

Plans for local recycling station picking up

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Plans are moving forward toward a September 1992 opening of the recycling station in Southfield that will serve eight southwest Oakland County communities.

The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, to which Southfield belongs, proposes to open the \$13.1 million facility on a 6.6-acre site at the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Evergreen.

The station will be used for crushing, sorting and otherwise preparing recyclables such as newspaper, glass, aluminum and plastics collected in the member communities. The

bales of material will then be sold to companies that will turn it into new products.

"We're really getting excited," authority general manager Lenora Jadun said last week. "This will be one of the first, if not the first, in the Midwest. We're happy to be in the forefront in this area."

Such facilities are currently in operation on the east and west coasts "where there's a lot less landfill space and the people have been more environmentally minded," Jadun said. "The Midwest is now playing catch-up."

THE AUTHORITY has an option to purchase the property for \$1.9 million from Special Machine and

'The tonnage will increase as recycling becomes a way of life for people.'

— Lenora Jadun
recycling authority

Engineering Co. There are three buildings at the site, two large and one small totaling about 100,000 square feet of floor space.

"It's only a matter of time that the property will be under authority control. We expect to decide by the end of April," Jadun said. There's only a

"very slight possibility" that the authority wouldn't go ahead with the purchase.

One minor hang-up is that there is oil contamination in the small building. "It's an old machine shop and they stored an oil fuel tank and there was some spillage," Jadun said.

The contamination showed up when the authority did an environmental inspection. "The owners will have to clean it up. We don't want to accept the responsibility of it," she continued.

The authority is prepared to proceed without the small building which sits on less than an acre. "We could move ahead with the majority of the site and accept the rest after they clean it up," Jadun said.

The renovation of the buildings and landscaping of the site is expected to cost about \$11.2 million.

IF THE FACILITY opens on schedule, it's expected to be taking in, sorting and sending to market about 41,000 tons per year. "By the year 2010 we expect to take in as much as 110,000 tons a year," Jadun said. "Down the line the tonnage will increase as recycling becomes a way of life for people."

Comprising the authority are Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Walled Lake, Wixom, South Lyon and Lyon Township. Of the eight, Southfield already has curbside recycling for single-family residents. Farmington and Farming-

ton Hills are due to start July 1. Wixom later in July and Novi shortly thereafter.

The facility will be a public/private partnership. A private company will be hired to operate it and share the profits from the marketplace.

"Our architect is working now with Southfield's community development department," Jadun said.

About 30 persons will work at the facility with 25-30 trucks a day going in and out during the first year.

All of the station's traffic will enter and leave from Eight Mile to avoid putting any additional vehicles on Evergreen where there are residential homes.

Hills seeks status in preservation program

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

In the not too distant future, some of Farmington Hills' historic sites just may be on the national historic register — sort of like Mt. Vernon.

Farmington Hills is one of about nine local communities in Michigan now certified for participation in the National Historic Preservation Program.

"This means we can go directly to the federal government," said Katie Ulrich, a planner and staff liaison to the city's historic district commission. "It helps us cut through some of the paperwork and allows us to apply for historic preservation money channeled through the state."

About 20 of the city's 59 — and soon to be 62 — historic sites are listed with the state historic preservation register. Plans are under way now to make a list of the sites that are eligible for national designation.

For local historian and city councilwoman Jean Fox, two immediately come to mind. They are the Barber house, just north of Nine Mile, east of I-275, and the Simmons house on 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road.

"It has to be on the original site," Fox said, of one of the requirements to be placed in the national register.

THE BOTSFORD Inn is the only local site on the national register.

To get the national certification, Ulrich had to show that indeed the city had an ordinance allowing designation of historic districts and that the historic district commission oversees the ordinances. "And we had to show that the city is constantly preserving, educating and having things like home tours," Ulrich said.

The fact that historic district commissioners are considered authorities on historic designation and preservation also helped win certification, Fox said.

Both Ruth Moehman, historic district commission chairwoman, and Fox are doubtful a flood of dollars will be forthcoming. But they are nonetheless thrilled with the opportunity to have some of the sites nationally designated.

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