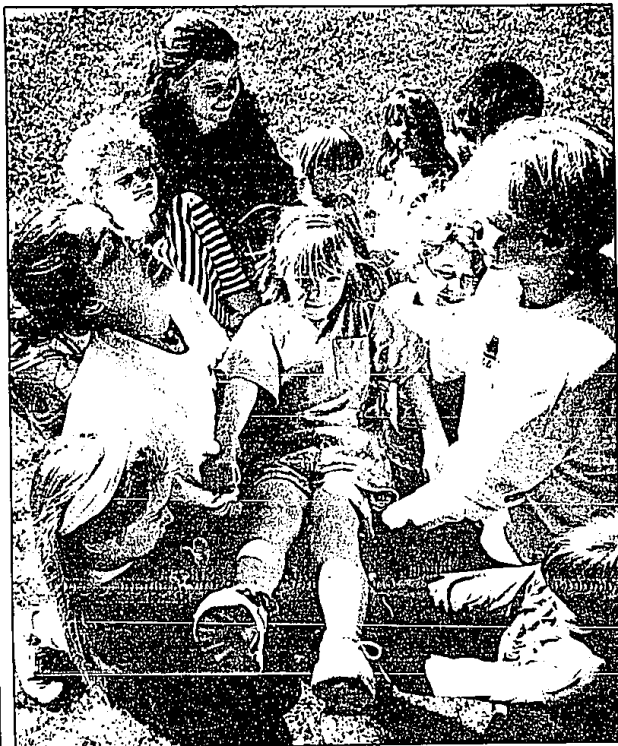


Happy campers



A matter of trust: Caitlin Parent (above), 6½, of Farmington Hills falls into the arms of fellow campers during a recent game of trust at the Environmental Camp at Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Center. Emily Dupignac (below) of the Howell Nature Center hugs Phillip Daniel, 5, of Farmington Hills after he completes his trust fall.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBLEUX

Residents wanted notice of SourceClub proposal

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Although the first step toward development of a large retail store was tabled indefinitely at Thursday's Farmington Hills Planning Commission meeting, many residents who oppose the project are far from satisfied.

What troubles most residents opposed to a new SourceClub membership store that would be built on the corner of 12 Mile and Middlebelt, is that they had to find out about the plan through word-of-mouth and the Observer newspaper, not from the city.

"If you don't hear about this development, then it makes you wonder what other developments get by without anyone hearing about it," said Sharon Stein, a resident who lives near the planned development.

Stein, along with more than 100 others, showed up at the meeting to complain about the project, which would include the large warehouse-style retail store on 14 acres and 131 single-family houses.

Many had hired baby sitters or had changed plans to be at the meeting. When the issue was moved up to the top of the agenda, then adjourned, several people were angered.

"He was talking at 7:31," said Ann Harris, who opposes the project. "And he was gone by 7:40," said Stein.

The developer, Jonna Realty Ventures of Bloomfield Hills, was scheduled as the last item of the

meeting. But Gary Jonna, executive vice president of the firm, said that he realized many people had come to speak on his proposal, which he planned to bring back at a later time.

"We just tabled it," Jonna said. "Obviously, a lot of the neighbors were there because of this. We didn't want to wait until the end of the meeting just to ask to come back later and keep everybody there."

Jonna said he is not sure when he will again ask to qualify the project as a Planned Use Development, the first step in getting the project through. Jonna said he could have presented a plan, but decided to work with it more. He was surprised by the opposition, he said.

"We weren't prepared to make a presentation, so it seemed kind of silly to make people wait," Jonna said. "We could have made a presentation, but we wanted to take more time. We're trying to be positive about this."

The city is not required to notify nearby residents on the request by a developer seeking to qualify as a PUD, said city attorney John Donohue, because it is only the first step and because the developer would have to spend money on a site plan and other expenses without knowing that the project could even be considered, much less approved.

If the project were qualified as a PUD, the planning commission would review the proposal and then schedule a public hearing, at

which time any resident within 1,500 feet of the project would be notified, Donohue said. If the planning commission then approved the project, it would go to another public hearing before the city council before it could be approved.

But that didn't impress several residents who said the Michigan National Bank headquarters on Inkster, near I-696 was begun as a PUD a few years ago and was built despite opposition from area residents.

"There's a reason there's a city plan," said Stein. "Novi even had planned some strip malls that they've not allowed to build. Everybody around us is discouraging this kind of development, but not us."

The Sisters of Mercy, who own the property, pay tax on it because it is not an educational use, Donohue said.

Stein said she wants the "sleepy residential area" to stay that way. She and several others said they would be back, but said residents have little chance to research a proposal before it is announced.

City planning director Ed Gardner said the PUD process is like a rezoning request, with plenty of opportunity for public input.

"The city isn't trying to hide anything," he said.

Stein said residents should be informed from the start.

"We care and we're taxpayers," she said. "Why shouldn't we be notified about this?"

Police seek owner of backpack

Farmington police are seeking the owner of a suede backpack found Wednesday, Aug. 11.

The pack contained a Sears garage door opener, a folding knife, and a blue and white graduation

tassel. Also, a corner section of a \$20 bill was found. These are only a few of the items in the bag, according to Farmington Public Safety commander Charles Lee.

Police are withholding information concerning other contents, as

only the owner of the backpack would know about them. It's believed they were stolen in a burglary.

Anyone with information may call Lee at 474-4700.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

THIEF

A dual axle trailer with 3-foot-high steel slides worth \$2,000 was stolen from a residence on Old Colony in Farmington Hills between July 27 and Aug. 10.

Four wheel covers worth \$200 were stolen from a black 1987 Pontiac Bonneville parked at Vladimir's on Grand River in Farmington Hills Aug. 9.

A Trek mountain bike worth \$312 was stolen from the Windemere Apartments on Independence in Farmington Hills Aug. 9-10.

A boys Boyce 12-speed mountain bike worth \$235 was stolen from the Fairmont Park Apartments on Bell Court in Farmington Hills Aug. 10-11.

A pair of diamond earrings worth \$700 was stolen from a residence on Westmeath in Farmington Hills July 8.

A lady's Gaume Maricaz watch worth \$10,000, a wedding ring worth \$10,000 and a money clip worth \$1,500 engraved with the name "Tommy" were stolen from a residence on Hunters Circle in Farmington Hills between July 24 and Aug. 8.

Telephone components worth \$1,450 were stolen from Hoops Management on 14 Mile in Farmington Hills Aug. 4-5.

Three wheel covers worth \$225 were stolen and another was damaged on a 1990 Chevy Lumina parked at Vladimir's on Grand River in Farmington Hills Aug. 8-9.

Tools worth \$1,005.68 were stolen from an unlocked 1986 blue Ford van parked on Fink in Farmington Hills Aug. 1-10.

A \$400 mountain bike with the initials "DSM" was stolen from a garage on Kilreigh in Farmington Hills Aug. 11-12.

Jewelry worth \$2,470 was stolen from a residence at the Mulwood Apartments on Lakeview in Farmington Hills Aug. 12.

BREAK-IN

A computer worth \$4,000 was stolen during a break-in of Congregation Bais Chabad on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills Aug. 9. The front door sustained \$200 in damage.

A break-in of a vending machine at Roman Vendin on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills Aug. 6-8 caused \$400 in damage to the machine and netted thieves \$179 in cash.

A 78-year-old resident of the Grand River Village Apartments on Grand River in Farmington Hills reported that a Farmington Hills man she knew had used a key to unlock her apartment Aug. 11. She heard someone in the front room and saw the man searching her purse.

VANDALISM

A BB gun or pellet gun was used to shoot the rear window of a 1989 Pontiac Bonneville parked on Tareyton in Farmington Hills Aug. 10-11 causing \$200 in damage.

Rocks caused \$380 in damage to the hood of a tan 1991 Ford Taurus parked on Wakefield in Farmington Hills Aug. 10.

The rear window of a gold 1985 Dodge 600 parked at the Walnut Creek Apartments on Middlebelt was smashed and the top was cut causing \$500 in damage Aug. 11.

AUTO THEFT

A 1990 silver Ford Mustang worth \$11,000 was stolen from CSC Health Care Systems on 12 Mile Aug. 10.

An attempted theft of a 1990 Chevy Camaro parked at the Country Glen Apartments on 14 Mile caused \$500 in damage to the car Aug. 11-12.

The steering column of a 1990 black and gray Cadillac Deville sustained \$500 in damage during an attempted auto theft on Strathmoore in Farmington Hills Aug. 12.

ASSAULT

A Farmington Hills 16-year-old told police that while he and three women were at the Denny's restaurant in Farmington Hills Aug. 11 at 12:30 a.m., another teen came over to his table and threatened him. When the 16-year-old came out of the restaurant, the teen who had threatened him and "five or six" others began to hit him. There was a witness to the incident.

MICHIGAN DESIGN CENTER presents



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12 pm and 3 pm: "Defining, Decorating With, and Collecting Antiques"
3 pm and 3 pm: "The Way You Live . . . Life Styles, Function and Aesthetics in Design"

SUNDAY

1 pm: "How To Find & Work With a Designer Who's Right For Me"
1:30 pm: "Accessorizing"

2 pm: "Defining, Decorating With, and Collecting Antiques"
2:30 pm: "The Way You Live . . . Life Styles, Function and Aesthetics in Design"
3 pm: "How To Use Color With Confidence"



Michigan Design Center is located on Stutz Drive, North of Maple Road between Crooks and Coolidge.



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\$10 admission payable at the door

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