

Tranquil suburban road is eye of resident storm

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Some political issues seem to never go away.

That's what residents of Kendallwood and Farmington Green subdivisions are finding when it comes to the ongoing saga of Tulipwood Street.

Freshman Farmington Hills Councilman William Lange has requested that council reconsider last year's decision to close the street which connects the two subdivisions.

The decision was made after three public hearings in which the street was closed, then opened and then closed once again.

Literally hundreds of residents from both subdivisions showed up at city hall last February and March to state the pros and cons.

The street-closing skirmish is reminiscent of the feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys. In this case, Kendallwood residents want the street closed.

Farmington Green residents want it opened.

Emotions have run so high over the issue that neighbors have become enemies and refuse to speak to one another.

The controversy began in July 1978 when Kendallwood residents petitioned to have the street closed. In December of that year the city council did just that.

BUT FARMINGTON GREEN residents weren't about to be outdone. They countered by going to Oakland County Circuit Court to obtain an order reopening the street until the subdivision could argue its case.

The three public hearings followed in the first quarter of 1979.

But a new year and new councilman have arrived and Lange feels the issue should be reheard.

The council has agreed to hear any

new information on the issue from involved residents at the March 10 council session.

The "old" issues are as follows:

- Kendallwood argues that traffic through Tulipwood was becoming unbearable when the street was opened. They argued that drivers take Tulipwood during rush hour to avoid the 12 Mile-Farmington Road intersection.

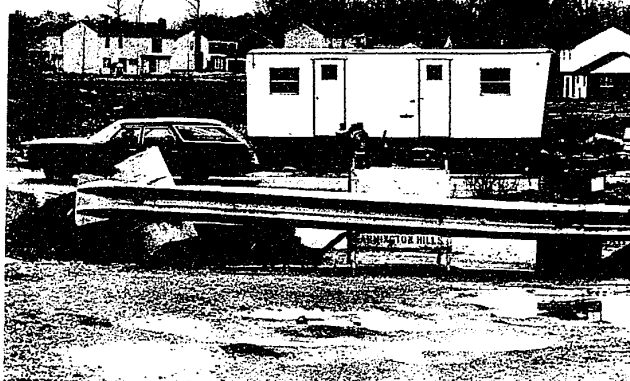
- Kendallwood residents also argue that parents driving children to Wooddale school create a traffic jam each morning.

- Farmington Green resident, on the other hand, find it difficult to drive their children to school. With Tulipwood closed, parents are forced to use 12 Mile to get to Wooddale.

- Access to the subdivisions through Tulipwood for ambulances and police is hindered by the closing, Farmington Green residents also argue.

While Lange might be anxious to hear arguments once again, veteran councilman take a less optimistic view.

"All we're doing is opening up a Pandora's box," said Councilman Earl Oppenheimer.



This familiar scene, the blockade at Tulipwood, will soon be the center of controversy for residents of Farmington Green and Kendallwood subdivisions. (File photo)

Wire wheels are hot item

Another wave of silver wire wheel cover thefts from cars parked in Farmington Hills on Monday netted thieves \$568 in tubcaps.

Four chrome wire wheel covers valued at \$180 were taken from a red two-door 1977 Ford Granada owned by Evelyn Reinki, 34, of Walled Lake. Ms. Reinki parked her car Monday afternoon in the lot at Botsford General Hospital on Grand River near Eight

Mile. Another car in the Botsford General Hospital lot was the target of thieves who took four silver wire wheel covers valued at \$208 from a black 1978 Pontiac Grand Prix owned by Roy Milks, 24, of Dearborn.

Another set of four silver wire wheel covers valued at \$200 were taken the same afternoon from a green four-door 1978 Oldsmobile owned by Robert Mor-

gan, 31, of Farmington Hills. The car was parked in the lot of the Independence Green Apartment complex.

Monday's thefts follow a series of similar incidents last Thursday in Farmington Hills. On that day, several sets of silver wire wheel covers with a combined value of \$987 were reported as stolen.

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