

Northwestern slices Franklin Knolls

By JUDY OWEN

Until 1973, when residents heard the first hint of the extension of Northwestern Highway, Franklin Knolls was a sleepy little subdivision of 137 families.

The biggest problem that owners of the small, well-cared for ranch style homes was concern about continued availability of water from the subdivision's two community wells.

When the subdivision was developed in the early 1960s at the northwest corner of Middle Belt and Northwestern, the area around it was primarily residential—and it still is.

It is the desire to continue the residential nature of the area that has brought property owner protest to the highway's extension.

Although the path of the proposed highway has not been decided, Franklin Knolls residents fear that the subdivision may lose several homes or lots.

THE HIGHWAY also could cause problems with the well water system.

If the right-of-way extends into the well sites.

These questions will be answered until an environmental, social and economic impact study is completed about nine months from now.

Until then, the homeowners association will continue to contend with the day-to-day operations of the subdivision.

David Kharmi is serving a one-year term as association president.

He has lived in the subdivision for 10 years.

"WE LIVE like one good-sized family," he said of the subdivision residents.

"We help each other out in many ways. When something goes wrong, we work together as a team and we're happy about it."

"It comes from the heart," he said. Opinion is split over a paving of the subdivision's gravel roads.

On March 25, residents met to hear various proposals for paving ranging

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—David Kharmi
Franklin Knolls president

from concrete surface to chip-seal stabilization.

OPPOSITION to the paving proposal argues that traffic speed will increase and endanger the lives of the children who have become accustomed to the slow traffic through the area.

They also say non-residents will cut through the subdivision to circumvent the traffic light at Middle Belt and Northwestern.

The association will take a wait-and-see attitude until it can get some

estimates on the various types of surface, Kharmi said.

A drainage problem will also have to be resolved before the paving can take place. The city requires that retention basins be built to catch excess water runoff in areas where there are no storm sewers.

All of the lots in Franklin Knolls have homes on them, leaving no site for the retention basin.

EACH PROPERTY owner in the subdivision pays a flat \$65 annual fee for use of the community water Re-

cently, the association bought a compressor to keep the water pipes clear. In light of the prospect of increased water rates for users of Detroit water, Kharmi said the association would like to be able to continue to provide the well water for the residents.

A \$7 fee permits residents to become members of the association. The group publishes a directory of property owners which is updated every year or two, he said. Home turnover in the Franklin Knolls is low, with only about five new families a year, he said.

Kharmi said he believes the majority should rule regarding the Northwestern Highway extension and paving problems.

"About Northwestern, we didn't like it," he said. "We would suffer for a year or two while it's being built."

"But if that's what the government wants and the public wants, we should go along with it."

"But we don't like it."

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Soprano and organist to appear in concert

The Farmington Musicals, affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs, will hold its monthly concert at 12:30 p.m. April 2, at Calvary Lutheran Church, 28001 Evergreen Road in Southfield. The program will feature Farmington artists: soprano Astra Kalnins and organist Nancy Morrow.

Mrs. Kalnins was born in Latvia. She came to America in 1951 after studying voice in Italy and at the Hamburg Conservatory of Music.

She is a member of the Michigan Opera Theater in which she has sung a variety of major roles. This year she appeared in Verdi's "La Traviata" and Johann Strauss' "The Pied Piper."

Mrs. Kalnins has sung in concert in many major American and Canadian cities. She presented a concert of contemporary Latvian music at Carnegie Hall and has appeared locally with the Scandinavian Redford, and

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra as well as with the Livonia Youth Symphony.

HER WIDE MUSICAL experience will be displayed in her selections for the Musicals program. She will perform two Latvian folk songs arranged by Taltvaidis Kenins, composer and teacher at Toronto's Canadian Conservatory of Music.

She will also sing a Latvian art song. Her program will conclude with two songs by Franz Schubert, "Der Lindenbaum" and "Auf dem Wasser Zu Singen." Marie Walck, Farmington pianist, will accompany her.

Nancy Morrow, versatile Musicals member, is pianist, organist, accompanist, singer, and teacher. She is active in the Musicals' Music in Schools program, and has performed in Musicals concerts as soloist, accompanist, and actress.

She sings with the Detroit Madrigal Club and is organist at Calvary Lutheran Church.

theran Church. She teaches piano and is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, the National Music Fraternity. She received a masters degree in music from the University of Michigan and is now actively studying organ with Ray Ferguson, organ professor at Wayne State University and organist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

MRS. MORROW will perform Prelude and Fugue in C Minor by J.S. Bach and Largo from "Organ Suite" by Flor Peeters. Her program will also include Jean L'Anglais' Offertoire from "Suite Medievale" and Tocatta in F Major from Charles Marie Widor's Symphony No. 5 for Organ.

Mrs. James Skillman of Farmington is program announcer. Mrs. Donald Arnold of Livonia is in charge of the post-concert tea. The public is invited. A guest fee of fifty cents will be asked. Guests may call Mrs. Neil McCallum of Farmington for reservations.

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