

Quest

Residents believe I-275 can be made quieter, prettier

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Meadowbrook Hills subdivision residents want to take a new step in their quest to make I-275 quieter — and prettier.

Residents of the subdivision, just east of I-275 between Eight and Nine Mile roads, have asked Farmington Hills City Council to explore seeking state funds to either help beautify the stretch of highway, create noise-absorbing berms or possibly develop a jogging park on nearby vacant property.

Meadowbrook Hills resident Larry Shoup, who discussed the idea with the homeowners association, has suggested applying for the state funds to

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an irregular look, Shoup said. This produces a slightly quieter freeway when vehicles drive over it.

"It's the first of its kind in Michigan," Shoup said. "MDOT did all they could to keep the concrete road quiet."

Resident Joan Barber has been a vocal proponent of quieting the noise along I-275. Her letters to MDOT date back to the Gov. George Milliken era in the late 1970s.

"I just think I've been treated very roughly (by the state) just because I'm (only) one person," Barber said.

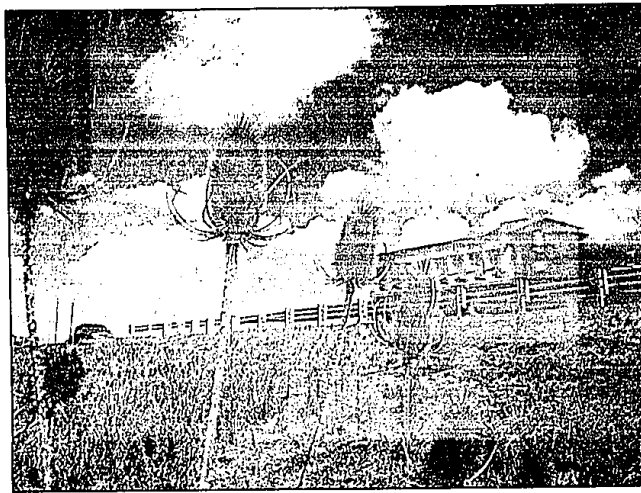
Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said he agreed.

"You're right. I think (Barber) has been treated

miserably by the state," Vagnozzi said.

"Maybe we ought to invite some (MDOT officials) to live here for a week."

"I've got a spare room," Barber said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Apply: Residents in the Meadowbrook Hills subdivision have asked the city council to apply for a grant that would help beautify and quiet I-275 between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

GRANT MONEY

help beautify the area.

"We want to determine the interest of city council in working with residents of Meadowbrook Hills to determine the feasibility of completing a TEA-21 grant application," Shoup said, while attending a community meeting with Hills city council Wednesday. The meeting was an annual "quadrant" meeting for southeast Farmington Hills residents.

The Transportation Enhancement Activity program, created by Gov. John Engler last year, is designed to help communities beautify roadsides using state funds with at least 20 percent local matches.

Meadowbrook Hills was the focal point in a recent heated debate about road noise. They succeeded in getting the Michigan Department of Transportation to reduce the freeway noise by five decibels through a method called "random timing." When looked at up close, the freeway surface has

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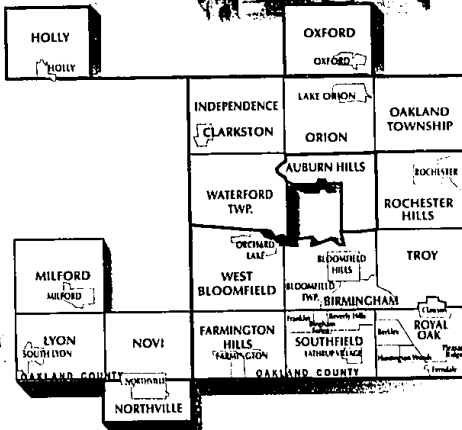
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