

Community Corner

This week's question:

What does Earth Week 1990 mean to you?

We asked this question at a tree planting ceremony at Hi-Tech Transmission Shop, Nine Mile and Middlebelt.



"If we're not careful, we're destroying the environment, the world we depend on to survive. It means a lot to me. If we keep up with what we're doing, we won't have a planet to live on."

— Jim Schotten
Hi-Tech service manager



"To me, it's caring for the Earth, something I've always had in my mind. It's what I want to college for and what I do now. I think it's great. I hope all of the glitz and gesture amount to something."

— Marie Donigen
Hills staff planner



"Earth Week means an opportunity for everyone who loves this wonderful planet to do the things that will make it continue for centuries."

— Jean Fox
Hills mayor



"I am really dedicated to ecology. At home, we recycle, sort and compost, and we're still looking for more ways to be responsible with the Earth."

— Nancy Bates
Hills councilwoman



"It brings an awareness to the public that there are things that we need to be concerned about."

— Dave Cull
Hills assistant city manager



"The point is, it makes everyone aware. In the 1980s, the awareness fell out. The 1990s will be a decade of re-awareness of what the Earth can be, what it should be."

— Steve Brock
Hills assistant to city manager

Sewer project includes environmental safeguards

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Many wooded areas doomed by the massive Evergreen-Farmington sewer construction project will be reforested and some trees will be saved, Southfield city officials told concerned residents Monday night.

City staff members, alarmed at what they'd been told earlier this month by residents who live along the proposed route of the interceptor in the western half of the city, initiated negotiations with the managing Oakland County Drain Commission to limit damage to the environment. Drain commission representatives in the process of negotiating for rights of way from property owners told them lost trees would not be replaced.

"We found this to be unacceptable," Southfield public works director Thomas Vukonich told the crowded city council meeting.

The city, one of the participating communities in the project, sought and won some concessions from the drain commission over the past two weeks, a process that is ongoing. One of the major changes is that private woods that are destroyed will be replaced with costs paid by the project.

SOUTHFIELD WILL appoint "an environmental inspector to live with this project through to all landscaping or environmental concerns," Vukonich said. "He'll work ahead of the construction crews to mitigate potential damage."

"If the plans aren't followed (by the contractor), our inspector will have to authority to stop the project," said Ronald DeMaagd, deputy city administrator. "The city will have complete control of the reforestation project."

City council members decided that an ombudsman should also be appointed in addition to an inspector to respond directly to residents' complaints.

Vukonich said the county has agreed to some alternative designs, agreeing to switch from open cut sewers to the more expensive but less environmentally devastating tunneling in selective instances. In some places the route is being altered to protect valuable trees.

The city is requiring temporary fencing to keep crews away from sensitive trees and areas.

"THE COUNTY'S LARGELY in agreement with our recommendations," said Vukonich. Changes that

can't be put into the contract which is about to go out for bids will be covered in a letter of intent between the city and county, he added. He said 26 changes have so far been agreed to.

The drain commission's chief deputy Robert Fredericks Tuesday confirmed that there have been meetings with representatives of Southfield and "we were glad to make some changes. We want to comply with the desires of the city."

At Monday's council meeting resident Charlotte Derouchie said, "These residents are here tonight because they're as concerned as I am about the effect on our neighborhood and its character." The Derouchie property on Beech south of 10 Mile is along the route of the second segment of the sewer construction.

"Putting an ombudsman on the project is a great idea, and we have to be able to reach them during ridiculous hours (whenever needed)," she said. City officials agreed.

The Derouchie land to be used in the project includes 45 trees six inches or larger in diameter and about the same number that are two to three inches in diameter, she said. The next door neighbors are due to lose a similar number.

"The city is definitely working

with us now," Derouchie said after the meeting.

THE ESTIMATED \$52 million Evergreen-Farmington Sewers project has been mandated by the federal government to reduce Rouge River pollution. It will improve and expand the inadequate, aging Evergreen and Farmington sewer network that carries waste out of 16 southern Oakland County communities, including Southfield, to the Detroit Treatment Plant. Nineteen million dollars in federal money will go into the project.

Southfield's share of the entire

project is expected to be around \$14 million — \$4 million for the first segment, which is already under way on the eastern part of the city, and close to \$10 million for the second segment expected to be started in September. The entire project is to be completed by September 1992.

Construction money is coming from bonds sold by the county on behalf of Southfield and the other participating communities. The bonds will be repaid basically with user fees.

Numerous sections of Southfield as well as the other communities will be touched by the reconstruction

and expansion of the two major interceptors and branches in the network. The Farmington interceptor runs down through the western part of the city and the Evergreen interceptor in the eastern half. It will include the construction of tunnels, open cut sewers, small relief sewers, pumping stations and force mains.

DeMaagd said the added costs due to the changes and reforestation haven't been determined.

Southfield staff members will meet with residents to keep them posted on the project and to answer their questions.

ICE COMPANY OF 1990 presents
"Come Fly With Me"
 Southfield Civic Center Ice Arena
 26000 Evergreen Road (at Civic Center Dr.)
 April 25, 26 & 27: 7:30 p.m.
 April 28: noon, 4 & 8 p.m.
 April 29: 1:30 & 5:30 p.m.
 TICKETS: \$6 rinkside, \$5 upper rinkside
 Discounts for seniors 65 & older and children under 12 at designated performances
 For more information: Civic Center Arena, 354-9357
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