

Percentage (opposed) kills Canfield paving

By Joanne Malazewski
staff writer

Sixty-four percent was enough said. That's the percentage of property owners on Canfield in Farmington Hills who don't want their gravel road paved. They are the results of an impartial survey conducted by city staff to determine just how many are for and against paving.

The percentage opposed — 64.7 percent to be exact — was enough to convince the city council recently that there's no need to continue with any paving effort on the Canfield, from Grayfield to the northern tip of the road.

An original petition showed that 50.1 percent favored paving. But Canfield residents James and Dorothy Woolley just thought percentage did not sufficiently represent a majority of their neighbors.

So they hit the pavement, canvassed their neighbors and got nearly two-third of their neighbors — 63.1 percent — to sign a petition against the proposed pavement.

The Woolleys presented their petition to city staff. The problem was

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— Dick Meacham
Canfield resident

ham, who circulated the original petition.

Meacham told the council that 10 of 17 residents north of Eldon on Canfield want paving. "The majority of the people living there..." Meacham said.

Another resident reminded the council that there wouldn't be a problem with petitions today if residents had been told precisely what paving would cost them.

Residents were originally told that paving would cost each lot owner — whose frontage abuts on Canfield — roughly \$3,954. That's not untrue. But there's more details.

If a lot owner decides to stretch out payments over 10 years, the paving would cost about \$6,000 including interest. Over 15, the lot owner would pay \$8,000.

James Woolley told the council in October that one resident owns four lots.

"A lot of the residents are senior citizens and young couples," Woolley said. "Everyone I asked, I said, 'Did you know how much this will cost?'"

When I showed them what it would be with interest, they thought it was too much money."

that earlier in September, the city council had already adopted a resolution for paving Canfield.

THE CITY COUNCIL then decided to start all over again with another informational meeting and a city-initiated petition to see what neighbors wanted.

When the council Monday saw the 64.7 percent against paving, the scheduled public hearing and vote was brief.

"I would like the city council to think if it's the majority of property owners or the majority of people," said Canfield resident Dick Meac-

Santa arrives by copter in downtown Farmington

Santa arrives by helicopter in downtown Farmington Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. In the Farmington Center Parking lot on Grand River, east of Farmington Road.

Children will be able to escort Santa to his downtown Farmington headquarters between Art Alcove and Center Tire. Santa will be visiting with children until 3 p.m. Santa and his helpers are courtesy of the Farmington Players Theatre Group, who will be performing throughout the day.

Downtown Farmington will be all aglow this holiday season with thou-

sands of white lights, green garland, red ribbons and window displays.

Many businesses will be offering holiday gift drawings in their stores.

Downtown shoppers will be able to ride the free trolley sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The trolley will have approximately 12 stops, which will include all downtown shopping areas.

Also on the trolley route, the Farmington Historical Museum, childhood home of Michigan's first three-term governor Fred Warner, will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

courtesy of Books Abound and Focal Point Studio of Photography.

Families can create a free holiday decoration from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Farmington Community Library, also on the trolley route.

The Farmington Civic Theatre will offer "Home Alone," rated PG-13, at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. There will be no charge for admission.

Unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items will be accepted at Santa's headquarters and the Farmington Civic Theatre for the Goodfellows and Salvation Army.



photos by SHARON LAMIEUX/ASA photographer

Living Science interpreter Jackie Meisenhelder shows Helene Blackman's fourth-grade class a macaw that she said doesn't speak.

Animal respect

Eagle kids learn a lesson of life

By Susan Buck
staff writer

DR. DOOLITTLE wasn't the only person who could talk to the animals.

The Living Science Foundation, based in Novi, came to Eagle Elementary in West Bloomfield Wednesday equipped with its own "interpreters," Mike Smith and Jacqui Meisenhelder, as well as Terri Neill, the program director.

"They're interpreters for animals," said Bonnie Neff, curriculum director.

Whether it's Julius Squeezer, a 45-pound python snake, or Murphy, the Vietnamese pot belly pig, the Living Science individuals strive to teach students the importance of respecting both the animals and the animals' space.

They teach children how and where to touch the animal. Not all like to be patted on the head like a dog, Neff said.

"If people are to be the caretakers of the planet, they have to care," Neff said.

The foundation provides teacher kits to prepare children ahead of time for the animals' visit. The kit includes maps to study the geography of the animal's homeland.

STUDENTS FALL short on geography, Neff said. She remembers reading recently that 70 percent of incoming college freshmen couldn't find Vietnam anywhere on the map.

The creatures are visual aids in teaching children the lessons of life, including the harsh lesson of what it means to be considered an endangered species.

For instance, children learn that 300 chinchillas need to be killed to make one person's coat, Neff said. The foundation visited 17 classrooms at Eagle. They're set up to visit five to six locations in one day, Neff said.

Lizards, bunnies and large birds are packed for their daily excursions.

"The first and second grades (at Eagle) were paid for the school system; all others were paid for by parent support groups," Neff said.

Cost is \$52.50 for each class or \$2 a child, she said.



Terri Neill feeds "pigchow" to their Vietnamese pot belly pig as he roams the isles of Kay Carlson's fifth grade class.

Red ribbons on cars spur sobriety behind the wheel

To discourage alcohol-impaired and drugged driving during the holidays, the Farmington Hills Police Department will participate in the sixth red ribbon campaign initiated by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The public awareness campaign is known as "Tie One On... For Safety."

Red ribbons will be displayed on agency vehicles on the antennas or outside mirrors throughout the campaign, Nov. 18 through Jan. 1, 1992.

The Red Ribbon campaign urges motorists to help make the holidays happier by pledging to be alcohol-free when they get behind the wheel. The red ribbons are symbolic reminders to others to drive safely and sober.

"We support this effort because we know public involvement and heightened awareness to the dangers of intoxicated driving can help bring down the number of alcohol-involved traffic crashes, especially during the

'The red ribbons may cause some drivers to not get behind the wheel if they've been drinking, and remind others to make alternative plans for safe rides home.'

— William Dwyer
Hills police chief

The MADD Red Ribbon campaign has grown rapidly as law enforcement agencies have cooperatively sponsored local efforts for this popular traffic safety program. Last year in Michigan nearly 5 million red ribbon reminders were distributed.

MADD began this national program in 1986 because of the surge in alcohol-related traffic crashes during the holidays. While there has been a reduction in the number of deaths and injuries, preventable tragedies still occur.

holidays when there are more alcoholic beverages being served and consumed," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

"THE RED ribbons may cause some drivers to not get behind the wheel if they've been drinking, and remind others to make alternative plans for safe rides home," Dwyer continued.

Last year in Michigan, during the holidays, alcohol was involved in a significant number of the total traffic fatalities. Thanksgiving, 10 of the 19 fatalities or 52.6 percent involved alcohol; Christmas, 7 of the 18 fatalities or 38.9 percent involved alcohol. New Year's, 9 of the 15 or 60 percent involved alcohol. Two of the three holidays were above the annual state average of 47.2 percent.

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