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Planners Eye Urban Renewal Financing

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The Farmington Township Planners met Thursday night to discuss urban renewal in the southeastern end of the township.

Before they got very far, however, Township Supervisor Curtis H. Hall asked about the various means of the township coming up with its quarter share of \$772,888.

Vilcan-Leman & Associates, the township planners, estimated that the total project would cost \$4,401,112. Under the federal programs the federal government would pay three quarters of the cost.

"We can do anything if we have the money," Hall said, "but I don't see how \$472,000 is going to come out of our budget."

Ken Strobel, a staff member of the planning firm, said that he thought the project could be financed through a special assessment district, but that he would have the firm's financial consultants study the matter and provide him with the answer.

Strobel promised to write Charles Lorion, planning commission chairman, when he had the information. Lorion said that when the information is received he would call a "special meeting of the planning commission to decide whether or not to pursue the matter further."

AT ISSUE is whether or not the township will invest another \$500 (it already has spent \$500) for the preparation of an application for the federal funds.

Complicating the problem is the fact that the township will gain \$994,150 in credit for the current installation of sanitary sewers in the areas outlined if the project is approved within three years from the start of the sewer construction.

Strobel told the commission that the sewer project had started seven months ago and that this did not leave much time to obtain the approval and have the credit applied to the overall cost.

Before the application can be filed, Strobel said, studies must be conducted on the eligibility of the area to qualify; the marketability of the land; the financial resources of the township to carry out the program; relocation plans and alternatives for the residents; and rehabilitation plans for the area.

If federal approval is not granted within the three year time limit then the township would be required to kick the additional \$994,150 into the pot if the renewal move was undertaken.

THREE SPECIFIC areas are outlined in the proposal presented Thursday night.

The first is bounded by the eastern city limits, Astor St., Tuck Rd. and Grand River. Plans call for some complete clearance, rehabilitation of some structures, and the construction of a "lot lot."

The largest area pinpointed is bounded by Shawassee, Purdue and Oxford Sts. and Grand River. The only basic difference in this area

would be the development of a neighborhood park.

The third area is bounded by Shawassee and Colwell Sts., Grand River Ave. and Inkster Rd. This calls for the development of a "lot lot."

All of the areas would be improved by paving, curbs and gutters in the streets and storm sewers.

THE PROPOSAL is called a "conservation project" as opposed to general clearance of the area. This means that many of the existing buildings in the areas could be rehabilitated to bring them up to standard.

Residents of the area whose homes required rehabilitation could qualify for federal loans at a three per cent interest rate over a period of 20 years if the loan was under \$10,000.

In order to qualify for the program it is necessary that at least 20 per cent of the structures in the area are proved to be deficient in some manner.



DOWN IN THE HOLE! That's the plight of this car after it plunged into a 40-foot deep hole on Shawassee Wednesday. The driver, Mrs. Dorothy Poppe of Farmington, received minor injuries.

Car Falls 40 Feet Into Hole

A Farmington woman suffered minor injuries Wednesday after her car was involved in a "break" accident.

Mrs. Dorothy Marie Poppe, 54, of 11118 Alameda, was traveling on Shawassee between Middle Belt and Inkster when she was flagged down and warned that the street was under construction.

The flag-man told her to avoid a large hole—approximately 40 feet deep and 60 feet wide—further down the street.

Mrs. Poppe moved onto the open lanes of Shawassee and, although she was warned, she apparently ignored the previous warning and veered back into the closed lanes.

Another man standing near the hole again warned the woman but she still ran her car directly into the cavern.

Mrs. Poppe told Township police that she thought the hole was actually a fresh patch of newly laid black top.

Her husband who was sitting in the passenger seat at the time was not injured.



CHILDREN WALKING to Gill Elementary School walk the roadway each day because Gill Rd. has no sidewalks and the road has no shoulder for them to use. The pupils must dodge passing cars.

Town House Children Face Walking Hazards

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

Development of Farmington Village Town Houses -- an eventual community of 253 families -- is presenting some problems for various official bodies, including the local school board, the township board and the Oakland County Road Commission.

The problem centers on nine children from the town houses who walk to Gill Elementary School from Nine Mile south down Gill Rd.

In total, 29 children from the town houses attend Gill, with nine walking and two riding bikes to the school.

TOWN HOUSE parents had petitioned the School Board for bus transportation for these youngsters, but board policy is that the area is within walking distance.

Children from Heather Hills Subdivision, further down Nine Mile, are bused because they are over a mile from the school.

The school board safety committee, which includes George W. Otis, Leland Clifford and Dr. Sanford Bloomberg, made a recent study of conditions on Gill Rd. Bloomberg

studied the roadway and made pictures of it at school time two weeks ago.

HIS OBSERVATIONS include stretches of roadway where there are no shoulders along the sides, times of day when large vehicular traffic traveled along it, dips in the roadbed causing blind spots for drivers and weed growth abutting the roadway.

Patrol boys are stationed at Nine Mile and Gill Rds. at school time each day.

Bloomberg's conclusion was that village parents be directed to keep children at home until the petroleers are on duty and that

children be urged to use Bridge-man St., one street over, where there is a sidewalk approaching the school.

The board's conclusion was to approach the County Road Commission to see what can be done about conditions on the road.

PAUL VAN ROEKLE, of the commission, told the Enterprise & Observer on Wednesday that, "We have offered repeatedly to come up with half the cost of paving Gill from Eight to Nine Mile."

He estimated the cost at \$150,000, which means property owners would pay \$75,000.

Van Roekle said that the commission had been approached some time ago concerning the matter and gave a cost estimate on minimum improvements.

He also said that "Commission money is not supposed to be used for sidewalks. They are normally built by abutting property owners."

Township Supervisor Curtis Hall said that 65 per cent of the property owners have to request the establishment of a special assessment district for sidewalks before they can be installed.

In regard to the tall weeds that flank the roadway, Van Roekle stated that the cutting of them is the "implied responsibility of the property owners."

The county recently had a cutback in road funds and is no longer cutting weeds along roadways.

FRANK KASIN, Gill School principal, said the county has been taking a traffic count on Eight and Nine Mile and Gill Rd. this week.

He noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee, whose membership includes residents in that area, have been working for months to get Gill Rd. improved.

Kasin said that before the town houses were built, there were no children north of Nine Mile walking to the school.

And he summed up, "It all boils down to costs."

Strike Idles Plant

The City of Farmington's Willow Run Rubber & Lining Company's Plastic Division, 3222 W. Eight Mile Rd., has been struck by the members of the United Mine Workers of America—District 50.

Union President Frank Frantz said that the contract with the company expired at midnight Sept. 30.

Frank Podjil, company vice-president, called the strike "nothing but an issue of economics."

Podjil said that the union had demanded a 62 cent raise and the company had countered the offer with a 12 cent per year over the year hike.

The company was turned down by the union and Podjil said that the union refused an additional offer of 15 cents.

Mrs. Frantz stated that the main issues for the strike were better wages and working conditions.

Mrs. Frantz said that production workers at the main plant in Belleville, were making \$2.12 an hour while production workers in the Farmington plant were making \$1.75 an hour.

The union president also complained the plant was dangerous for the workers because of exposed electrical wiring and a thick layer of dirt oil that was over most of the floor.

Construction Closes Down Inkster Rd.

Inkster Rd. was closed Oct. 5 in the Village of Franklin for repairs according to an announcement from the Oakland County Road Commission.

The commission said that Inkster was closed from the end of the existing pavement north of 13 Mile Rd. north for 0.2 of mile to Gardway.

The \$27,375 grading and surfacing project is scheduled to be open for traffic Nov. 1. The work will be completed by Dec. 1.

No detour is provided. The Road Commission suggests the use of 13 Mile, Franklin and 14 Mile Rds. as alternates as the construction zone will be open for local traffic only.

Police Warn Merchants On Counterfeiting

Farmington Township Police Chief Irving Yakes has issued a warning to all Farmington merchants to be careful of any bills they receive for purchases.

Yakes said that counterfeit \$10 and \$20 bills have been passed in the area.

The \$10 dollar bills' "phony" serial numbers are F78458507C and F02152446A.

The \$20 dollar bills' false serial numbers are F48101934B and F48101931B.

Yakes warned that the counterfeit bills are a fairly close likeness to the real thing and that the merchants should be doubly careful.

Youth Wins International Fellowship

A 1962 Farmington High School graduate was one of 50 American students who won fellowships in a program at Columbia University.

James-Byron Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Anderson, 32004 Valley View, will be working toward his M.A. degree through the School of



Anderson

International Affairs. He will concentrate on East Asia. Columbia's International Fellows Program offers the graduate student an opportunity to pursue studies in his chosen field while at the same time acquiring a thorough understanding of world affairs.

EACH FELLOW PURSUES the program of study outlined by the school or department in which he is enrolled.

As part of their continued orientation, the fellows will attend a series of lectures at the United Nations Secretariat and the United States Mission to the U.N.

Throughout the year, the fellows have the opportunity to meet with leading U.S. and foreign officials at informal colloquium luncheons and dinners.

THE FELLOWS are required to complete a full-year course on "The Role of the United States in World Affairs."

This lecture-seminar course explores major foreign policy issues such as East-West relationships, the United States and the Sino-Soviet conflict, U.S. foreign policy and the United Nations.

Anderson was a member of the student council in Senior high school. He maintained an 'A' average all through high school and was a consistent dean's list winner in college.

In high school he played golf, basketball, and was quarterback on the football team. He was also a quarterback with his college football team.

Among other awards, in high school, he earned the American Legion Award, Mathematics Award, and the Boys State American Legion Award.

Also while in high school, Anderson was a Boys State representative his senior year and was named to the National Honor Society.

At Williams College he was Phi Beta Kappa cum laude, a Phi Scholar, an E.J. Noble Leadership Fellow, Gargoyles senior honor society, the secretary-treasurer of his sophomore class, and participated in the North Adams tutorial project.

Anderson was PRESIDENT of the student council at Williams College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

While in high school and college he traveled overseas and studied and worked.

During his junior year at Farmington High School he was a Council of Churches exchange student in Germany.

In his junior year at Williams College he received a grant from Sweet Briar College and studied at the Sorbonne (University of Paris) for a year.

After graduating from college Anderson was the 1967 Director of Williams College's in-Hong Kong Program at Chinese University.

Anderson was PRESIDENT of the student council at Williams College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

Film Crew Moves Onto Township Location

The movie industry came to Farmington this week. It wasn't Hollywood with all the hoopla, however. Rather it was a production crew from General Motors who moved into a location in the township for a week.

The six-man working crew and cast were filming portions of a 45-minute promotional film for Delco Batteries—oops they call them "energizers" these days.

When completed, the film will be used by the United Delco Dealers throughout the country.

U. of M. football star Tom Harmon is narrator.

Why choose a new, but uncoupled gas station at Middle Belt and 12 Mile in Farmington Township?

the GM Photographic Center, there were three basic reasons for choosing the site.

"The fact that the station is not open for business makes it easier to film around the pumps and also the fact that the station is new, clean and has modern equipment were factors."

Irvin also pointed to the lack of excessive film noises or construction sounds at the location because the crew is shooting not only film, but recording dialogue.

The location of the station on the southwest corner was also a determining factor. This vantage point allows for the sun to be at the proper angles throughout the day to provide the needed lighting.



ROLL 'EM. That's the mode of operation for the GM Photographic Lab film production crew as they work on location in Farmington Township. The crew spent a week in the township shooting segments of a training film for the corporation.

Luncheon Meeting Set

Alan Benowitz, chairman of the Board of Federal Department Stores, will discuss the plans for the new Federal's Department Store in the City of Farmington at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Farmington Board of Commerce.

The luncheon session will begin at noon in the Masonic Temple. Tickets for the luncheon at \$1.75 may be obtained by contacting the Board at 474-3440.