

Zoning rift makes tracks to circuit court

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

A three-acre parcel at 14 Mile and Drake roads in West Bloomfield zoned for single-family residential is the subject of a lawsuit over the township board's denial to rezone it to office use.

The board denied the request two years ago. A suit seeking \$500,000 in damages was filed by Max Sheldon, developer-agent for landowner Rose

Berg, who wants to build an office complex.

Although the case is still pending in Oakland County Circuit Court, Sheldon and his attorney-son Michael appeared at a planning commission work session on the master plan last week.

The board denied the plans because they did not conform to the township's master land use plan.

The Sheldons want the commission to change the master plan, which could

effectively negate the reason for the previous denial. The master plan updating is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"This is a little unusual, while you're in litigation. I urge you (commissioners) to listen. They (Sheldons) hope you will change the master plan. I would not suggest the free flow of commentary would be fruitful in light of the litigation," Township Attorney Paul Bibeau warned the commission.

"WE BELIEVE the denial was a political decision, not a land use decision," said Michael Sheldon. He referred to the residents from township and Farmington Hills subdivisions who objected to the rezoning.

"We want to ask this commission to reiterate their former position," he said.

The planning commission had voted originally 5-3 for the rezoning recommendation. The township board voted

5-2 to deny it.

Only board trustees Raymond Holland and Weldon Yeager voted for the rezoning. Holland also served on the planning commission.

The Oakland County Coordinating Committee had recommended the rezoning.

National Bank of Detroit is reportedly still interested in building a branch on the site.

"It was the township board that turned it down. I don't think we're on trial. Our position shows our commitment to what's reasonable," said Commissioner Thomas Papez.

Memorial parade salutes Marines

The U.S. Marines will be the honored service in the 1981 Farmington-Farmington Hills Memorial Day Parade.

The outstanding enlisted Marines of the Year have been selected for special citations to be presented at the Sunday evening banquet preceding the parade. They are Marine Reservist Corporal Howard E. Hancock, headquarters and service section, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, and Marine Regular Sergeant Linda A. Taylor, armed forces induction station.

Presentation will be made at the banquet at the Farmington VFW Post 2259 on Orchard Lake Road.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m.

Monday at Grand River and Orchard Lake roads and will end at the War Memorial Monument at Grand River and Farmington roads.

Marching units, group floats, musical or youth organizations are still invited to participate. Call the VFW at 414-1180 or the American Legion posts at 474-9778 or 478-9117 for specific details.

Drivers of antique or classic cars who would like to drive in the parade should call Tim Zahn at 476-8247.

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Dignitaries planning to attend the

parade include Paul Savage, state commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Glen Ainslie, state commander, The American Legion; Betty Jane Cline, state president of the American Legion Auxiliary; Ruth Smith, State president of the VFW Auxiliary.

Also on hand will be the Honorable Michael J. Hand and Margaret Schaeffer, judges of the 47th District Court; State Senator Doug Ross; State Representative Wilbur Brotherton and Oakland County Executive Dan Murphy.

The Color Guard of the 8th Michigan Cavalry will march in its Civil War era uniforms. The Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps and the Callopie, played by H.J. Kramer, will lend music to the parade.

AT LEAST five marching bands will join in the festivities. They include bands from Clarencville, Harrison, North Farmington Farmington, and Highland Park high schools.

Numerous memorial awards will be presented at the conclusion of the parade. Categories such as the best float and best marching unit will be recognized.

The parade is again sponsored by the Farmington VFW Post 2259, the Farmington American Legion Post 346 and the Farmington Hills American Legion Post 190.

General Chairman for the parade is Fred Collet of the VFW. His co-chairmen are Ray Heldenbrand of Post 190 and Walter Christensen of Post 346.

Proposition A defeated

Continued from Page 1A

Vlase estimated it cost the city "close to \$3,000" to conduct the election.

Gladys Thomas, deputy clerk in Farmington Hills, said cost figures on Tuesday's election have not yet been compiled in that city. Ms. Thomas noted the large amount of absentee bal-

lots sent out as a costly factor in any election.

More than 20 percent of the voters in the Hills voted by absentee ballot, a growing trend. Ms. Thomas said more than 6,000 absentee ballots were mailed to residents and 3,287 valid absentee ballots were returned.

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