

Taking on the trash

Cities' OK sets stage for new recycling station

BY ALICE COLLINS
STAFF WRITER

The word is "go" for the recycling transfer station that will be built in Southfield to serve that city and the seven other area communities that make up the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County.

The state-of-the-art depot will sort, crush and bundle recyclable materials such as newspapers, glass, aluminum and plastic and ship them out for sale.

City councils of four of the communities — Southfield, Farmington Hills, Farmington and Wixom — have approved individual agreements with giant trash hauler Waste Management of Michigan, committing their recycling streams solely to that facility.

Community enactment was sought after the board of the authority — commonly referred to as RRRASOC — approved a 16-year contract package with Waste Management to build and operate the \$7 million facility. It will be built on the northeast corner of Eight Mile and Evergreen.

Most (recycling facilities similar to the RRRASOC effort) are smaller in size, handle a smaller volume and more limited types of materials. . . What makes this one a significant step forward is its size and the fact that it's a public/private partnership. It's so nice to have this with multiple communities and a long-term relationship. The way this is structured, it's definitely win-win. We're really excited about it.'

Rob McClellon
project manager
Waste Management

would proceed with the facility if communities representing a base of 40,000 single family households signed on — enough to make the project economically feasible. Those four communities represent 40,384 households.

"We've broken the 40,000 mark and that makes the project a go," Southfield public works director Thomas Vukonich said Monday. "It's looking good. We're looking

forward to the facility."

The opening date is tentatively set for September of 1994. "I hope we can maintain the schedule," he added.

While other such recycling facilities are being constructed around the country, "most are smaller in size, handle a smaller volume and more limited types of materials," said Rob McClellon, project manager for Waste Management.

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The project has been under consideration by RRRASOC for about four years. Initially, the plans call for the Waste Management/public partnership with the authority buying the land and leasing it to Waste Management, which will build the facility.

In addition to recycling the curbside recycling waste collected by the authority member municipalities, Waste Management also will receive and process recyclables from any business or governmental unit with which it contracts.

The RRRASOC communities' stream will make up just 20 percent of the 300 tons of recyclables eventually to be processed each day at the facility. The remaining 80 percent can come from anywhere Waste Management

chooses.

According to the contract package, Waste Management will pay a host fee of 50 cents per ton for everything processed at the facility. The tonnage fees from the recyclables will go to RRRASOC, and the fees from all other intake will go to the city of Southfield to compensate for its having the site. Revenue from the sale of the processed materials will be shared by the authority and the trash hauler.

The amount of revenue is expected to increase as the growth of recycling throughout the country opens up new markets and augurs greater demand for products made with recycled materials.

RRRASOC is buying the 6.6-acre site from owner Arlington Enterprises, which operated Special Machine and Engineering Co. in the three buildings on the property. The authority will lease the land to Waste Management which will own and operate it to the authority's specifications. The authority will assume ownership after 15 years and at that

time decide what it wants to do — renegotiate a contract or perhaps abandon it if the technology becomes obsolete.

Member communities that have not yet approved individual contracts with Waste Management are Novi, Walled Lake, South Lyon and Lyon Township.

"South Lyon may approve it once the facility is open, but beyond that we're not seeing any of the others coming in right away," RRRASOC general manager Lenora Judan said Tuesday.

The actual site plan for the facility is being finished now, Vukonich said. "When it's done we'll get in touch with our residential subdivisions in the area and share that information with them."

The current schedule calls for final contract signing by the end of August followed by demolition of the buildings at the site in October and November, Vukonich said. The bidding process and awarding of the construction contract should occur during the winter and construction should start in the spring.

OBITUARIES

JAMES D. AYERS

Mr. Ayers, 41, of Lomita, Calif., formerly of Farmington, died July 29.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Ayers was a sales manager of California Screw Products in Paramount, Calif. He was a 1971 graduate of Farmington High School and also attended Oakland Community College.

Survivors include his parents,

Ralph and Betty Ayers of Gladwin, formerly of Farmington; sisters, Patricia Ayers-Schmidt and Nancy Pyne.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River, Farmington. The Rev. Deane Wyllys of First United Methodist Church in Gladwin will officiate. Cremation took place in California.

Memorials may be made in memory of James D. Ayers, Being Alive/Long Beach, 1734 E. Broadway, Long Beach, Calif. 90802.

HARRY E. NUNNALLY

Mr. Nunnally, 81, of Dearborn died Aug. 4.

Survivors include his sons, Gene Paul Nunnally of Sharp-

bury, Md., and Richard M. Nunnally of Farmington Hills; brother, John; 13 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Services were Aug. 6 at the Santeu & Son Funeral Directors, Garden City, with the Rev. Robert McDonald of Fair Haven Baptist Church officiating.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

FRED O. SAMSON

Mr. Samson, 51, of Farmington

Hills died Aug. 8.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Samson was an attorney. He was general counsel since 1978 for Fred Silber Co. of Ferndale, which organizes concessions for outdoor entertainment events. He was the principal concessions manager for many, including the Michigan State Fair, Detroit Grand Prix and Downtown Hoedown.

Mr. Samson was a graduate of Detroit College of Law and a member of the Oakland County

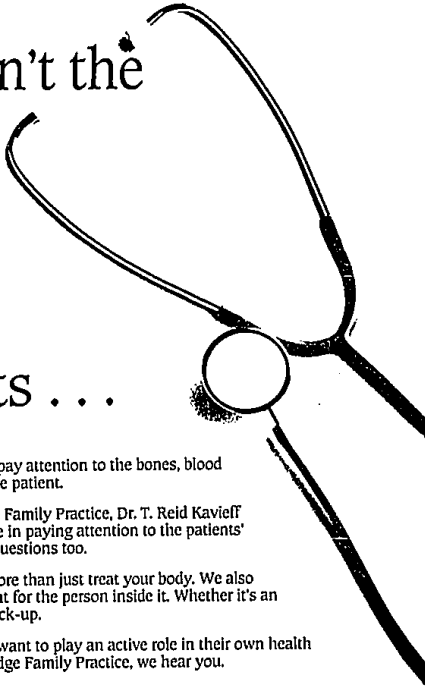
and Michigan bar associations. He belonged to Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Silber Samson; son, Eric; daughter, Elana Samson; parents, Ruby and Pauline Samson; brothers, Elliott, Norman and Frank Samson.

Services were Aug. 10 at the Ira Kaufman Chapel Inc. Burial was in Beth El Memorial Park, Livonia.

Memorials may be made to the Variety Club/Children's Charity.

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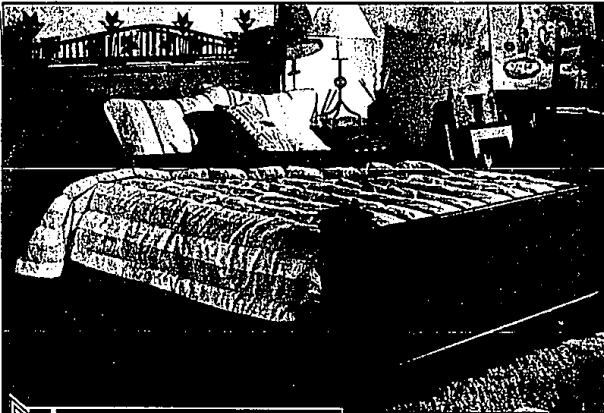
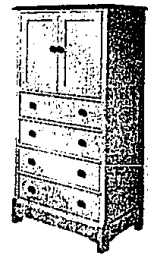
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