

Hills orders demolition of fire-damaged house

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Remains of a Farmington Hills house destroyed by fire 19 months ago will be demolished by fall, city officials said last week amid growing anxiety by neighbors concerned about danger, blight and vandals.

"We don't see any big holdups," assistant city manager David Call said Wednesday.

The house, owned by Rosa and Ronald Simpson, is on Herndonwood in Pebblecreek Estates, southwest of 12 Mile and Inkster.

Bids to demolish the still-standing garage and family room, remove all

debris and footings, and regrade the site are expected this week.

The city is holding \$16,500 of the owners' money in escrow until the site is cleared, secured and regraded.

If demolition charges are higher, the city will pay them and place a lien for that amount on the property. The charges could be added to the Simpsons' tax bill, Call said.

If bid requirements are met this week, the city will award a demolition contract by early August. The contractor then would have to arrange for insurance, pull a demolition permit and provide a work schedule. Disconnection of all utilities

also would have to be assured.

CALL ANTICIPATES demolition within three weeks of the bid being awarded. Erosion controls will be ordered so the work doesn't encroach on the property of neighbors, he said.

The rest of the \$275,000 house was demolished last year.

At a June show-cause hearing, neighbors and inspectors testified that it wasn't secure against trespassers and was in danger of collapse. The city council deemed the house unsafe and a liability. It ordered demolition.

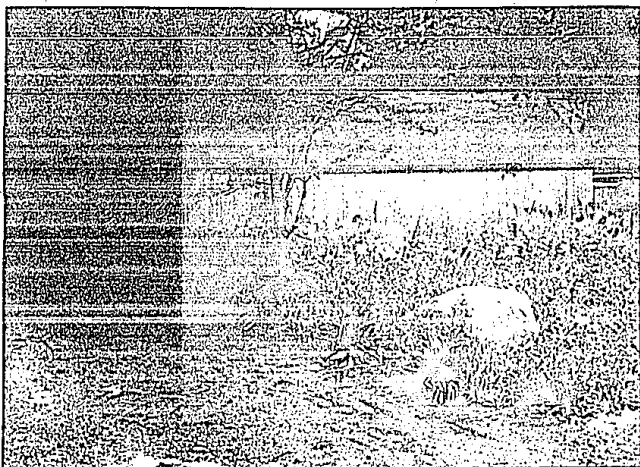
Firefighters ruled the midday fire in January 1988 accidental. The Simpsons have settled with their insurance company, city officials said.

Neighbors have expressed concern not only about blight because of the unsightly appearance of the lot and deteriorating driveway but also danger because of the unsafe deck and unsecured pool.

Also of concern is the inappropriately covered septic tank structure in the front yard, Call said.

The city is arranging demolition because the Simpsons haven't met redevelopment timelines as spelled out in a May 5 city order. The couple plans to rebuild and have hired an architect, Call said.

The Simpsons could not be reached for comment.



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

The remains of this house on Herndonwood in Farmington Hills have still not been demolished or repaired, more than a year after a major fire.

Hills man re-elected LTU alumni director

Roger Avie of Farmington Hills was re-elected a director of Lawrence Technological University's national Alumni Association. He will serve a three-year term.

Avie has served as association treasurer 1978-79, as president 1979-80, as director from 1984 to present, and has served the Reunion Committee each year since 1978. He is also a member of Lawrence Tech's Presi-

dents Club.

Avie received a bachelor of science degree in industrial management from Lawrence Tech in Southfield in 1968. He is president of Specialty Products, Inc. and Visual Specialty Television Productions, and is chairman and president of the Southfield Tri-parish Credit Union. He also maintains a financial consulting company.

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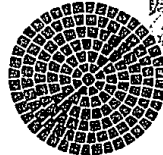
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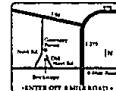
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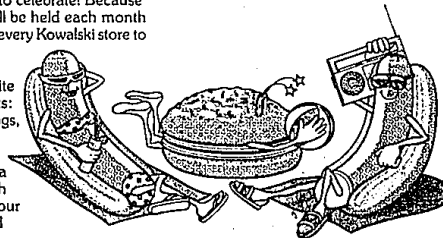
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