

YMCA fund drive volunteers see end of rainbow

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Although their feet ache from two months of walking and knocking on doors, volunteers for the YMCA fund raising drive in Farmington-West Bloomfield Novi area are smiling, nevertheless.

The group has learned that it has raised more than two-thirds of the needed \$300,000 to garner a matching grant from the United Fund to build a 40,000 square foot recreation facility. Backers hope to see ground broken for the project by fall up at the twelve acre site on Farmington and Twelve Mile roads. The kick-off for the drive began Feb. 1.

At a recent breakfast meeting, it

was announced that \$605,000 had already been committed.

Those groups who have pledged funds for the next three to five years are:

- Real Estate: \$15,000.
- Dentists: \$7,000
- Industrial and Osteopaths: \$18,000
- Advance gifts from Y staff and board members: \$238,000.
- Retail: \$53,000.
- Physicians: \$17,000.
- Jaycees: \$50,000.
- Y-Family: \$20,000.
- Canvasers: \$20,000.

Although the drive has so far been successful, Chairman Floyd Cairns and honorary Chairman John Clappison warn that the final \$300,000 is the toughest to raise.

The 'Y' effort has been the most massive volunteer efforts in the history of the Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield area. Hundreds of volunteers, along with civic and business leaders from throughout the communities have banded together in an effort to raise the needed funds.

Presently, the 'Y' program is housed in an 'A' frame house on the site. The Farmington area has had a 'Y' program since 1963, after being designated as a YMCA expansion area.

In 1965, a civic membership enrollment program was launched and the Farmington Area Extension Committee petitioned the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA Board of Directors to become the Farmington 'Y' branch.

Persons chairing the various committees for the drive are: Robert Richardson, marketing; Lillian Allen, public relations; Gall Perrin, volunteer recognition dinner; Kathy Dowling, dinner invitation committee; Jack Davis, speakers bureau; Rev. Karl Zeigler and Gary Lichtman, training committee; Mary Ellen Greenbury, news media; Rev. Karl Zeigler, Novi clergy; Mary Wagner, Farmington clergy.

Other chairpersons are: Dr. Steve Patterson, dentists; William Bowman, business leaders; John Anbut, industrial leaders; Marjorie Van Arneyde, small business; Reta Mossamer and Pat Chesley, people to people; Jim Stevens, realtors; Harold Larson, attorneys; Richard Frankel and William Bowman, advance gifts; David Carley, guns and dolls; Richard Cramer, West Bloomfield, Gil Henderson, Novi; and Dave Smith, 'Y' Family.



Hills woman files lawsuit for child

By JACKIE KLEIN

The City of Southfield, for the second time this winter, has been named in a lawsuit that claims dangerous road conditions caused a serious injury accident.

The latest lawsuit, filed in Oakland County Circuit Court by Carol Fuller, asks a total of \$1.3 million in damages from the Oakland County Road Commission, the City of Farmington Hills, the City of Southfield and Gary Allen Shellabarger, 18, of Detroit, whose car was involved in the accident.

Mrs. Fuller of Farmington Hills filed suit on behalf of her 13-year-old child, Donna Stepchuk, who was one of three teen-aged passengers in Shellabarger's car. The child allegedly was seriously injured when the July 26, 1976 collision occurred at the "dangerous" intersection of Ten Mile and Inkster. The roads are at the border of Southfield and Farmington Hills.

Shellabarger, the lawsuit claims, failed to stop for a red flashing light while driving southbound on Inkster. His car collided with a westbound auto driven by Jack Woodworth, 33, of Detroit.

THOMAS AND Linda Boone of Southfield, who were passengers in Woodworth's car, in January filed a \$4 million lawsuit against the same defendants named in the latest legal action. Mrs. Boone, who was eight months pregnant when the accident occurred, lost her unborn child as a result, according to the suit.

The Boones and Mrs. Fuller claim the county and two cities improperly designed the Ten Mile-Inkster intersection and failed to erect appropriate signs and warning devices.

Part of the intersection, according to Roger Smith, director of Southfield

Department of Public Services, is in the city's jurisdiction. But Oakland County has the authority over traffic controls, he said.

"Proper controls existed when the accident occurred," Smith said. "It was caused by human error, not conditions of the road."

The lawsuits state however that a number of accidents had occurred at the intersection because of depressions in the road, blind turns caused by hills and trees right up to the edge of the road and insufficient traffic control devices.

Oakland County Road Commission, Southfield and Farmington failed to change the design of the road or install signals to warn traffic of the "dangerous" intersection, the suit charges.

"BECAUSE OF the inadequate warning device, improper banking of the shoulders of the roads at the intersection and the elevation of both roads as they approach the intersection, motorists traveling east or west on Ten Mile are confused," the lawsuit states.

Mrs. Fuller claims Shellabarger was driving recklessly and speeding when his car collided with Woodworth's. Her child, she said, was permanently injured in the accident and will require further hospitalization, dental, surgical and medical care.

The victim, according to the lawsuit, received severe injuries to her head and body causing pain and suffering. Her permanent injuries, the suit claims, include a compound fracture of the nasal bones, a severe laceration of the left cheek requiring 100 stitches, injury to the tear duct and to her teeth.

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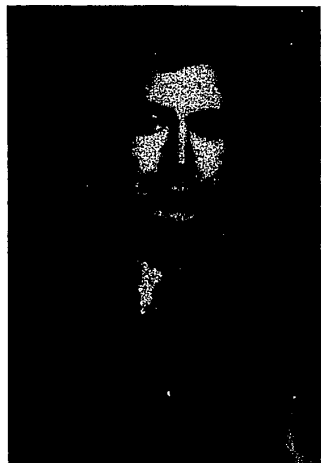
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