

Slim majority backs up new sewer program

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A democratic plurality seems more like the tyranny of the majority for many residents in the Mayfield-Whitlock area of Farmington Hills who will get knicked for new sewers.

In a public hearing at Monday's city council meeting, many of the residents who did not want new sewers pointed out that only 61.89 percent had petitioned for them. But a majority will serve in this case, said Mayor Nancy Bates.

And further, the risk to health of not replacing aging septic systems convinced the council to unanimously approve the city's plan to add the new sewers.

"Whenever we put in a system like this, we run into this problem," said city manager Bill Costick.

The project, which involves 87.3 "units," including commercial property owners, will cost \$478,000. The entire cost of the project will be paid by property owners.

"I spent over \$4,000 replacing my septic system," said Mayfield resident Helen Currie. "Now I'm supposed to spend another \$5,500. I can't afford that."

Several other residents said the \$5,454.25 assessment over 15 years would be a financial hardship. That was not the only complaint.

Several residents did not want the "country" atmosphere spoiled by the intrusion of a sewer system. But others who petitioned for the new sewer system, said it would be cheaper and more aesthetically pleasing to do the job now than wait.

"This is an old sub," said Brian Burke. "Some of these homes were built in the '40s and '50s. It

'This is an old sub . . . Some of these homes were built in the '40s and '50s. It would be better to catch it now before it becomes a bigger problem.'

Brian Burke
resident

would be better to catch it now before it becomes a bigger problem."

Council members agreed. Citing the high water table and health risks of failed septic systems, the council voted 6-0, with councilman Terry Sever absent, to go forward with the plan. Although there will be another public hearing and petition certification, the system could be completed as soon as the spring of 1994.

Councilman Jon Grant said it was difficult approving a sewer assessment that many residents "didn't want or think they do not need," but even though a slight majority, the petitioners represented "grass-roots" democracy in action.

"There are important health considerations at issue," said councilman Larry Lichtman.

Bates said the alternative to adding sewers might be "haggling water to you" if septic systems failed.

Happy birthday, Carol



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hitting the big four-zero: Carol Livingston, shown above with her husband, Bill, and daughters Jenny (right) and Kim (center), celebrated her 40th birthday at her Flanders Street home in Farmington Hills recently. Jennifer Dickey (far left) joined the group. The Livingston yard and house were decorated with streams of toilet paper and signs. Said one: "The Kool-Aid lady is 40."

Grouchy dispute keeps creeping onward

See related editorial, 16A

The councilwoman who said it and the council watcher, about whom it was said still don't agree on what was said at the July 19 Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith read a statement at Monday's

meeting apologizing for what she thought was a private comment to fellow council member Aldo Vagnozzi.

But Smith, who admitted the aside was not appropriate, did not go far enough to suit Masha Silver, the council watcher to whom the remark referred.

Smith maintained that she said Silver seemed "grouchy" at the July 19 meeting. Silver, who has

video and audio recordings of the event, said Smith called her a "creep" and is only sorry "she was caught."

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is most difficult to defend against accusations of something you did not say," Smith said. "I cannot apologize for what I did not say."

Silver, who said she had not expected Smith to bridge the subject at the council meeting, said

this was a case of "the victim being damned."

"You've got the tape," Silver said. "You've lied to your colleagues."

Smith said she has no more to say on the subject.

Mayor Nancy Bates asked Silver to bring in her videotape so that a copy could be given to council members for them to determine what, in fact, was said.

THINKING ABOUT...
AIR CONDITIONING
bruant
COOLING & HEATING
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
476-7022
D&G HEATING & COOLING
19140 Farmington Road - Livonia

VALET PARKING

Forget the parking hassle when you shop at Jacobson's. We'll do it for you. Just drive up to the Bates Street entrance. Our valet will do the rest. One dollar fee, refundable on your Jacobson's account with purchase.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard®, VISA®, and American Express®.
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

Hey, Honey! ...think we'd better call Dick's Upholstery?!

DICK'S Upholstery
28235 Five Mile
Livonia
525-5625

LAWN & GARDEN SALE

HARDY GARDEN MUMS
Full & bushy
Ready to bloom
Plant now for fall color.
2 1/2 gal.
\$6.99 ea.
4 or more for **\$6.50 ea.**

GRUB CONTROL
Save your lawn with Hi-Yield Dyllox 6.2 Granular Lawn Insect Control
5,000 sq. ft. bag
ONLY \$14.99
REG. \$19.99 \$20.99

RINGER SUMMER RESTORE
Organic lawn food
2,500 sq. ft. bag
ONLY \$14.99
REG. \$21.95 \$22.95

ROSES
Over 50 varieties of beautiful, lush policed roses
50% OFF
SUMMER CLOSE OUT!

PLYMOUTH NURSERY and GARDEN CENTER

453-5500
SUMMER HOURS:
Mon.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5
OFFERS EXPIRE 8-25-93

9900 Ann Arbor Rd.
Just 10 minutes west of I-275

Greg SHOES

BACK TO SCHOOL

Orchard Mall
851-5566
West Bloomfield
Evergreen Plaza
559-3580
Southfield

This isn't the only way we listen to our patients . . .

It's a doctor's job to pay attention to the bones, blood vessels and organs of the patient.

But at Country Ridge Family Practice, Dr. T. Reid Kavieff and his staff also believe in paying attention to the patients' thoughts, feelings and questions too.

That's why we do more than just treat your body. We also provide special treatment for the person inside it. Whether it's an emergency or just a check-up.

Today, most people want to play an active role in their own health care. And at Country Ridge Family Practice, we hear you.

For a **FREE** blood pressure or blood sugar screening appointment or a \$15 school or sports physical, please call:

Dr. T. Reid Kavieff
Country Ridge Family Practice
(313) 661-3333
Country Ridge Commons
31174 Haggerty Road
(Just south of 14 Mile Road)
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. A board-certified family practitioner, Dr. Kavieff received a bachelor of science degree with distinction in 1977 from the University of Michigan, where he also completed graduate study and medical residency. He received his D.O. degree from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1984, and he completed his internship at Riverside Osteopathic Hospital, Trenton, in 1985 and his family practice residency at MSU in 1986.