

Double auto dealership planned for 9-acre tract

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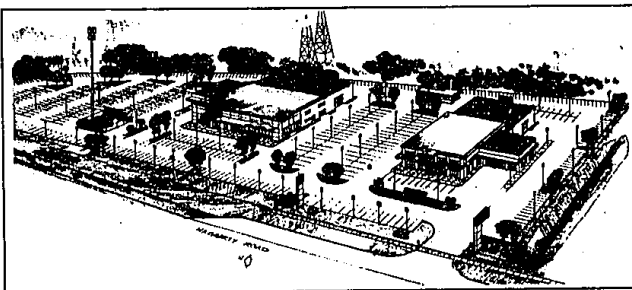
Auto shoppers who cruise along Haggerty Road will have more choice.

The Suburban Collection is building two facilities for \$8 million to house Honda and Acura dealerships on nine acres along Haggerty, north of Grand River. Suburban Acura will move from its current spot within Suburban Infiniti at Grand River and Haggerty.

The new buildings will add at least 75 jobs in sales and service when they open in the spring, company officials said.

"What we're trying to build is a cluster," said David Fischer, Suburban Collection president and CEO. "This will offer entry level to luxury transportation."

Along with Suburban Infiniti, the group includes Suburban Chrysler Plymouth Jeep and Fischer Body Refinishing West,



Picture this: An artist's rendering of the proposed Honda and Acura dealerships along Grand River.

which is on Halsted north of Grand River.

The grouping of several makes

in an auto mall setting is a growing suburban trend where land is more plentiful, an automobile analyst said.

With a group of different brands in one spot, dealers can pool administrative resources and services.

"They're able to buy into an area where there are a lot of dif-

ferent people to shop for a lot of different makes," said Bruce Bezowski, senior research analyst for the University of Michigan's Office for the Study of Transportation.

The trend of dealers selling U.S. and foreign made vehicles in one spot started during the energy crisis in the mid 1970s.

"The gas crunch was on and American dealers were caught off guard," Bezowski said. "Lo and behold, there were the Japanese who had these fuel efficient cars."

Fischer noted the "Big Three" is something as misnomer with the Chrysler merger with Germany's Daimler and Ford owning Britain's Jaguar.

"The business is changing," Fischer said.

Company officials attended a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 23 for the two facilities.

The new Honda dealership will be 32,000 square feet and the Acura facility 18,000 square feet.

The Suburban bought Sunshine Acura a year ago and moved it within the Infiniti complex.

Suburban Collection includes 14 dealerships and two refinishing centers in Michigan and Florida.

The Troy-based group also sells Cadillac, Buick, Saturn, Toyota, Volvo and Volkswagen brands.

The closest Honda dealerships to Farmington Hills are Anderson Honda on Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills and Sunshine Honda on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

"We see the trend of the city extending west. Farmington Hills and Novi just keeps growing," Fischer said.

YOUTH CENTER NEWS

The Farmington Hills Area Youth & Family Services program will begin its fourth year this fall. An open house will be held from noon to 4 p.m. today (Aug. 29) at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills, the Farmington Hills Ice Arena and the Farmington Family YMCA.

On Aug. 31, all four Youth Center locations will open their doors to begin the 1999/2000 year. Those are the Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile; Ice arena on Eight Mile; Farmington Family YMCA on 12 Mile; Warner Middle School on 14 Mile Road.

The centers are scheduled to be open on full school days during the year. The Farmington Hills Ice Arena and the Farmington Family YMCA will be the only centers open on half days.

The Youth & Family Services Program was established to serve the needs of middle school children, ages 11 to 15 who live in the cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington. The program is intended to provide a safe, fun environment, free from negative peer pressures. It is decentralized to make access easy and to minimize transportation concerns.

If you think that you might like to spend some time getting to know the youth in the communities and would like to volunteer in the Youth Centers to help with tutoring or recreational activities, call 473-1841.

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WORK AND ARTHRITIS

If you have osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis and work, take time to evaluate how the job affects your joints. Tell your doctor. If you find that aspects of the job such as the parking lot, the stairs, or dangerous between work actions, are barriers that bring on pain and fatigue by day's end.

A letter from your doctor to your employer explaining your needs may be more helpful to your arthritis than a new medication or another joint injection. However, the physician must be careful in such correspondence. Current Federal Law prohibits a doctor from discussing your medical diagnosis to anyone but a company's physician Medical Director. The reality is that most concerns do not have such a person. In addition, a doctor feels obligated to give an employer some explanation when requesting that the employee receive special consideration. What most physicians do is to try to write a letter that strikes a compromise between government regulation and a supervisor's need to know.

The present shortage in the labor market works to your advantage, employers have an incentive to accommodate to your needs. It is in your best interest to speak soon with your physician and explain the working conditions that are troublesome to you.

Most likely, you can develop how to time your anti-inflammatory and pain medication to work with adaptations that your employer can reasonably provide. The result should give your joints the least stress and most assist.

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