

Property owners invited to talk special assessment

By JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The proposed Principal Shopping District special assessment renewal will be discussed at an informational meeting, hosted by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority.

Property owners are asked to attend the meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, in Farmington City Council chambers.

This is the first renewal request for the special assessment in the Principal Shopping District. The original request began July 1, 1994, and will expire June 30, 1999, said Judy Downey, DDA executive director.

"The Legislature allowed for downtowns to use special assessments to manage, promote and maintain the central business district," Downey said.

The plan, supported by the special assessment, is \$850,000 over five years. The five-year distribution is as follows: first year, \$120,000; second, \$125,000; third, \$130,000; fourth, \$135,000; and fifth, \$140,000.

Residential property in the Principal Shopping District is exempt from the special assessment. Other property owners in the DDA would be assessed, based on state equalized value, Downey said.

SHOPPING DISTRICT

"We just want to keep things the way they are downtown," Downey added.

The DDA district runs on the western boundary on Grand River to Grace/Oakland; eastern boundary on Grand River to the Burger King/Benchmark; northern boundary on Farmington Road to Oakland; and southern boundary on Farmington Road.

For more information, call Downey, 473-7275.



Beanie from page A1

for the game about Beanie Baby shoppers like herself. She spent the past several months making the dream come true, with help from her husband and a local

graphic artist. Spending \$80,000 in life savings, the couple, parents of two preschool boys, have seen that dream turn into a nightmare over the past few weeks. They had sold just 1,000 of the slick, colorful games (retailing for \$24.95) out of 9,000 when they ran into trouble earlier this month.

Some games are still available in local stores. The injunction applies to games still in the Keilles' possession.

"I fell in love with the product and thought I was promoting it," said Ellen Keils, who owns more than 200 of the little stuffed toys. The object of her game is to be the first shopper to purchase a complete collection of the bean

Disappointed: Ellie Keils (center) and her husband, Ken, were ordered by a federal judge to stop selling their Beanie Chase game. Ty Inc., which manufactures the popular Beanie Babies, took the Farmington Hills couple to court. The couple, who spent \$80,000 on the games, is trying to have the court jurisdiction changed from Chicago to Detroit.

bag toys. Perils befell the shoppers at each twist and turn on the cleverly conceived game board.

"We have tried, we've offered to make whatever changes possible to salvage this game," Keils added. "They're (Ty) not interested in working with us."

Keils says she kept the company posted on her game as it developed and even sent a copy of the finished product to the Ty home office. The game box includes a disclaimer stating the game is not officially endorsed nor affiliated with Ty.

The couple was served with a four-count copyright infringement lawsuit earlier this month. The next court hearing is scheduled for Aug. 27 in Chicago.

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P.S. Nearly half of those who are "dental phobic" are actually fearful of needles.

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Inflammatory Bowel Disease includes Crohn's Disease, ulcerating Colitis, and bowel bypass surgery. These conditions result in erosion of the lining of the small and/or large intestine with subsequent weight loss, fevers, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. These bowel problems are related to an arthritis that causes pain and swelling of the ankles, wrists, knees, shoulders and rarely the wrists and hands. The joint ache may be single, such as one inflamed knee, or hurt symmetrically with both ankles, shoulders, or all of the lower back involved.

The reason for this relation between inflammation of the bowel and the joints is unclear. Physicians also cannot explain why the legs and feet are more often involved than the arms or hands. In the case of bowel bypass surgery, the type of bacteria residing in the isolated segment of bowel plays a role. In these cases, antibiotic therapy may bring the arthritis under control, though the joints themselves are not infected.

In instances of Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, steroids that treat the intestines also seem to clear the arthritis.

At times the arthritis precedes the bowel disease. Then the physician cannot make a clear diagnosis, and must treat as if the condition is primarily a joint inflammation. Eventually the reason for the joint or backache becomes clear and indicating therapy to clear the entire condition can begin.

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Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

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An option orthodontists may consider when faced with crowded teeth due to a narrow upper jaw involves the use of a palatal expander. This type of active appliance creates space in the dental arch by making it wider. A palatal expander consists of a plastic plate that fits over all, or part, of the roof of the mouth (the palate). The middle portion is fitted with an expansion screw that can be turned to provide gentle and constant outward pressure, which forces open the lengthwise central joint (or suture) between the bones of the palate. As new bones grow in to fill the space, the dental arch becomes permanently expanded to accommodate the teeth in a well-space array.

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