

Franklin Village sues Southfield; Says building is peril

By JOE MARTUCCI
Charging that construction of an office building on Northwestern Highway "presents a serious and imminent peril to Franklin," the village has filed a lawsuit against its neighboring community of Southfield.

Relations between the two municipalities have been strained for years because of differing philosophies on development. But observers said this is the first time one has taken the other to court.

Joining Franklin as co-plaintiffs in the case are Frances Gazda, 30155 Rosemond Court, and the Rosemond Estates Association. Terry Barr Associates, developer of the office building, is named along with Southfield as a defendant.

The first round in the legal battle is slated for Wednesday. A show

cause hearing is set before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Farrell Roberts.

The disputed office structure is being built on property owned by Terry Barr Associates on the north side of Northwestern, between Franklin and Inkster Road. The office building abuts Mrs. Gazda's backyard.

The property is in Southfield, but is adjacent to Franklin's south-west corner. Thus, the case touches on the important issue of cooperation between municipalities when the impact of a development affects more than one community.

It is alleged in the complaint that the defendants "have failed to take into consideration those environmental factors which are critical to the well-being of the resi-

dents of the village of Franklin, including the overall environment of the village, property values within it and the ability of Franklin to implement its own master plan."

IT IS ALSO charged that the development is in violation of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act and that Southfield acted improperly and illegally in approving the develop-

ment. The complaint also alleges that Southfield has "failed to take into account the planning and zoning of Franklin, despite the fact that (the) development directly abuts the village and represents a use significantly different and detrimental to those contiguous uses within Franklin."

The plaintiffs also charge that Southfield failed to notify the village and nearby residents when approval of the development was under consideration.

"(The) development presents a serious risk to the environment of the village, and in particular to those nearby property owners and residents," the complaint states.

Detrimental factors cited include increases in the intensity of land use, noise and traffic, which, it is alleged, present a threat to the well-being of village residents.

At Wednesday's hearing, the defendants will be asked to show cause why an injunction should not be issued preventing further work on the office building until the court has a chance to review all of the allegations.

A spokesman for the Southfield legal department said Friday the city couldn't comment on the lawsuit because it had not yet been assigned to an attorney.

Adock resigns from schools

By CARL STODDARD

Bill Adock, fresh out of Eastern Michigan University, went looking for a job as a teacher. He found work at McKinley School in Southfield teaching eighth grade. That was in 1950.

Pay was low in those days, so he supplemented his wages by sweeping floors in the schools. One summer he worked on the assembly line at Ford Motor Company. At the end of that summer the company offered him a management position.

The schools countered with an offer of their own. He decided to stay with the schools and became assistant principal of Southfield Number 10 Elementary School in 1954.

Today, William R. Adock, 48, is Associate Supt. for Administrative Services, Southfield Public Schools. Last Tuesday, he submitted his resignation.

Sometime next fall, Adock will join the Northwest School District near Jackson as assistant superintendent. There he hopes to find the pace of work easier and more time for his wife and his church.

"I have really enjoyed Southfield," he said in an interview Friday. "I have enjoyed the community. It has been a great experience. But I have been here 26 years and I think there are things I'd like to do that take precedence at this time."

ADOCK EMPHASIZES that he leaves Southfield schools with no ill feelings toward the community, fellow staff members, the school board or others in the school system.

"It has been my desire—for at least three years—to somewhat change my pace of life so that I could spend more time with my wife and on my church related activities," Adock said when he first announced his resignation. "This, I think, I made clear when I chose not to be a candidate for the position of superintendent of Southfield schools (when the vacancy was created by retiring Supt. Dr. John English)."

He also praised the "magnificent on-the-job training" he received from Glenn Schoenhals, Marjorie Van Amedy, Isabel McCrumb, John W. English "and my new found friend and superintendent Carl W. Hassel."

Adock is going to a school district now experiencing much the same type of growth Southfield experienced in

WILLIAM ADOCK

the 1950's. New homes are sprouting in open fields. Roads are widening. Shopping centers are growing on corners.

Still, the district now has a total enrollment of 4,000 children within its 140-square-mile borders and just six schools. There is room aplenty to grow.

"(It) will be one of those unique areas where new teachers and buildings might be needed," he said. "It goes without saying—that involvement with a growing district, planning, building and opening new schools... has always been my first love."

WHEN ADOCK announced his resignation Tuesday night, there was an immediate impromptu outpouring from parents, union representatives and friends.

"He is dearly loved, from the maintenance people on up," said parent Sandy Cogan, summing up the feelings of many at the meeting. "He is a kind and beautiful man and he will be missed."

Supt. Carl Hassel said he accepted Adock's resignation "with sincere regret."

"The leadership you have given during the past 26 years has been instrumental in making the Southfield school district one of the finest in the state," Hassel said in a letter acknowledging Adock's resignation. "Your dedication and commitment to children and education will serve as an example for us all."

In his early days with Southfield schools, Adock taught virtually every subject, swept floors, drove buses and literally worked his way from the floor up.

After serving as assistant principal at Southfield Number 10, he went to become the first principal of Lederle Elementary School and Lederle Junior High School. Part of his responsibilities included supervising work for the completion of the school building.

Adock will remain on the job in Southfield this summer and through most of next fall. He expects to begin his new job sometime after Dec. 1.

Integration plan bared

By JACKIE KLEIN

More than 200 residents packed Southfield City Hall last Thursday night to learn about a proposed city-sponsored housing program designed to maintain balanced integration and property values in the community.

The aim of the program, according to Councilman Lillian Jaffe who moderated the educational meeting, is to create a housing demand in Southfield and sell the city as a viable place to live.

"We're not in a crisis position yet," Mrs. Jaffe said. "But by planning for the future and implementing a program to prevent white flight and resegregation of neighborhoods, we can prevent a crisis."

Thomas Frommeyer, Southfield Human Resources Dept. head, said the proposed program is intended to enhance the image of Southfield in and outside of the community, prevent unfair real estate practices, maintain housing values and stability and to take positive action instead of reacting to a problem.

THE PROGRAM, prepared by Larry Goldsmith of Human Resources, city officials and representatives of homeowners' groups, calls for a housing and marketing office, a national campaign to sell Southfield, an escort service of part-time paid residents to show potential white buyers integrating areas south of Ten Mile and stricter legislation to prohibit racial steering by real estate agents.

The first phase of the program would require an expenditure of \$108,484 to establish a housing office that would be a showroom for Realtors and others in the residential and business communities and to hire a staff including five part-time escorts.

All speakers during the meeting urged citizen participation in the program. A number of residents indicated they were anxious to have the proposal implemented now in the prime home-selling season.

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Only one homeowner, Lenora Noler, objected to the system of distributing cards during the meeting on which residents in the audience were asked to write questions.

"There was no negative approach in the questions on which residents in the audience were asked to write questions," Mrs. Noler contended. "I saw drastic neighborhood changes in Detroit and the same thing is happening in Southfield. First we get professional blacks, then middle-class blacks and next comes erosion and crime-infested areas. Whites are in the minority and this is a black problem. We have black ghettos here."

LAVELLE CLARK, a black and president of Northland Gardens Homeowners Assn., said since 1970 his subdivision has changed from 90 per cent white to 75 per cent black.

"If I live in a ghetto, I hope the tax assessment office takes that into consideration," he quipped. "My taxes have gone up about \$800 a year."

"We moved here for the same reasons everyone else did, and we want to maintain our neighborhood. I hope blacks are accepted as good, law-abiding citizens and taxpayers. If everyone is fair-minded, this housing program can work."

Jay Handelsman, a 10-year resident of Southfield, said he lives in a changing neighborhood. "I like it here, and I don't want to run anymore. Let's stay, keep building this city and make it work."

To residents who objected to the cost of the proposed program, David Tankard, a board member of Southfield Homeowners Federation said people would pay more in falling property values if they don't take decisive action now. He said many subdivisions could become re-segregated and homeowners should feel a sense of urgency about the program.

Barbara Davis, president of the new federation, said the group of subdivision representatives accepts the basic concepts of the city's plan but said at least 21 residents should promote their neighborhoods as an escort service instead of paid staff members.

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