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Subdivision rejects new roads

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Citing the cost and questioning the need for new paving, Kimberly subdivision residents took back the idea at the Farmington Hills City Council meeting May 13.

Hills Director of Public Services Tom Biase said Kimberly residents had met for informational meetings and then signed petitions that would allow the city to contract for ditching and repaving. The vote was just over 51 percent in October of 1995.

But several residents, citing the per unit cost of \$3,894.10 for the job and questioning the need, had changed their minds. When the number of residents in favor of the proposal was recounted, 13 fewer wanted the project, driving the percent down to 47.

"The petitions are advisory," said Assistant City Manager David Call. "But since I've been here, for the last 15 years or so, the council has used that when determining the need for sewers, water and paving."

Call said that unless there are health or other considerations that force the city to require the

improvements, the residents must show 60 percent plus one in order for the city to approve a special assessment district.

Once the district is determined and more than 60 percent of the residents approve the project, the city determines an estimated cost. The actual cost is determined once the city receives bids.

"The city wants to be the second lowest bidder (with its cost estimate)," Biase said. "We're usually been very close to the actual cost."

There were several residents who said the improvements were needed and would pay for themselves in improved safety and maintenance of property values.

"I look on this road repaving as a necessary maintenance," said Trisha Stieber, 37, who lives on the road. "I worry about safety of those who walk, bicycle or rollerblade through our neighborhood."

But there were others who said the roads were not that bad.

"Our roads compare favorably to roads more recently constructed or repaired," said Ed McGinn. "Many main roads are in dire need."

Had the city approved the district, it would have picked up 20 percent of the cost, which is provided in the city charter.

"We have very little road money left," said Councilwoman Nancy Bates. "We may not be able to offer 20 percent in future. We can't forever match road money with the current level of tax money."

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said although the charter provides that the city can provide up to 20 percent of the cost, unless the city can get more road money, that money will not be there in the future.

The council allowed those who had signed petitions and wanted to change their minds, to do so. The resulting numbers made it easy for the council to turn down the proposal.

Of the original 158.10 units of 306.48 approving, only 144 wound up in favor, or about 47 percent.

The petitioners can't initiate petitions again until next year and the improvements could not be made until 1998.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT W. JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson, 74, of Farmington Hills died May 7. Born in Duluth, Minn., Mr. Johnson was a sales rep in the auto industry.

Survivors include his son, Mark; sister, Alice Erb; one grandchild.

Services were at the Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King in West Bloomfield. Memorials may be made to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

ALBERT T. ASSEMANI

Mr. Assemani, 77, of Farmington Hills, died May 9 in West Bloomfield Nursing Center. Born in Detroit, Mr. Assemani moved to Farmington Hills in 1940 after his marriage to Helen Pietras. They have resided in the same house for 56 years. In 1940 he opened a riding stable (Al's Dude Ranch) on their property.

In 1953, when the Township of Farmington began building up, he bought and operated a grocery store (Profit Sharing Market) in Detroit on Schoolcraft at St. Mary's. In 1963 he sold the store and

began selling swimming pools for his brother Vince (owner of Miami Blue Water Pools). In 1968 he started his own pool business (Riviera Pools) in Farmington Hills and operated it until ill-health forced him to retire in 1987.

Mr. Assemani was a World War II veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; sons, Albert J. and Richard; daughters, Nancy Paladino, Evelyn Butz, Christine Fender, Diane Streby and Pamela; six brothers and one sister; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mass was celebrated May 13 in St. Fabian Catholic Church, the Rev. Brian Chabala officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorials may be to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 3990 John R, Detroit 48201.

Arrangements were made by the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills.

EUGENE C. STOLNICKI

Mr. Stolnicki, 75, of Farmington Hills, died May 13 in Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. Born in Detroit, Mr. Stolnicki was the district manager for the Detroit News. He was a trustee

for Teamsters 372 and a member of the union negotiating team. He retired in 1990.

He was an usher at Tiger Stadium for four years.

Mr. Stolnicki was a World War II veteran serving in the Army Air Corps and saw action in New Guinea, West Pacific, South Philippines and Ryukyu Air Offensive.

Survivors include his son, John; daughter, Laura Cieslak; four grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake, with the Rev. Stanley Milewski officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Memorials may be made to Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake 48324.

Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

DONALD W. MALONE

Mr. Malone, 44, of Farmington Hills died May 6.

Mr. Malone was born in Detroit.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra; daughter, Tasha; mother, Sarah Malone; four sisters. Services were at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, Livonia.

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