

## Dust from page A1

chemical back under.

To Irene Kernicky, who lives on Power Road, the cost of applying the chemical four times a year isn't the issue.

"It's not the cost, it's the principle," she told officials. "This is a road maintenance issue, not an improvement. The unpaved roads enhance the city of Farmington Hills in that people are given a choice."

Choice was also the issue for Ellis. He felt people who choose to live on gravel roads, avoiding the cost of installing pavement, should bear the burden of a treatment designed to improve their lives.

"I agree with Mrs. Kernicky about one thing — it's the principle, not the money," he said. "It's not who uses the road, it's who's affected by the dust."

Ellis said he'd gotten calls from several homeowners who told him they didn't care how dust control was paid for, they just wanted it done. However, not all residents feel that way.

Sy Kornicky invited council members to come out to his place after an application of calcium chloride.

"It's a quagmire," he said. "If you think calcium chloride is an improvement, please come out and I'll show you otherwise."

The chemical pellets, which absorb and retain water, muck up the road so that school children who have to walk from the bus to home or anyone who wants to enjoy a walk along the road will find their shoes covered with the stuff and track it indoors, he said.

Corrosive in nature, the chemical damages paint and metal on cars, and ruins carpets and tile flooring, Kernicky said. Noting his involvement in the auto industry, he added car makers have

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*Irene Kernicky  
—Power Road resident*

expressed some concerns about whether the chemical is cancer-causing.

While council member McRae suggested polling residents to determine whether they wanted dust control treatments, City Manager Steve Brock said that could prove a daunting process.

"I think we'd get a lot of complaints if we didn't do dust control," he said, noting that blowing dust affects people's health. "There are some compelling reasons to keep the dust down."

While McRae considered dust control "maintenance," he argued that, because it was done on a regular basis and not put on a prioritized list of items like pothole repairs — which would mean applications may or may not be done at a certain time — it should be specially assessed.

However, Barnett argued when a resident calls in to report a pothole, in her experience, crews are out to fix it within a few days.

"If it is a maintenance item, it is not specially assessed," she said.

Barnett presented a motion to have the entire dust control cost paid for by local road control funds, which failed in a reverse vote of the success-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Dusty:** Whitlock, which runs north of Eight Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, is one of the gravel roads that will receive dust control.

ful motion to approve the SAD. She later cast the lone vote against awarding the dust control contract to Pollard Highway Products of Detroit, for \$69,410.

"If this was forced into an SAD, then it should be something the citizens want," she explained. "Since I didn't hear a demand for it, I didn't want to buy it."

• Funds collected through the

SAD will be used to reimburse the road fund, from which the contract will be paid. Residents are assessed 80 percent of the costs.

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