

City expected to change trash contractor

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contract expires the day before the new pact would begin.

VUKONICH SAID an "aggressive stance on recycling and composting" was the catalyst behind the decision to offer the city's next rubbish contract to Waste Management.

That company proposed that its recycling program would be fully operational within six months of the Feb. 5 contract start-up, Vukonich said.

The pact includes an option for

three one-year extensions. It pertains to single-family homes, and not apartments, offices and commercial businesses, which use independent trash collectors, he said.

But administrator Robert Block said during the meeting that it is "more than conceivable" that trash separation eventually would be required of everybody in Southfield.

"The contract is going to change the way we dispose of our rubbish," Vukonich said after the meeting. "Currently, it is put out on the curb and picked up, then transported to a

landfill and buried."

Eventually residents will place bottles, cans and other recyclable materials into city-approved bins, to be provided by the company.

REGULAR TRASH and yard waste materials would be bagged and placed at curbside, the latter probably in biodegradable bags.

The recyclables would be separated at a materials recycling facility plant, the location of which has not yet been selected.

A 20-acre site on Telegraph Road,

a quarter-mile north of Eight Mile in Southfield, is one of four being considered for the plant.

Vukonich said the city pushed for the inclusion of related features and services in the contract, such as the following:

- A guaranteed landfill availability for the contract length.
- A citizen rubbish drop-off facility.
- A collection process for hazardous waste containers, such as for paint thinner.
- Assistance in the city's annual

spring cleanup.

These features were sought in keeping with Southfield's commitment to solid waste management through the seven-community Resource Recovery and Recycling Association of Southern Oakland County, according to city officials.

BECAUSE OF the expected collection changes, Mayor Donald F. Fracassi said city ordinances might have to be studied to guard against scavengers composting next to someone's barbecue.

In composting, grass clippings and

leaves are churned up into gardening materials and sold commercially.

According to Vukonich, Waste Management was also the most aggressive bidder in the composting aspect of the program, which probably will begin next fall.

"If the county hasn't established a site for composting by then, Waste Management says we'll do it anyway and get our own site," Vukonich told council members.

Also seriously considered for the contract was Browning-Ferris Industries of Wayne.

Recycling Center open 7 days a week

Southfield is expected to intensify its push toward recycling next year, when a new contractor picks up the city's rubbish contract.

But the Southfield Recycling Center already is open, seven days a week, for those environmentally-conscious people who want to carry their glass jars, aluminum cans, plastic containers and newspapers.

The facility is at the Civic Center complex on Evergreen between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Call 354-5755 for more information.

Southfield and Lathrup Village are two of the many Oakland County communities strongly behind recycling instead of depleting landfills by burying rubbish.

BEFORE TAKING items to the Southfield facility, residents are urged to follow a number of preparatory steps outlined by the city. Those include:

- Glass bottles and jars: Any non-deposit glass container — clear,

brown or green — will be accepted. Lids must be removed and the containers rinsed and sorted by color. (No plate glass, Pyrex or ceramic items.)

• Plastics: Cloudy, opaque and colored plastic containers only, including those used for milk, water, laundry detergent and bleach. Caps must be removed and containers must be rinsed. (No cottage cheese, yogurt or clear plastic containers at this time.)

• Newspapers: Collect in paper bags; Sunday supplements are acceptable. (No magazines or telephone books.)

• Tin cans: Tin or metal cans are acceptable as long as labels, tops and bottoms are removed and the containers flattened. Removed lids may also be recycled.

• Household batteries: All sizes of household batteries are accepted. (No car or motorcycle batteries.)

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of each month, Lathrup Village residents may cart newspapers, oil and batteries to the city's department of public services on 12 Mile west of Southfield roads. For more information, call 559-0001.

Rape suspect may plea bargain Trial set for February

By Helen Niemiec
staff writer

Steven Szeman, the 26-year-old man charged with 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary throughout Oakland County, will stand trial in February, unless a plea bargain comes in January.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Robert Templin set Friday, Feb. 16 as the start of Szeman's trial. At Thursday's pretrial examination, the judge said the February trial date could be postponed if certain medical information requested was not received by Szeman's attorney.

Led in by two Oakland County sheriffs, the handcuffed Szeman sat in the jury box during the hearing.

Lawrence Kaluzny, Szeman's attorney, expects the results of several neurological tests to be ready in January. If the results do not show psycho-neurological damage, Kaluzny said he will attempt to plea bargain rather than go through a full trial.

"I can't plead until all the testing is done. If there is some medical basis for him doing what he's

accused of doing, we'll go for a trial. Otherwise, we'll try to plea bargain," Kaluzny said.

THE EXTENSIVE TESTING was requested by Kaluzny because his client suffered a head injury from a car accident in 1984.

Szeman remains in Oakland County jail in lieu of \$7.9 million cash bond.

A former West Bloomfield resident, Szeman is charged with a series of sexual assaults on females between the ages of 12 and 61 during 1987-88 in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township.

He faces 49 felony counts related to the various assaults, including rape, robbery and burglary. Szeman's pretrial examination started in August but its conclusion was delayed to allow for the neurological testing and for Templin to decide the admissibility of "DNA fingerprinting" as evidence.

Templin's October decision allowed taking the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) from biological samples at a crime scene, such as



Steven Szeman is scheduled to stand trial in February on a variety of sexual assault and robbery charges. His attorney is awaiting results of a psychological examination that could lead to a plea in the case.

blood, hair, skin or semen, and matching it with samples from suspects. The test is 99.9 percent accurate, according to medical experts.

With the DNA evidence decision made, the court then set Thursday's pretrial date. At that proceeding, the defense was required either to enter a plea or ask for a

trial date to be set.

Kaluzny said he is anxious for his client to get new quarters. "Sentencing-wise, he'd be better someplace else," Kaluzny said. "He's still in Oakland County jail and he doesn't get a lot of freedoms there. And he's been there for a long time."

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