

Residents want county's help for paving road at Glen Oaks

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Some Farmington Hills residents are pushing their case to have Oakland County pay for a share of paving a road next to the Glen Oaks Golf Club.

The golf club, which is county owned and run, faces Greening Road on the west, north of 13 Mile and east of Orchard Lake.

Residents have already agreed to pay their share of the cost of paving the road and the City of Farmington Hills, which owns some vacant land that borders Greening and the golf course, has also agreed to chip in its share.

But Oakland County has refused so far, although the county's parks and recreation commission is considering the matter.

"They refused to pay," said resident Linda Cleaves, a past president of the now dissolved Glen Oaks Subdivision Association. "They say they don't use the road, so why should they pay. But we've got pictures of their trucks using it."

Tom Biasell, the city's director of public services, said the city scheduled an informational meeting with residents in the neighborhood on Nov. 17, 1993 after sending out packets on what would be involved in creating a special assessment district in order to pave the street and make

drainage and other improvements.

Residents were for the most part in favor of the project, but the county wasn't interested, Biasell said.

"They are not required to participate," he said. "In the past, the city has participated whenever city land is involved. We treated this case the same."

That meant that the city would chip in money equivalent to 11.2 lots for its share because of the vacant land it owns along Greening.

The road was paved in October of 1995 at a cost to each property owner of \$4,255.62. Biasell said he thought the case was closed as far as any county participation was concerned.

But Cleaves and several of her neighbors attended a county parks and recreation meeting in October and made their case during the public comments portion.

(County Executive L. Brooks) Patterson seemed sympathetic. Cleaves said. "At least he listened to us."

Biasell said that during the paving process, the city had to remove a chain link fence on its property. In order to save residents money, the city had not planned to put up or charge for a new fence.

But the county would then have

to put up a fence between the city property and the golf course, adding to its cost. And county officials insist that they frequently use the road, despite residents' claims to the contrary.

"We might use that gate eight times a year," said Oakland County Parks and Recreation Manager Ralph Richards. "It's just for maintenance vehicles."

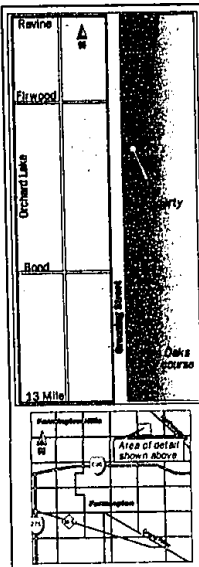
Richards did say that the county is looking into the matter of helping pay for the paving.

"The commission is sensitive to residents," he said. "Part of the problem was that the city had told us about this and said they would get back to us. Then next thing we knew, they had started paving."

Biasell said he's told residents that anything the county does to help will be a bonus.

"I was thrilled to hear that they went up there (Pontiac) and made their case," Biasell said. "If the county is saying there will be some participation, that's better than what we've got."

"We'll be there en masse," she said. "They (county) had complained that building a paved road would add to their liability because the (golf) balls would bounce and maybe break a window. And here we are trying to make the neighborhood better."



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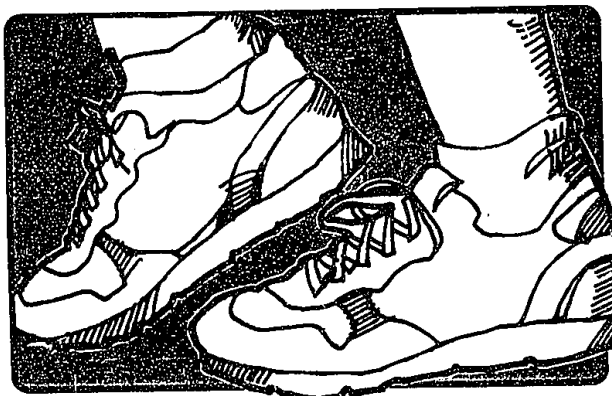
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