## **Rejected in '89, Muirwood expansion revived**

The idea of expanding the Muir-wood Square shopping center, in-cluding adding an anchor grocery targe has being converted by the Ber-tak Building Converted by the Ber-tak Building Converted by the Ber-tak Building a similar expansion proposal was shod down by the city council in late 1989, insiders prodict current economic condi-tions and the closing of a Kroger prodict current economic condi-tions and the closing of a Kroger store in recent months just one mile down the street at Haisted could play a part in the decision this time.

Muirwood Square is at the north-west corner of Drake and Grand. River.

Hiver. For Millight on Hillis planning commissioners heard Betak's re-vamped proposal Thursday nighi and will hold a public hearing on reconing, property at. Mulrwood Square on Thursday, Feb. 20. "Hi's klod of an open thing — I don't know how it will be viewed. his linne," said Hills Planning Commission chairman Paul Bills-man. "There's been some changets in he area, and we have some new commissioners. Maybe economic new commission to be a factor there. "But that's not for the planning commission to decide. We must look at land use."

The Berta k proposal is slightly different from the one brought to the city in 1959. The company is offering to give y some commercial zamilia to the north, and is proposing that multi-family zoning be used as an open space. Bertak also wants the option to use that land for a future club-bouse or day care center for the nearby Multwood Apartments. Bertak has also wants to keep additional traffic off Drake Road and keep the shopping center's focus on Grand River, Blizman said.

THE PROPOSAL would report-edly include demolishing 30,000 square feet of retail to the west and adding 80,000 square feet of new business space, making a new cen-ter of 105,000 total square feet. More details about the project are expected to be given at the Feb. 20 meeting. Plans include space for a 40,000-square-foot anchor, which would likely be a creecy store. Bluman

square-foot anchor, which would likely be a grocery store, Blizman said. Beztak officials told the city

'It's kind of an open thing — I don't know how it will be viewed this time. There's been some changes in the area, and we have some new commissioners."

chairman, planning commission

planning commission they had no firm commitments from any grocers to date. According to information from eity planner Ed Gardiner, Betak seeks to: • Rezone 2.4 acres on the north edge of the complex from B-2, community business district, to RC2 which is a multi-family zon-ing. The parcel fronts Drake Road. • Rezone about half, or 6.15 Mairwood Square from multi-famil-y residential to B-2, community business. district. That parcel fronts Grand River. • Rezone one acre of P-1, park-ing district, to the center's western border to B-2, community business district. Gradner said that would allow Beztak more flexibility in de-signing any changes to be center.

more than eight in the 1989 propos-al. AFTER A unanimous planning commission recommendation in fa-vor of the expansion in 1989, city council members voted down the recoming saying it did not follow the city's master plan. They also questioned how much of a hardship the center was facing. Four of the five council mem-bers who voted against the expan-sion — Terry Sever, Nancy Elstes, Jon Grant, and Aido, Yagonzi — still sit on the council. Current Council members Ben Marks and Larry Lichtman voted for the pro-posal two years ago.

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Larry Lichtman voted for the pro-posal two years ago. Recently elected councilwoman Joanne Smith, former chair of the planning commission, was in favor of the expansion in 1990, Reitred councilwoman Jean Fox voted gainst the measure at that time. Betata officials could not reached for comment about their

— Paul Blizman

allow Bertak more flexibility in de-signing any changes to the center. The proposed changes would give Bertak a net gain of about 34-acres of commercial space, Gardiner aid, compared with more than eight in the 1989 propos-

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Ston, Which would have a topost-static type and the store — likely a supermarket.
Those opposed to it cite traffie and competition as major problems.
The timeline:
Dec. 1, 1988 — planning commissioners study a

Monday, January 13, 1992 O&F

This 1989 photograph of the Mulrwood Square shopping center open, but Ernic's restaurant and the golf store to the in Farmington Hills shows Elros Drugs. The pharmacy is still gene.

most recent proposal. Meanwhile, officials in neighbor-lag downtown Farmington say they will consider taking a position, on the expansion project at the Febru-ary Downtown Development. Au-thority board meeting. The DDA board opposed a Multwood Square expansion in 1989, saying a major grocery there could have a detri-mental impact on downtown rede-velopment.

process times could nave a defin-mental impact on duwntown rede-velopment. DDA board member Robert Pitrpatrick said he is willing to look at the merils of the most re-cent proposal. There he said "the clear that's a shopping center that's in trouble. It's clear cough, we have to be sessitive to anything that can be a possible bilght." Pitrpatrick said many people do not realise the boundary links be-tween the two cities, and that they community.

Dec. 18, 1989 — Intr / ATTINISton Intin Avy voc-il denies recombing request.
Jan. 9, 1992 — Bextak appears before planning commissioners, proposing another recombing for the Muirwood Square property. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled before the planning commission on Thursday, Feb. 20.

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## Man guilty of negligent homicide in jogger deaths

An Oakland County Circuit Court jury took less than yon hours Thursday to find former Novi resident Kenseven hours Thursday to find former Novi resident Kan-neth Loveday guilty of negligent homicide in the June 5 deaths of Yusuf Hanania of Novi and Albert Abdelnour of Livonia.

ceaths of Yusuf Hannia of Novi and Albert Abdelnour Abdelnour, 44, owned the Meadow Pharmacy and Party Store on Parmington Road in Farmington Hills. Loveday, 20, had faced the more severe charges of involuntary manslaughter with a motor vehicle for, striking the two joggers with his Jeep on Eight Mile Road in Novi. Manslaughter with a motor vehicle is a felony punish-able by up to 15 years in prison. The maximum charge for negligent homicide, a misdemeanor, is two years. Sentencing is sel for Jan. 22. The jury's lesser verdict drew cries of outrage from the dozen family members and several friends of the joggers gathered at Oakland County Circuit Court. Ab delnour's berother Basim astormed out of the courtroom saying, "It's not fair," while Hanania's wife, Angela, and her mother began sobiling and screaming in the front row of spectaiers.

ONE FAMILY member screamed "murderer!" while another collapsed and had to be led out of the court

OTHER FAMILY members were equally disgusted with Loveday's verdict.

OTHER FAMILY members were equally outguised with Loveday's verdict. -"The dian' get what he deserved," said Anwar George as he valied on customers Friday at Meadow Pharma-ey, George is first cousin to Laila Abdehour, Albert's widow, who now runs the family busines. -Assistant Prosecutor Roman Kalyliak was hampered to the two runs to the family busines.

from the start of Loveday's trial by Judge Francis X. OBrien's refusal to admit evidence Kalytiak deemed

(Drien's refusa) to admit evidence kaliytak uderine orucal to his case. "O'Brien ruled that testimony regarding the remains of a marijuan eigartite, or "mosch," found in Loveday's Jõep 20 days siter the incident be stricken from the record, atter defense attorney Jerry DAvana profested that Northville City Det. David Fendelet obtained the

'I was very, very ashamed of our justice system yesterday.'

victim's relative

that the gross neglegence was responsible to use Degens' dealhs. Defense attorney Jerry D'Avanzo, who characterized the accident as "an unfortunate tragedy," argued during his closing statement Tuesday. "This is fate and circum-stance, Inalies and gentiemen. Nobody could have planned this sort of thing happening in a hundred

planned this sort of thing happening in a nubdree years." The prosecution called 12 witnesses during the two-day trial, including Jeep passenger Michael Gibson, Gibson testilied that he and Loveday smoked a matijua-na cigarette about 15 minutes before the incident.

BUT DYAVANZO punched several holes in Gibson's testimony, ridiculing his claim that he attempted and then Loveday aucceeded in rolling the cigaretic while waiting at a traffic light, and showing that Gibson netwo-actually saw Loveday smoking the cigaretic. DAvance also suggested that Gibson changed his original story 20 days after the incident, when faced with potential proteculion for possession of marijuana. Both Gibson and drivers who witnessed the incident or is immediate aftermath agreed that Loveday was driving properly right up until he struck the joggers. The defense rested without calling any witnesses of its own and Loveday did not take the stand.



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Dak Valley Center

A three-year history precedes this application to ex-pand the Mulrwood Square stopping center at Drake and Grand River in Farmington Hills. Since 1988, proposed expansion of the center, owned by Beatak Building Co, has brought both opposition and support from area businesses and residents and has sometimes divided politicians who made decisions about it. Businesses in the center would velcome the expan-sion, which would add, a 40,000-spuare-foot anchor store — likely a supernarket. reconing request but take no action. • Feb. 16, 1989 – a public hearing is held before the planning commission, which recommends denial of the reconing. Bertak withdraws its request. • Aug. 3, 1989 – Bertak resubmits a plan and the planning commission, again, studies the request. • Nov. 16, 1989 – commissioners hold another pub-lic hearing and recommends approval of reconing. • Dec. 18, 1989 – the Farmington Hills City Coun-cil denist reconing request.

Expansion proposal

dates back to 1988