

# County board renews methodone aid

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—With the opposition of several commissioners eased for another year, the county board of commissioners voted April 15 to renew its \$49,800 contribution to

three methodone clinics and other drug assistance services in the county.

Commissioner Patrick Nowak (R-25), of Farmington Hills, who was among those who had misgivings

about treating heroin addicts with methodone, announced to the board that he was satisfied that the county should re-pledge its support.

Nowak, a former volunteer with the Synanon organization, which helps heroin addicts withdraw without the aid of a substitute drug, questioned the wisdom of supplying methodone, a substitute drug, to heroin addicts. Each time the county board is asked to renew its drug assistance pledge, similar objections are momentarily raised.

for oral consumption on the premises. Addicts, unable to get along without a substitute drug, volunteer for the program and maintain their habit. The basic justification for methodone is that it is far better to have the heroin addict declare himself and maintain his habit under close medical supervision than resorting to crime to maintain his habit on the street, where heroin habits can cost as much as \$57 per day.

GEORGE CARONIS, administrator of the clinic, said 325 addicts have participated in the program in the past four years. At least that many more have been turned away due to lack of funds.

County funding also supports two methodone withdrawal programs at St. Joseph and Providence hospitals. These clinics can treat 25 addicts who submit to detoxification programs.

The Residents Awareness Program (RAP), located in Waterford, helps those with drug problems through a live-in, peer-influence, drug-free model. There are currently 30 persons at the RAP house who get help from former drug addicts while they help themselves overcome a dependence on drugs.

COUNTY SUPPORT, as well as funds from other local sources, are needed for the drug assistance programs to receive much greater aid from the federal government.

With the county's renewed participation, three county methodone clinics and a fourth drug-help agency, The Residents Awareness Program, will divide \$660,646 in federal aid.

Of the three methodone clinics, the largest is the Pontiac Methodone Clinic, which has the capacity to handle 130 addicts and is involved strictly in methodone maintenance programs. Attracting addicts from all over the county, but mostly from the Pontiac area, the clinic dispenses methodone

# Franklin rejects Telegraph rezoning

By ALICE COLLINS

FRANKLIN—The village council Monday night said "no" — again — to any rezoning of residential land on the southwest corner of Telegraph and Thirteen Mile roads.

And Southfield builder Albert Kanfer, who has been seeking to develop three intersection lots commercially, told village officials he would "see them in court."

Kanfer's Hermers Corp. filed a suit against the village last fall in Oakland County Circuit Court after the council denied his request to rezone the land from single family to commercial.

Council members Peter Bertelson and Philip Price last month initiated a motion to rezone the two Kanfer lots that front on Telegraph to restricted office. The third lot, which fronts on Thirteen Mile, was not a part of the motion.

Monday night, council defeated the motion with Bertelson and Price casting the only "yes" votes.

The present residential zoning on Telegraph cannot in any way be main-

tained... declared Price. "We've lost four or five cases where we've taken indefensible cases to court, and we've ended up with unwanted land. If we lose this case, we'll lose control." Price continued, "We should re-toward a defensible zoning."

COUNCIL MEMBER Bernard Isenberg said he didn't feel the village should "give up in this area without having it tested in court. We've had a public hearing and the people who live in the area have objected to the change."

Village president Ward J. Thomas, unable to vote except in case of a tie, spoke in favor of granting the restricted office zoning on the two lots in question.

"As responsible members of this council, it's up to us to see that property can be used as it is zoned," he said. "The fact is, no single family residence has been built on Telegraph Road from Monroe to Dixie Highway in Pontiac in the last 20 years." Franklin has continued battling to maintain the residential character of the intersection. The entire stretch of its boundary from the City of Southfield to Fourteen Mile Road is residentially zoned.

Portions of the Bingham Farms side of Telegraph are zoned for four-story office structures, and development there is taking place.

FRANKLIN'S PLANNING commission on April 9 voted to recommend a professional planning study for the strip, calling for a transitional zoning — restricted office to the south end alternate housing such as planned residential development and a center green belt.

Council did not respond to that recommendation Monday night.

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