

Going, gone

Crews knock down original gymnasium

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While demolition crews started knocking down Our Lady of Sorrows' original gymnasium and locker rooms Tuesday morning, Magr. Walter Hurley couldn't help but be somewhat melancholic as he stood along a Power Road sidewalk watching the proceedings.

"Sad? In one sense it is," Hurley said, watching the demolition with other staff members and parishioners from a Power Road sidewalk. "Many people used it. ... You never like to see buildings come down that served the community for a long time."

The old gym also served as the second church at Sorrows from 1948-60, Hurley said.

Safety continues to be a primary consideration while the \$3-million renovation of the Catholic school and church campus continues until next summer.

The portion knocked down this week will make way for a \$2-million multi-purpose connector wing to include: kitchen facilities; eating space for members of the school and parish; one classroom and a computer lab. Hurley said the work area will be walled off from all students; a cyclone fence was up around the demolition site.

All utilities serving the torn down section were shut off, necessitating the need for cellular telephones.

Both the Farmington Public

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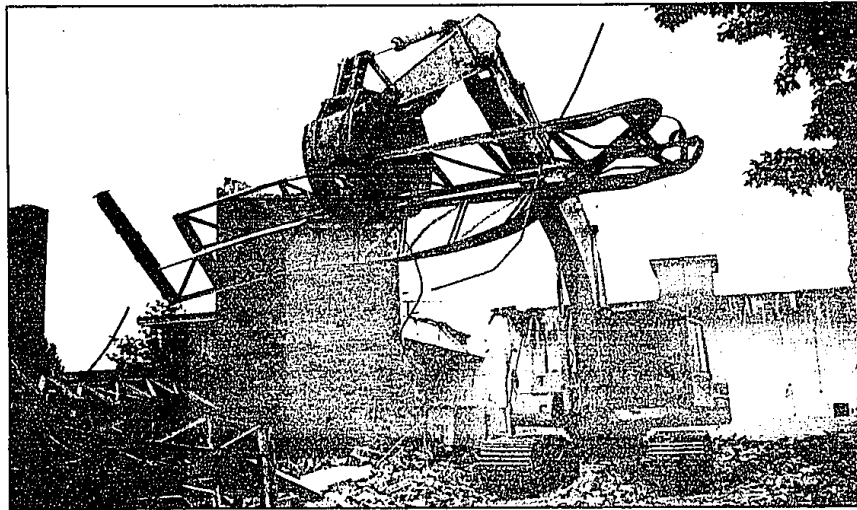
Magr. Walter Hurley
—Our Lady of Sorrows

Safety Department and Farmington Public Schools have been contacted and informed about in effect patterns that will be in place until work is finished, Hurley explained.

"We have patterns established that will ensure their safety," he said. "And that's been a major consideration, both from the contractor (Jonna Construction of Southfield) and ourselves."

Hurley said it is anticipated that "this new piece (connector wing) will be under construction for the entire school year."

The wing will connect the K-8 school so that students won't have to go outside in winter to attend gym classes. Enrollment for this year is 911 students. Actually, the new gym is included in the \$3.5-million, 25,000 square-foot family center, which first opened on Easter Sunday. The center will be officially blessed and dedicated by Cardinal Adam Malda at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 26.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BERBER

Piece-by-piece: The old gymnasium at Our Lady of Sorrows is reduced to rubble to make way for a new building.

semi-annual clearance

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POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

STOLEN KNIVES

In Farmington Hills: Police took two West Bloomfield 15-year-old boys into custody after they found both carrying two pocket knives at Borders Books and Music on Orchard Lake Aug. 6. A witness heard one boy brag about stealing knives from Dunham's sporting goods and phoned police. A boy admitted stealing the knives and giving two of them to the other 16-year-old. Both were turned over to their parents.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Novi man, 32, for drunken driving on eastbound 12 Mile near Halsted at 2:20 a.m. Aug. 7. Police stopped the 1994 Mazda MX-3 for weaving on the road. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .16 percent, which is above the legal limit of .10 percent.

Police arrested a Livonia woman, 69, for drunken driving after she was involved in an accident on Farmington and Colfax roads at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 7. When officers arrived, they saw the woman try to pour the contents believed to be vodka - out of a flask. She had a blood alcohol level of .20 percent.

Police arrested a Farmington Hills woman, 34, for drunken driving after she was involved in an accident on northbound Middlebelt near 11 Mile at 7:45 p.m. Aug. 9. The driver, whom police described as acting unusual, admitted she had a "big" margarita at lunch time. She had a blood alcohol level of .20 percent.

THEFT

In Farmington Hills: A Chicago man reported that a wallet with \$500 cash and a \$4,000 tennis bracelet were stolen from his room at the Best Western Hotel on 12 Mile Aug. 8. Another guest reported \$200 cash and a pair of sunglasses stolen from her room Aug. 8.

A Fairfield Inn guest reported \$70 cash and credit cards were stolen from his room Aug. 8.

A \$700 mountain bike was stolen from a garage on the 29000 block of Forest Hill between Aug. 8-9.

A laptop computer and other items were stolen from the hallway at the Holiday Inn on 10 Mile Aug. 10.

ALCOHOL TO MINORS

In Farmington Hills: Police ticketed a Westland man, 23, for sale of alcohol to minors after an officer saw two 19-year-olds buy two six packs of

beer at the 7-Eleven on Orchard Lake and 13 Mile. Both teens were ticketed for minors in possession of alcohol. The store owner was told a report would be sent to the Michigan State Liquor Control Commission.

MAILBOX FIRES

In Farmington Hills: Someone set fire to two mailboxes on Carrollton Street between Rutledge Crossing and Witherspoon Aug. 8. Another mailbox fire was reported on West Meadowhill and Old Homestead Drive and Chesapeake.

BUSINESS BURGLARY

In Farmington Hills: Police are investigating after \$3,880 in checks and cash was stolen from a safe at Rite Aid on Middlebelt and 11 Mile between 10:30 p.m. Aug. 7 and 1:21 a.m. Aug. 8. The store manager was contacted at home after the store alarm went off, police reports said. He arrived and found the deposit missing from the safe. Police found no signs of forced entry.

Someone forced his way into Concord Cement and stole a 27-inch TV from the business on Orchard Lake the night of Aug. 7-8.

MARIJUANA ARREST

In Farmington Hills: Police arrested a Farmington Hills man, 18, after finding 288 grams of marijuana in the 1985 Ford Thunderbird he was driving on Alycekey near Highmeadow school Aug. 9. Police stopped the car for going 38 mph in a 25-mile zone. During a consent search, officers found the marijuana, scale, plastic bags and a pipe. He could be charged with intent to deliver marijuana on school property.

PARTY SHUTDOWN

In Farmington Hills: Police ticketed two Leelans Street residents, ages 21 and 17, for having a house party 2:50-3:30 a.m. Aug. 7. Two 19-year-old women were ticketed for minors in possession of alcohol.

DRY CLEANING DISPUTE

In Farmington Hills: Police ticketed two West Bloomfield women, ages 54 and 25, for disorderly conduct after a dispute at One Price Dry Cleaners on 14 Mile Road Aug. 7. An argument started after a clerk told the customer that her clothing was inadvertently given to another person. The clerk said he would call and have the clothes returned. The woman left the store and returned and cut in front of another customer, police reports said. Her daughter also came into the store and started swearing at the clerks.

Please see POLICE, A6