

Others may join Vista suit

The western Wayne County suburbs may become involved in the ongoing Vista Disposal proceedings in Detroit federal court.

The 16-member Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) has petitioned Wayne County Executive William Lucas to join a lawsuit filed against the Vista defendants, the city of Detroit and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young.

The petition came last week in the form of a resolution from the CWW, which includes the communities of Livonia, Plymouth, Westland, Garden City, Redford Township, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Inkster, Wayne, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Northville, Northville Township, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and Huron Township.

The suit the CWW wants to join was filed in March by Oakland County Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn. Kuhn's complaint alleges that the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWS) unlawfully inflated prices for transporting, treating and disposing of the district's sewage.

To be heard by Judge George E. Woods, it is based on the U.S. vs. Beckham, or Vista Disposal case. In it, the U.S. district attorney proved a conspiracy to bribe a DWS employee to obtain sludge and sludge hauling and disposal contracts.

Other defendants in Kuhn's suit include Young, who administers the Detroit Waste Water Treatment plant; former DWS director Charles Beckham, disposal compa-

nies Vista, Michigan, Wayne, Wolverine and Wolverine Disposal; Detroit; and several individuals associated with those firms.

The suit seeks damages under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

CWW SECRETARY Maurice Breen, Plymouth Township Supervisor, said the group has requested action through Lucas' office because the communities actually contract with the county for wastewater disposal. The county, in turn, holds the contracts with Detroit.

As of Tuesday, Lucas had not decided if he would intervene on behalf of the communities, according to Bill Johnson, Lucas' press spokesman.

The county executive is waiting for the written CWW resolution, but talked with Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara — head of the group — about the request earlier this week, Johnson said.

"He (Lucas) will give it some thought and determine if he should get involved," Johnson said.

Young was unavailable for comment on the suit Tuesday.

Although a dollar amount hasn't been given in regard to the total alleged damages, McNamara speculated the disposal cost could have been inflated as much as 50 cents per ton of sludge.

Wave pool opens Friday

Waterford Oaks County Park Wave Action swimming pool and the Slidewinder, a 340-foot water slide, open for the season Friday.

The Wave Pool, which gradually extends to eight feet deep, alternates between three-foot ocean-like waves and calm periods. The Slidewinder provides a jet stream of water that propels the rider into a four-foot splash-down pool.

Admission to the wave pool is \$2.50 for a full day with season passes available. The

pool is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and swimming lessons are available.

The water slide is 50 cents per ride or \$3.50 all day. Both have a twilight rate of \$1.50 after 6 p.m.

Waterford Oaks County Park is on Scott Lake Road, between Pontiac Lake Road and Dixie Highway in Pontiac. Other park facilities include eight wind-screened tennis courts, platform tennis courts, shuffleboard and horseshoes, and a bicycle motocross track and fitness trail.



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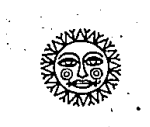
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