARING the planning commission's 7-0 vote to recommend rezoning for the center, Fellenberg said

she will carry her fight to the City Commission, which makes the ultimate decision about rezoning.

"Already I think I made a little impact," Fellenberg said after the meeting. "Borman thought he was going to have a free hand, but things are slowing down a little bit. I'd still like to see a food store here downtown."

Borman representatives say the current downtown food store will be converted into a store, or group of stores, that feature comparison or convenience shopping — not food stores to compete with their new supermarket. "All there is to this," said Ted J.

Simon, vice president in charge of real estate for Borman's Inc., "is an attempt to not only provide a shopping facility for Farmington but essentially to continue serving the community with a broader-based population area."

Simon said the lease on a Seven Mile and Farmington Road Farmer Jack store expires in the late 1980s and may not be renewed by the center landlord. Therefore Farmer Jack must plan for

the future to stay competitive in the Farmington, Livonia and Novi area, he said.

Residents voicing objections to the new shopping center said the new center would create more traffic problems at Nine Mile and Farmington, and inconvenience senior citizens who moved to Farmington Place partly because of its proximity to the existing Farmer Jack store.

"I KNOW I'M idealistic," said Barbara Kozlowski of Farmington Hills, who lives in an apartment behind the proposed site for the new center. "But I don't want all the traffic from people coming from as far as Five Mile to shop. Can't we use the land for recreational purposes, maybe cross country skiing?"

Planning Commissioner William Burke said such concerns are typical

and are "all very peachy." Burke told the audience that the land is owned by developers who have a right to make money on their investment.

Commission members said a planned county widening of the intersection to accommodate a left-turn lane combined with a requirement that the developer construct an acceleration and deceleration lane to the shopping center should improve traffic at the intersection.

Tax bill debated

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would cut into snow and bone, yet we were able to make them and have continued to do so. We've heard this kind of language for the last two years."

Michigan lawmakers currently rank among the highest paid legislators in the country behind their New York, California and Illinois counterparts.

Both Ross and Brotherton plan to make concessions in light of that fact. Ross, who makes \$31,000 and says he works an average of 75 hours a week, plans to return \$700-1,000 to the state.

"If the state is unable to pay its bills,

its efforts to lure new jobs to the state will suffer a severe setback. We need to provide an environment of some fiscal stability if Michigan is going to rebuild," Ross said.

"Letting the state go bankrupt would do a tremendous disservice to the people I represent. If the state goes bankrupt, the people have every right to indict me for not facing up to my responsibilities."

Brotherton, who also makes \$31,000, has conceded to a wage freeze effective next year and to the giving up of \$500, roughly a week's pay, as well as \$5,000 in expense money this year.

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YMCA Highlights

The Farmington Area YMCA provides a variety of services for youth and adults in the community. Further information may be obtained by calling 553-4020 between 9 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. daily.

T-BALL REGISTRATION — Boys and girls in grades one to three can sign up now thru April 26. The YMCA believes that every child should have an equal opportunity to play and have fun. Each player will receive a T-shirt and a certificate. Fee for members is \$15 and \$18 for non-members. If you

would like to be a volunteer, call Dave, 553-4020.

SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION — The YMCA will be registering individuals for spring classes beginning April 26. Members of the YMCA may register 6:30-8 p.m. and non-members 8-9 p.m. If you are unable to attend early registration, you may phone in your class registration April 27-29 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classes begin May 3. For a free brochure with class offerings, call 553-4020.

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