

Settlement may help pay for roof

BY JONI HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

A class-action lawsuit settlement may help pay for replacement of the roof atop Farmington Hills Police Department's Orchard Lake facility.

The 16-year-old sheet rubber roof has a life expectancy of between 15 and 20 years. However, officials have been told that the steel framework may have corroded because of a defect in the rigid foam insulation used.

The city has been included in settlement of a lawsuit over Koppers Phenolic Foam Roof Insulation, commonly referred to as PFRI. The product was distributed to Canada and the U.S. in the 1980s.

"Because of its superior insulating qualities and reasonable price, it was used a lot," said Jean Barrett, assistant director in the city's Department of Public Services.

As early as 1989, industry rumblings indicated problems with metal deck corrosion. By 1992, Barrett said, apparent problems caused a stop in PFRI production.

What happens, she said, is that when the foam is exposed to any kind of moisture, it produces an acidic discharge that leaks onto and corrodes the roof's steel framework.

The problem is, the corrosion is often well-hidden, and by the time it's apparent, the roof has been seriously damaged, Barrett said. No one can tell how extensive the police facility's roof is affected until it is removed, she added.

A judge in the class-action lawsuit appointed a company called PhenCon to facilitate all claims, Barrett said. The company's Web site indicates PhenCon specializes in Phenolic Foam claims. Company founder Dennis Riley

spent six years involved with the PFRI remediation process, from claims administration to replacement of more than 3 million square feet of roofing.

PhenCon prequalified bidders and accepted bids for roof replacement; on Monday night, Hills officials awarded a contract to low bidder Wright-Brown, in the amount of \$66,700.

The city's share of the roof replacement settlement is \$6,193, minus a share of the legal costs. Barrett said compensation will come in two installments: The first when the claims office receives the city's agreement to sign off on the claim, the second when the work is completed.

City Councilman Barry Brinkner wondered whether officials should hold off on signing the agreement, because work must begin within 60 days.

"I'm concerned about doing

the work in winter," he said.

Jill Scheff, who represented Wright-Brown, acknowledged that moisture could be a problem, but said it's easier to remove snow than to deal with spring rain. Also, she pointed out the steel deck will be coated with an anti-rust epoxy.

"We do roofing all year long," Scheff said. "We do a lot of public projects in winter."

She urged officials to get their request for work in before summer, when school projects will get under way.

Mayor Nancy Bates suggested that city staff could work with the contractor and PhenCon to determine the best time frame for construction.

Officials unanimously approved the settlement resolution. Barrett said representatives from the police department will be involved in construction planning, so as to minimize disruption for building staff and citizens.

OBITUARIES

Paul S. Dark
A memorial service for Paul Scott Dark, 51, of Canton will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday March 8, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Mr. Dark was born Nov. 14, 1951, in Detroit and died Feb. 20, 2003, in Dearborn. He was a die maker for Ford Motor Company for 30 years and a graduate of Clarenceville High School. He was a blues and jazz enthusiast and loved to cook.

Survivors include parents, Jennie (Jim) Everhart; brothers, Francis (Barbara) Dark, Steven Dark, Christopher Dark, Tom Lawson, and Walt G.; sisters, Betty Sue (Jim) Gault and Marguerite Dark; aunts, Susan Earl and Margaret (Bob) Nixon; nephews, Jamie, Jack, Dakota, and Sunny; nieces, Shawn, Danica, Fionna, Caitlin, and Ava.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, 3390 Pinetree Road, Ste. 20, Lansing, MI 48911-4212.

Milton A. Hoeglund
Services for Milton A. Hoeglund, 80, of Farmington, were held Feb. 26 at First United Methodist Church in Farmington with the Rev. Jeff Maxwell officiating. Burial followed at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi.

Mr. Hoeglund was born Nov. 28, 1922, in Minnesota and died Feb. 22, 2003, in Farmington. He was a retired carpenter and served in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of the American Legion and a past post commander. He was also a member of the Detroit Archers, the Masons and the Farmington Finnish Center.

Mr. Hoeglund enjoyed golfing, hunting, making stained glass, archery and traveling.

He is survived by his son, Edward (Debra); daughters, Lorraine (Phillip) Santo and Pam (Thom) Huber; brother, Ted; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Annabelle.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Jack D. Treloar
Services for Jack David Treloar, 61, of Farmington, at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Mr. Treloar was born Feb. 4, 1942, in Michigan and died Feb. 22, 2003, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

He is survived by his son, Jack; and grandchildren, Bailey. Memorial contributions may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Harriett Bourgon
Services for Harriett Bourgon, 81, were held Feb. 26 at Holy Family Church in Novi. Mrs. Bourgon died Feb. 24, 2003.

She is survived by her husband, George; sons, Mike (Bridget) and Joe (Marcia); daughter, Janet; grandchildren, Kristen and Michael; and nephews, Gary (Ann) and Brian Rutherford.

Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154-5010.

Arrangements made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

Lee E. Kelly
Services for Lee Edward Kelly, 58, of Novi, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. James Wright officiating. Visitation will be held 1-9 p.m. today, Feb. 27.

Mr. Kelly was born Feb. 11, 1949, in Detroit and died Feb. 24, 2003, in Novi. He worked for Farmington Public Schools.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce; daughters, Kellie (Mark) Carleton and Stacy Kelly; mother, Norma; grandson, Logan Carleton; sister, Cathy Gibby; and brothers, Glenn, Bill and Al. He is preceded in death by his father, Albert.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army Bed and Breakfast.

Farmington native plans Tosh tribute

A Farmington native is behind plans for a tribute album to honor the legacy of Grammy Award-winning reggae superstar, Peter Tosh.

Veteran promoter Mike Malott, who conceived the album project, will be working closely with Peter's son Dave Tosh, who has joined the production team.

Malott is a former Farmington resident and product of Farmington Public Schools. He frequently returns to the community to visit friends.

Tosh, who was murdered during a robbery in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1987, was one of the

founding members of the famed Jamaican reggae band "The Wailers" (later "Bob Marley and the Wailers") and later went on to pursue a successful solo career.

Tosh was also an outspoken civil rights activist for his country, centering his songs on such social issues as anti-apartheid against oppression and equal rights for all.

Revenue from album sales will provide the funds needed for the repair and renovation of Peter Tosh's Mausoleum in Belmont, Jamaica.

Also planned is the completion of the Tosh Museum, which was partially erected

back in 1995, and construction of a medical clinic, a library, and a gift shop.

The concept for the album was conceived by Malott shortly after he and his fiancée moved to Negril, Jamaica in early September. Malott found the Belmont burial site was in need of repair; the mausoleum's cinder-block walls stood partially erected and unchanged for years.

It had been vandalized, and several items including Peter's own grave marker had been stolen.

Malott contacted Peter's son, Andrew Tosh, to discuss his idea for creating a Peter Tosh

tribute album.

He has also partnered with international reggae star Lasann Bardsley to create the Peter Tosh Legacy Foundation to further Tosh's dream to provide food and medical assistance to the poor, along with funding to assist Rastafarian-owned businesses in Jamaica.

Malott, who has promoted several reggae shows and made several trips to the island since the mid-eighties, said he is overwhelmed by the opportunity to do something that will impact so many lives and Jamaica in such a positive way.

Along with preserving the legacy of not only Peter Tosh's name but his work as well, Malott said, "I love Jamaica, and the people of Jamaica. I know I am at home here and I am greatly honored to have the opportunity to do this."



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