



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Remains of the cashier's booths are visible in the foreground at the entrance of the Grand River Drive-In.

Fanfare eludes mall's premiere

We'll take it or leave it: neighbors

Continued from Page 1

"It doesn't matter to me one way or another," he said of its demise. "Maybe I'll shop there once in awhile. Probably not very often."

A couple of Tulane residents, Susan Duquette and Lynn Walker, said they weren't impressed by Target, which has stores operating in Dear-

born and Westland. Another is planned for Livonia.

"The new shopping center doesn't bother me one bit," Duquette said. "But I'm not impressed by Target. I won't ever shop there."

"I like (the idea of having a grocery store close by)," Walker said. "I hope they want to buy my house and use it for a parking lot. Then I can move."

Dale Erwin, a construction worker who lives on Tulane, said the project will "bring more people and jobs" to the neighborhood.

"It's just another mall going up," he said.

Betty Clark of Tulane said she didn't care about the new development one way or another.

Frances Greshover, a 75-year-old

'Given our druthers, we would probably like to see some other more desirable use. But what's happening there is typical of what's happened to drive-ins across the area.'

— Hills planner Ed Gardiner

widow who has lived on Tulane since 1942, thinks the shopping center "will be an improvement over the drive-in."

"I might shop there. It's almost within walking distance," she said.

ROBERT DEADMAN, city manager in neighboring Farmington, said he hasn't fielded any complaints from downtown merchants opposed to the development.

Farmington Hills city planner Ed Gardiner said more people who were happy to see the drive-in go have

stepped forward than who opposed the shopping center.

"It's been quiet," Deadman said. "There hasn't been a lot of publicity in terms of public awareness."

"Given our druthers, we would probably like to see some other more desirable use. But what's happening there is typical of what's happened to drive-ins across the area — they're being used for retail or office."

"Drive-ins appear to belong to an era gone by."

Former Botsford nurse gets post in Redford

John Sgriccia, former senior surgical nurse at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, was appointed surgical services director at Redford Community Hospital.



A Redford Township resident, Sgriccia began his nursing career in 1977 as a surgical nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids. He joined E.W. Sparrow Hospital in

Lansing as a registered nurse in the coronary care unit. In 1982, he joined Sinai Hospital of Detroit as a surgical nurse and moved to Botsford in 1985.

He passed his state boards for nursing in 1977 following completion of his degree work at Grand Rapids College. In 1986, he completed two years of the biomedical electronic technician program at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and was the on-dean's list. He is enrolled in the Allied Health Management degree program at Madonna College in Livonia.

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Man, 21, gets life for hotel slaying

A 21-year-old Detroit man was sentenced to life in prison without parole after he was convicted in the suffocation death of a Farmington Hills attorney in a Ferndale motel room last December.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Anderson handed down the mandatory sentence against Paris Thomas July 27.

A jury found Thomas guilty of first-degree felony murder in the death of Philip H. Embury, 55, after a four-day trial that ended July 1. Thomas was found guilty of murdering Embury while committing a felony, in this case larceny from a person.

Embury, an attorney at Federal Mogul Corp. in Southfield for 27 years, was smothered to death in a room at the Wood-8 Motel Dec. 15, said Oakland County assistant prosecutor James Haluska.

Thomas, who police characterized as a Detroit street hustler, offered a two-pronged defense, Haluska said. During questioning, Thomas told investigators he was walking in the Woodward-Elm Mile area looking for someone warm when he came upon the partially open door to Embury's motel room. When he went inside, he found Embury's body. He then took \$10 and Embury's wristwatch, keys and car, Haluska said.

At his trial, Thomas, through his defense attorney, said he was innocent of murder. He argued that whoever killed Embury did so accidentally during a "rough sex act that got out of control," Haluska said.

Calls to defense attorney Cyril Hall at his Pontiac office were not returned.

HALUSKA GAVE the following account of what led to Thomas' arrest:

After leaving a nearby play rehearsal at 10:30 p.m. Dec. 15, Embury checked into the Wood-8 Motel at 11:05 p.m. for a three-hour stay. He registered as a party of two; prosecutors argued the other party was Thomas.

At 11:25 that night, the motel clerk noticed a car roar out of the parking lot. At 12:45 a.m. Dec. 16, the clerk checked Embury's room and found his nude body. A pillow covered his face.

Ferndale police then broadcast the description of Embury's missing car.

Southfield police spotted the car at 2:30 a.m. and chased it at over 100 mph into Oak Park. There, the driver, later identified as Thomas, lost control of the car and it struck a fire hydrant.

Thomas was shot in the hip by Southfield police after a short foot chase as he neared a residential area.

Embury was divorced for 13 years and had three children.

Prosecutors dismissed the larceny from a person charge, which brings up to 10 years in prison on conviction, after Thomas was found guilty of first-degree felony murder.

They also dismissed a habitual offender-third degree charge because it would have influenced sentencing and could have led to a prison term with chance of parole.

"We dismissed that charge only after we were assured of no parole on the murder charge," Haluska said.

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