

FARMINGTON OBITUARIES

JOSEPH L. SKWIERCZ Services for Joseph L. Skwiercz, 73, of Farmington were held Jan. 21 at Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Scott Thibodeau officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Skwiercz was born Feb. 6, 1927, in Hamtramck and died Jan. 18, 2001, at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He worked for Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills until his retirement in 1992. He is survived by wife, Julie; son, Andrew Skwiercz; daughter, Jolie Skwiercz; sisters, Gertrude Madin and Marie. He is preceded in death by his brother George.

ELIZABETH A. CHRISTIE Services for Elizabeth Ann Christie, 85, formerly of Farmington, were held Jan. 22 at Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Jennifer Sand officiating. Burial took place at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi.

Mrs. Christie was born June 6, 1916, in Detroit and died Jan. 20, 2001, at Lahser Hills Care Center in Southfield. She was a homemaker. She is survived by son, Robert; daughter, Susan (Robert) Kelley; granddaughters, Diana Kelley and Lori Gleason; and grandsons, Scott Gleach, John Kelley and Robert Christie.

ELIZABETH M. RECKMAN A memorial service for Elizabeth M. Reckman, 90, of Farmington will be held at a later date at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington. Mrs. Reckman was born Jan. 3, 1911, in Detroit and died Jan. 20, 2001, at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington. She enjoyed playing cards, crossword puzzles and walking.

She is survived by daughter, Patricia (Thomas) Murray; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Anthony, and son, Anthony III.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

JOHN A. DONNELLY Services for John Augustine Donnelly, 83, of Orchard Lake were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. John Menner officiating. Burial will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Donnelly was born April 10, 1917, in Iteoin, Pa., and died Jan. 20, 2001, at Grand Traverse Pavilions Multi Care Facility. He worked as a pattern maker for Ford and Cadillac Motor Companies and was a member of St. Gerald Catholic Church in Redford.

He is survived by daughters, Margaret (Dick) Ventura and Kathleen (Larry) Dombrowski; sons, J. Thomas (Audrey) and Gerry (Diane); brother, Lawrence (Colette); sister, Mary Casenhiser; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret.

Arrangements made by Heeny-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

14 Mile from page A1

not out of the question. But officials and developers may be a long way from finalizing the agreement that will direct the three-phased plan.

Residents in surrounding neighborhoods and those most directly affected seemed miles apart in their opinions. Property owners in the Clairview area expressed a desperate need for relief from conditions they say have deteriorated for years, while residents from surrounding neighborhoods expressed fear that more retail space would damage the character of the area and only exacerbate intolerable traffic conditions.

Andy Nickeloff, president of the Westgate Civic Association, rose in defense of the city's Master Plan. It designates the property as a Special Use Area and suggests five development alternatives, all of which include residential uses. He said the plan was developed with extensive input from the community.

"I think there are a definitive statement that this type of big box (development) is not consistent with what we want for Farmington Hills," he said. "The Master Plan goals were based on some valid concerns...Some of those concerns are still there today and even more compelling."

They included traffic congestion, urban sprawl, crime and the blight of large, vacant buildings, he said.

Nickeloff and others pointed out the size of the project all on its own is larger than the Novi Town Center. Coupled with a shopping center across 14 Mile

in West Bloomfield, it rivaled 12 Oaks Mall and Somerset, with 1.3 million square feet of leasable space.

"A Master Plan of a city should cross boundaries and look into adjacent communities," he said.

Ray Frederick wondered why the plan seemed to be a moving target. Developers had proposed two plans, one of which included multi-family housing that might take the form of luxury condos above the retail shops.

"What if the maybes don't come through?" he asked. "If this is such a good idea, why can't the developer show us a solid proposal?"

Cassandra Eddington voiced her opposition to residential development, because she worried about crowding in the schools. Her biggest concern, however, was for the residents in neighborhoods with failing septic systems and undrinkable water.

About people "My idea of a community is, it's all about people," she said. "I would hope if my neighborhood was going through what these people are going through, people would care more about us than the traffic."

Clairview residents spoke emotionally about not having phone service, stagnant property values and abandoned cars heaped up on property behind them.

"We understand the concerns of citizens," said Kirk Zerbo. "We live that concern. We're an island. We pay taxes but we are cut off from most of the amenities of the city...It's been a

Residents spoke emotionally about not having phone service, stagnant property values and abandoned cars heaped up on property behind them.

nightmare for 10 years. We cannot wait another six months, another 10 years. It's gone too far."

Ray Marchewitz, who served 30 years with the Farmington Hills Police Department, raised five children while living in Clairview and has watched commercial development rise into the Northwestern corridor up from Southfield, leaving his neighborhood surrounded.

"Clairview shouldn't have been built," he said. "These things can be resolved if you, the council, will work with these developers. Give us a chance to get out with some dignity."

Fran Valley and Ed Spring, both active in the Council of Homeowners Associations, said neighboring residents weren't opposed to Clairview getting some relief. Valley said her neighborhood had similar problems and footed the bill for sewer, water and road improvements.

"We are for relief of residents that have been put in a bind, essentially, by the city," Spring said. "We are for the Master Plan. We would like to see you stay with it as much as possible."

He and others urged officials to ask developers to come back with a more solid proposal that fit better with the Master Plan. Residents also suggested hiring an urban planner, but councilman Jerry Ellis pointed out that urban planners believe in high density.

"We have always tried to reduce density," he said. "I believe this project is our last, best plan."

In the event the PUD didn't go through, he said, property owners could rezone the land and

develop it piecemeal. The city would still be left with blighted properties, traffic congestion and drainage problems that have caused severe flooding at Orchard Park Commons, where residents' cars are under water virtually every time it rains.

Ellis said the PUD gives officials the opportunity to develop a whole project that would be better than in parts. Among other suggestions, he proposed adding a "green belt" to the proposed parking lot in front of the center, with lattice under the grass to allow parking on it. He and other officials came up with wish lists that developer Gary Sakwa said couldn't be entirely fulfilled.

City attorney John Donohue pointed out approval would simply direct the drafting of a PUD agreement.

"It's a commitment by the council to negotiate a final agreement in good faith," he said. "It's approving a concept."

Reading from the Master Plan, councilman Barry Brickner said the document "must remain flexible" based on the latest trends in development and technology. The Master Plan does not control the use of land, he added.

While he favored the PUD, Brickner admitted, "I don't like a moving target." Mayor Nancy Bates directed staff to set up a meeting with the developers and City Council members, possibly in a study session that included Planning Commission members.

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett said she'd also like to work with officials in West Bloomfield to address the timing and location of traffic lights, to alleviate congestion at the 14 Mile-Northwestern-Orchard Lake corner.

The Giving Tree is saying... Good-bye Progressive markdowns beginning at 20% - 50% off Tel-Twelve Mall 248-356-6155

Snow Fooling January Clearance Savings up to 80%

CASH Bring In All Of Your Old Diamonds & Gold Rolex Watches Wanted \$1.99 Batteries for Most Watches

TRUNK SHOW Featuring CANVASBACKS and BEIS Friday & Saturday February 2 & 3 The uniqueness of Canvasbacks in innovative styling in silhouette, texture and color combined with clear understanding of the proper sizing and fit.

Al Irish's Intensity Alterations & More Barbara's Art Center Beautiful New You Bricker-Tunis Furs The Cover Up D'Vine Wine Europa Art Gallery Gemini Travel Greg Shoes Guys N' Gals Heslop's China & Gifts Hiller's Market Iona and gallery

Sundance SHOES FINAL MOVING NEXT DOOR Sale SAVE UP TO 80% Look For Our New Store OPENING MID FEBRUARY! on the Boardwalk

APPEARING THIS SUMMER DAY CAMP SESSIONS BEGIN JUNE 18TH (248) 661-3630

Free "Living Trust" Seminar Give Your Family the Gift of Avoiding Probate All estates in excess of \$15,000 must go through the probate process. If you'll have assets worth over \$100,000, including your home, you owe it to your family and yourself to learn the facts about living trusts.