



"We tried to keep the pure image of the building," Stan Finsilver said of the \$125,000 remodeling job on the reportedly 100-year-old building.

Bed buy

Old barn transformed into new business

By Judith Berne
staff writer

He wanted an art gallery. He got waterbeds.

But Stan Finsilver is still pleased with his renovation of a vintage apple storage barn located on Northwestern between 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in West Bloomfield.

"We tried to keep the pure image of the building," Finsilver said, of the \$125,000 remodeling job on the reportedly 100-year-old barn. "It was such an eyesore," he added.

The barn, which formerly housed a soft water service, sports a new cedar exterior, double-hung windows and a new roof. The interior was opened up by knocking out walls and adding windows. The flooring has been secured to carry added weight and a new heating and cooling system was installed.

It has been leased by Waterbed Gallery.

"It's a mixed bag," says West Bloomfield Planning Director Frank Reynolds, commenting on the renovated barn.

THE NON-CONFORMING structure, which sits in the Northwestern right-of-way, does not have the proper setback.

"I'm an old barn lover. I just wish it was set back about 50 feet," Reynolds commented.

"It's obviously a pleasant looking structure. The unfortunate part is it's a legal non-conforming use within the road right-of-way. I was disappointed we couldn't get it pushed back. It's the first thing you see as you come into West Bloomfield."

But Finsilver of West Bloomfield, and partners Doug Feuring of Birmingham and Robert Schmier, a former West Bloomfield resident, liked that visibility.

And they are continuing to operate the backyard car wash.



The renovated barn has a new roof, cedar shingles and double-hung windows.

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Compromise reached in housing dispute

By Judith Berne
staff writer

A proposed \$3.95-million Residence for Jewish Elderly was given the go-ahead by the West Bloomfield Township Board Monday night after the sponsoring United Jewish Charities committed to reimburse the township for last spring's paving of Drake Road.

That commitment was relayed to the board by Township Supervisor John Doherty.

The special zoning and site and landscape approvals were held up Nov. 16 when trustees claimed UJC refused to take part in the road paving, which was financed by developers along Drake Road plus \$19,000 paid by the township with public money.

The residence for elderly along with an apartment complex for Jewish senior citizens are slated for Maple Road, west of Drake, adjacent to the Jewish Community Center.

"WHILE WE didn't enter into any binding agreement, I'm sure they'll

measure up to anything that is expected of them as we go along," Doherty told the board Monday. At the same time, he maintained "one is not tied to the other."

Directly after the unanimous votes for approval, UJC attorney Mark Schlusel handed Doherty an envelope promising to pay \$19,000 "representing the UJC contribution to the paving of Drake Road. UJC shall remit payment directly to the township," Schlusel wrote.

Schlusel also denied the tie-in, but later said that construction of the 106-bed facility for elderly, slated for spring, wouldn't start until land and roads were cleared of winter's snow and ice. "Now that we have a major investment in Drake Road, we're going to be real careful," he joked.

"I'm in favor of the thing (the home

for the aged), but they should participate if they use the road," Trustee Ray Holland said, at the November session.

DOHERTY and Schlusel have consistently maintained UJC, a non-profit group which financed the Jewish Center as well as the proposed home for the elderly, had never been approached to contribute to the paving.

The paving was at the request of developers who wanted the road completed, Doherty said.

"No request was made for that participation," Schlusel agreed at the November meeting. "We will certainly do whatever is fair and equitable in terms of Drake Road."

Holland disagreed. "You were specifically asked to participate. You said you didn't use Drake Road, that you could come in off Maple."

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