

Community Corner

This week's question: How well do you feel the Farmington area meets the needs of fixed-income seniors in the areas of housing and recreation?

We asked this question at the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Senior Adult Center at Mercy Center.



"They have this center which the city pays for. It's a good deal. There are air-conditioned rooms, \$1.50 hot meals and a swimming pool at their disposal Monday, Wednesday and Friday."

— Bob Ermatinger
Birmingham



"We need more housing closer to shopping centers. A lot of people need transportation."

— Stella Murphy
Farmington



"The rents on apartments in this area are too high. People are moving out. I paid \$425 a month when I moved in. Now I pay \$385 a month."

— Regna Graves
Farmington Hills



"I come here (to the center) every Friday. I enjoy being with the seniors and dancing. I plan to move to Farmington. I think there is a need for more affordable housing."

— Josephine Brozik
Livonia



"We myself and a lady friend have been coming here on Friday for 10 years. We spend the day here. We swim and dance here."

— Jack Priest
Sterling Heights



"As far as the Mercy Center is concerned, they treat their seniors beautifully."

— Helen Evans
Farmington Hills

Materials recovery station eyed for Novi

By Jan Jeffres
special writer

The failure of the Grand Plan's industrial park to gain Novi City Council approval means that 31 acres on Haggerty Road, north of Grand River, will probably be home to an eight-community, \$27-million materials recovery facility and waste transfer station.

The MRF, owned and operated by the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, would be built on land zoned light industrial on the west side of Haggerty, next to American Self-Storage, just across the border from Farmington Hills.

Along with Novi, the authority is composed of Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom and Lyon Township.

Lenora Jadun, the former Novi director of public works who was recently appointed general manager of the authority, said that arrangements are being finalized to locate the MRF on the site, which would enable truck traffic to and from the facility to use the proposed Haggerty Road Connector/I-696 interchange.

The connector is targeted for completion in 1992. "With much optimism," the authority hopes to open the MRF in early 1992, Jadun added.

AT THAT time, mandatory curbside sorting of trash could be required. Recyclables such as paper, newspaper, glass, plastics and metals would be sorted at the MRF and sold to recycling companies.

The resource recovery authority, which currently has offices in Novi's Civic Center, has an option to buy the \$2.2-million property under multiple ownership, but also has one for a location within the Grand Plan industrial park as well.

The Haggerty land is owned by Pat Curran, the PT Corp. and William Bowman, president of Thompson-Brown, the Farmington Hills realty company that worked on locating potential sites within the community.

A proposal on the MRF location will be sent to the governments of all eight participating communities, which will be receiving updates on the projects in June, Jadun said.

THE AUTHORITY was founded in 1987 to form a 20-year waste-reduction plan in response to Michigan Public Act 641, the Solid Waste Handling Act. Technically, local approval is not needed for the placement of a facility of this nature. But Jadun said that the authority intends to comply with the city's site plan review procedure.

At present, the Haggerty Road

property is undergoing woodlands and wetlands reviews, as well as soil borings to get "a clean bill of health," Jadun said. Answers are anticipated within the next five to six months.

The question of whether light industrial is the proper zoning for a waste transfer station will also have to be answered, she explained. The facility will have no outside storage and will resemble a warehouse or the Delwal Corp. building.

"FOR THE most part, a materials recovery and transfer facility is an aesthetically pleasing manufacturing building. With proper architectural treatment, the passerby would not realize the extent of operations that would be under way inside the building," Jadun said.

The Novi City Council hasn't been formally approached yet, she said. "They've got a good idea that we'd name it due to their decision on the other (Grand Plan) site. It's the most practical one at this point. We've really basically endorsed the site."

In April, the authority sent a contingent of Novi city officials to the west coast to tour MRFs and transfer stations in two communities. But that could work the other way, according to Jadun.

"IT IS the primary goal of the Re-

source Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County to be a good, desirable neighbor. With Novi's stringent zoning and landscaping requirements, the facility will be a model nationally. Other cities' representatives will be visiting Novi to see our state-of-the-art facility," Jadun said.

Twenty-nine potential MRF locations were reviewed by a committee made of each community's directors of public works.

Three sites were selected, two of them in Novi, based on criteria such as accessibility to major roads, truck hauling times, purchase and site improvement prices and environmental considerations.

But last fall, following a meeting of city managers, the Haggerty Road/Grand River site was pulled from the list for what was termed "political reasons" and replaced by a Wixom property.

On Dec. 5, the Novi City Council okayed three proposed sites, in no order of priority, for the MRF. One was to the Grand Plan industrial park, another was the Southfield Mobile Home Park on Telegraph Road north of Eight Mile, and the last was in Wixom on Wixom Road north of West Road.

THE WIXOM site was eliminated due to accessibility problems for the other communities, Jadun said. Due to the need to relocate the residents of a mobile home community, the Southfield location would have been cost prohibitive, Jadun said.

The MRF, as part of the proposed Grand Plan industrial park, met with protests from neighbors of Old Dutch Farms, a mobile home community to the south of the parcel. The selected site is adjacent to another mobile home community, Highland Hills Estates.

Fund-raiser to help FHS

Farmington High Music Patrons will host a returnable bottle and can drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 19, to help raise money for equipment, activities and scholarships for the band/orchestra.

Empty bottles and cans will be collected from the front porches of residences in the Farmington High attendance area (Eight Mile, Haggerty, 11 Mile, Middlebelt), then taken to the parking lot behind the A&P in the Downtown Farmington Center for sorting and loading.

Empties also can be brought to the collection site on Orchard Street.

Parents and instrumental music students from Farmington High will take part. Last year, the students raised nearly \$2,000.

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