

Farmington Observer

Thursday
July 17, 1997

VOLUME 110, NUMBER 84

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN • 92 PAGES • <http://www.obsonline.com>

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Super K plan takes first step



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Residents got their say on a proposed redevelopment — that includes a controversial 24-hour Super Kmart — at a public hearing at Monday's Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

Afterward, council members unanimously approved the planned unit development (PUD), which only opens further discussion between the city and developer. By approving the PUD, the city is not obligated to grant permission for the plan.

No formal site plans have been presented in what is expected to be a lengthy process. Those would have to be approved by both the planning commission and city council before building could start.

Malan Realty Investors wants to build on 76 acres on the southeast corner of Orchard Lake and Northwestern. The proposal includes 43 acres of commercial development and 33 acres of multiple family residential units.

Residents in favor of the development say it will spruce up a long neglected area, which is plagued by flooding and is showing its age. Those opposed say additional busi-

ness and housing will only bring more gridlock to an area already congested with traffic. Some believe an all-night department store would also bring more crime.

The proposal is a sore point with dentists in a nearby plaza, who complained construction would adversely affect their practices.

"You could convince me pigs could

Please see SUPER K, A5



The 3rd-annual Woodward Dream Cruise is just around the corner, and we want to hear from our readers about their Dream Cruise memories or favorite spots along the strip where people used to stop. We want our readers to send us their memories in 150 words or less by July 23. The top 12 or so will be published in the official Woodward Dream Cruise guide as a supplement to the Observer the week of the cruise. The cruise is Saturday, Aug. 16.

Entries can be sent to:

Attn: Sue Willis, The Observer & Eccentric
805 E. Maple
Birmingham, MI 48009

Or faxed to her attention at (248) 644-1314

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Tower talk: Farmington Hills OKs a cell tower ordinance, forbidding them in residential areas. /A3

ENTERTAINMENT

Street Scene: Royal Crown Revue's blend of "jump, rhythm and blues, jazz, bebop, punk-rock energy, and the dark side of swing" joins the Warped Tour. /E1

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Neighborhood tries to curb plan to add sidewalk

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Residents of West Franklin Estates don't want a sidewalk adjacent to their sub.

And they burned a path to Farmington Hills Fire Station No. 4 Monday to state their opposition to city officials. About 15 or so residents presented a petition with 48 signatures to Tom Binzell, Public Services director.

Binzell called the meeting to listen to residents' concerns.

"I'm not here to convince you of something," said Binzell, who was accompanied by city engineer Skip Ottwell. "I'm here to discuss the issues at hand and what can be done."

Canterbury Subdivision to the south petitioned for a sidewalk on east side of Farmington Road. The sidewalks are also part of an ongoing program to make major roads safer for pedestrians, Binzell said.

"If your subdivision was put in today, you'd be required to have a sidewalk," Binzell said.

West Franklin Estates, which runs along Farmington and 14 Mile roads, is an older subdivision where some homes were built 40 to 50 years ago. Sizes of lots 600 by 200 feet in some cases — are larger than the typical subdivision.

Residents oppose the sidewalk, citing loss of privacy and potential liability. Also, there's already a sidewalk on the westside of Farmington Road across from where they live.

"We believe this will destroy the overall ambience of the area, which is the reason people moved here 50 years ago," said Scott Johnson, association president.

Added Glenmuer resident Ellen Silverberg: "The people who move here want that isolation."

June Thompson has lived in the area since 1951. A sidewalk would be within 20 to 25 feet of where her garage is situated. A sidewalk would also face the rear of homes along Farmington Road.

The city would need an easement to place a sidewalk on Thompson's property; the remaining walk

Please see SIDEWALK, A2

Sights of Founders Festival '97



STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE R. MCKEE

Clowning around: Barb Schaffer, bottom left, of Farmington Hills can't extinguish her smile as a fire department clown prepares for a big spray. For a wrap-up on the Founders Festival, including more shots of the parade, please see Page A3.

Bowman signs on for head injury fund at Hills bagel stores

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Red Wings head coach Scotty Bowman is a private man who isn't one to do publicity tours or autograph signings. But he's making an exception for good friend Charlie Kaye — and for charity.

Early next month, Bowman is flying in from Buffalo, at his own expense. He'll then spend the better part of two days at Kaye's two Farmington Hills restaurants, signing his name to Red Wings pictures, shirts, caps and other memorabilia, with 100 percent of the proceeds — an estimated \$12,000 — earmarked for William Beaumont Hospital's newly formed Fund for Closed Head Injuries.

Public awareness about the issue of closed head injuries was enhanced following the tragic June 19 limousine accident that left Red Wing defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov and team masseur Sergei Mnatsakanov in comas. The accident came six days after the team won the Stanley Cup championship.

"He was in the store one day," said Kaye, who, through a mutual friend, met Bowman two years ago at a Detroit Lions game. "And he says, 'I really feel bad about what's happening... I really want to do something to help these guys (Konstantinov, Mnatsakanov). I'd like to do a charity appearance.'"

Actually, Bowman will be doing two of them.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2,

■ There are a zillion places trying to get Scotty Bowman to make appearances. . . He never, ever asked for one dime for this. He said, 'I'll pay my own way, I'll donate my time and this is the charity I want it to go to.'

Charlie Kaye
—owner, Bean & Bagel

he'll be at Kaye's Bean & Bagel on 10 Mile between Haggerty and Halsted roads.

■ The following day, also beginning at 11 a.m., he'll be at the Bean & Bagel at 12 Mile-Farmington roads.

Each day, up to 800 people will walk through the front door, turn in already-purchased tickets, and walk up to the legendary hockey coach. He will then autograph one item per ticket.

A Birmingham sports memorabilia retailer will be on hand both days to sell (on a not-for-profit basis only) shirts, hats and other items to customers to in turn have Bowman autograph, Kaye said.

The 1,200 tickets, available for tax-deductible donations of \$10, will be sold in advance on a first-come, first-served basis starting Monday.

Please see BOWMAN, A6



STAFF PHOTO BY JEFF KUGLER

Waiting for Scotty: Bean & Bagel owner Charlie Kaye's friendship with Scotty Bowman is one reason the hockey coach is doing a pair of autograph signings early next month at Kaye's two Farmington Hills restaurants.

Verbal jabs land friendship

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

No one could have scripted the way Bean & Bagel owner Charlie Kaye met Scotty Bowman, beginning a close friendship that endures to this day.

In 1995, a mutual friend of Kaye's and Bowman's asked the former — a Detroit Lions season ticket-holder — if he had an extra ticket for a football buddy of his. It turned out to be the legendary hockey coach.

During the game, Kaye kept supplying Bowman with light-hearted verbal jabs about the coaching profession. "I kept telling him about the Lions coaches," Kaye recalled, "and I said 'Most of you guys don't know how to make a team win.'"

"He asked me what I did for a living and I told him 'I'm in the bagel business.'"

They immediately understood each other.

Not long after, Bowman stopped into the Bean & Bagel at 12 Mile-Farmington Road, only to find out that Kaye wasn't there. The coach telephoned Kaye and said "Hey, I'm at your bagel place. This stuff is pretty good."

Also pretty good is the bond between Kaye and Bowman. According to Kaye, a lot of it has to do with the fact both know how to judge talent — be it on ice or in the kitchen — and put together winning teams.

"We both believe in having a winning team assembled and playing to its potential each day of the week," said Kaye, a West Bloomfield resident. "The customers are our challenge to constantly be the best. Our Stanley Cup (at Bean & Bagel) is our continued customers' appearance."

Kaye said about half of his customers come in every day. About 900 people a week visit his two Farmington Hills stores.

Founder's folly

Spectators at the Founders Festival could hardly believe their eyes about 5:20 p.m. Saturday. An elderly woman drove her car right up to the big tent pitched in the middle of the Farmington Downtown Center parking lot — and wound up getting caught in a dicey predicament.

Her car became hinged onto one of the tent posts.

According to public safety deputy director Mike Wiggins, the 73-year-old Livonia woman followed a city DPW truck, which was getting set to empty a garbage dumpster near the tent.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

"The (DPW) worker removed the barricade to get into the lot and this lady followed him in, thinking it was open to public traffic," Wiggins said. "When she got into an area that narrowed down almost to nothing, she drove right into the stake."

Fortunately, no one was injured and the woman's car was safely extricated from the post.

Student needs home

A 16-year-old high school girl from Germany needs a host family for the 1997-98 school year, according to Farmington Hills resident Mitzi Hoffman, spokeswoman for World Heritage.

The Virginia-based non-profit organization is dedicated to "fostering cultural enrichment" through youth exchange programs. The student can share a room, is open to adjusting her schedule to fit those of busy households and has spending money and medical insurance. For more details, call World Heritage at 800-785-9040 or Hoffman, 248-477-6549.