

She protests high water in Tamarack

By JACKIE KLEIN

Mrs. Rosemary Molioian founds on being assessed for lake property on her one and one-half acre home in Southfield's Tamarack Trails.

"The Molioian's Lois Lane home isn't lakefront property in the true sense of the word. But after a one-inch rain, you'd swear that's what it is."

"Although 20 percent of the property lies in the Rouge floodplain and the backyard is unusable, the Molioians received a \$350 assessment hike on their land and an \$1,100 boost on their home."

"Mrs. Molioian appealed Monday's torrential rain to the board of the Southfield Board of Review. She was armed with pictures of her property she snapped during the daily morning rain."

"IS THIS your property of a

'Is this your property or a pond?' — review board chairman

pond?" asked review board chairman Harold Klein.

The Molioian's home is valued at \$49,800.

"If it were anywhere else, we could get \$60,000. If we decide to sell, we'd better not show the house when it rains," Mrs. Molioian said.

Flooding problems in the Ten Mile-Lahser area Tamarack Trail subdivision led to a lawsuit that has been partially resolved. Attempts to halt construction of the Claire Drain were stymied in Oakland County Circuit Court when Judge Farrell Roberts ruled the drain a necessity.

BUT DISSIDENT residents, who claim the drain will play havoc with the ecological balance, have an ace in the hole.

"The second issue in the lawsuit will be heard in April," said Mrs. Molioian, who has been active in the Tamarack Drain Association.

"We have requested riparian rights, a water management ordinance for relief from flooding and an environmental protection act. These proposed measures will be considered by the court."

Mrs. Molioian said the residents couldn't disprove the need for the Claire Drain.

"Judge Roberts contended it's necessary to establish the drain or our homes would be in peril in a ten-year storm."

"I'D RATHER have the water lapping at my back door than flowing through the house. But we need water control measures to regulate the flow."

The homeowners' lawsuit filed in September against the City of Southfield and the Oakland County Claire Drainage Board asked for new construction plans for the proposed drain. Physical construction was altered slightly by order of the court.

Tamarack homeowners had been negotiating with county and city officials for more than a year. They were plugging for approval of a drain plan that would be less damaging to the Evans stream.

"During the past 25 years," Mrs. Molioian explained, "the northern portion of the Evans Branch has

been changed from a natural waterway to an artificial drain."

RESIDENTS CLAIM since 1948, a number of drains have been constructed to accommodate upstream development with little thought of effect of increased amounts of surface water on the Evans.

The lawsuit alleged "illegal" added volumes of water have created unnatural flooding which seriously threatens the property of Tamarack homeowners.

Mrs. Molioian has contended another drain in the area would mean severe and drastic changes in the environment and loss of trees and wildlife.

"We may be high and dry, but our area won't be fit for habitation."

It's 'business as usual' despite gas shortage

By CARL STODDARD

Aside from those mandering lines at the gas stations, it's difficult to tell if the energy shortage has hit Southfield.

"Some businesses have reported an increase in customers. Others report a decrease. Some just don't know."

Duane Haskins, the manager of the Bonanza Sirolo Pit 25610 Eight Mile Road, said his business has declined "a little bit" since the gas crunch.

"They're not spending as much," Haskins said of his customers. "They're watching the pennies. I'm sure that people are afraid to spend money. They don't know what will happen tomorrow."

THE CLOCK RESTAURANT, 24818 Southfield, has also seen a slight decrease in customer patronage, especially on Sundays when the gasoline is least plentiful.

But, manager James Mikel said, other shifts have made up for the drop in Sunday's revenue.

Another fast food restaurant, Burger King, 16196 Telegraph, said manager Jack Grant.

Barbara Krukowski, the manager of Hertz-Rent-A-Car, 19250 Eight Mile said her business has been down "quite a bit" recently.

She said the drop started the last two weeks of January and has continued to drop since then. Ac-

cording to revenue figures, she said, the company is below last year's mark. Just how bad the decline is could not be disclosed, she said.

The people most affected are the vacationers. Businessmen, she pointed out, know they'll get a full tank of gas when they rent the car and so aren't bothered by the gas shortage.

AT THE HOLIDAY INN, 26555 Telegraph, Innkeeper Jerry Abel said it is difficult to tell how much effect the shortage has had. About 90 percent of his clients are businessmen and they apparently travel more out of necessity than anything else, Abel said.

The number of tourists coming in is the only true indication of how the gas shortage is affecting business. That indicator won't work until tourist season begins this summer, he said.

Bowling lanes, too, are affected by the seasons.

Miss Rose Ingengle, the manager at Southfield Bowl, 23050 Eight Mile, said most of their business is occupied with bowling leagues. Those leagues run until the end of April. It won't be until spring that they can tell if their business will be affected, she said.

At Arks Lanes, 28425 Northwestern Highway, manager Henrietta Skauge was a little more positive. She said she saw no de-

crease in business in the last few weeks.

Two restaurants, The Raleigh House, 25300 Telegraph and the Red Cedars, 23055 Telegraph, reported sales increased in the first two months of this year.

Movie theaters in Southfield also seemed to be weathering the shortage well.

The Americana Theatre, 23275 Greenfield, sold out for both show-

ings of "The Sting" Saturday night. Despite the gas shortage — or maybe because of it — people apparently wanted a little entertainment.

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Village approves zoning ordinance

By JUDY EFTEKHAR

BEVERLY HILLS — A stronger zoning ordinance was unanimously approved by the village council Monday following a public hearing.

The ordinance spells out the conditions for permit applications, inspections, and certificates of occupancy.

The ordinance puts the burden on those taking out permits (usually builders) and is to the benefit of homeowners and prospective buyers, according to Councilman Theodore Sura who made the proposal.

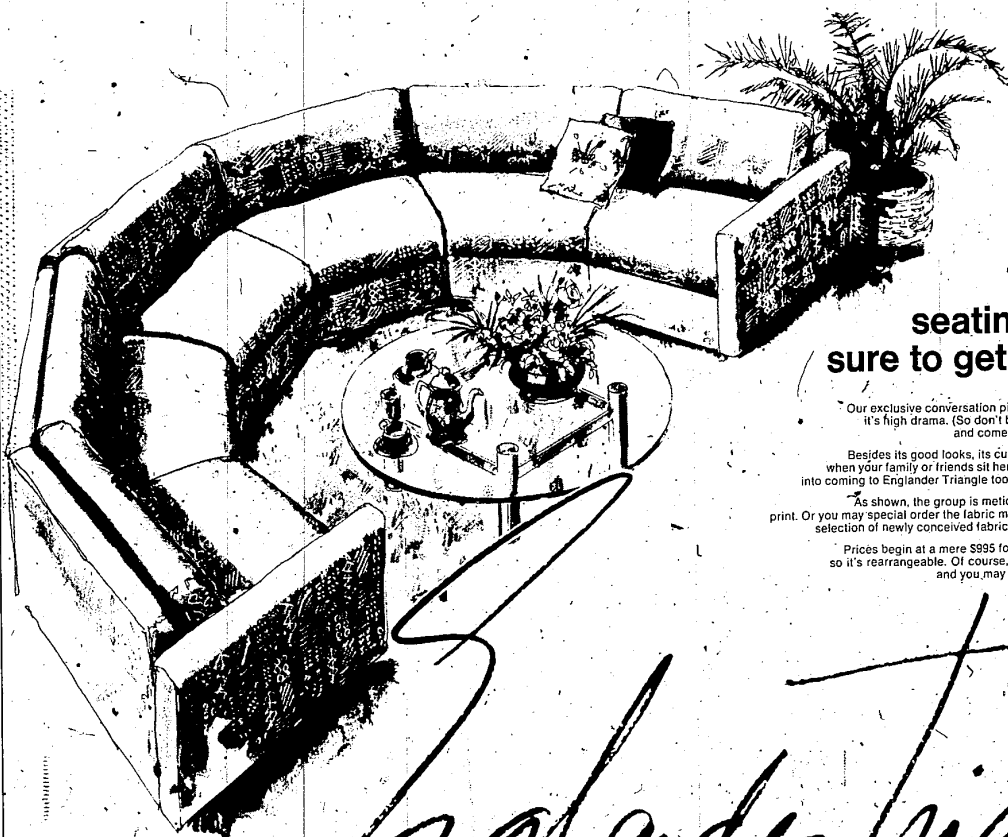
It also helps village inspectors do a better job and, after permits are issued, defines mutual obligations.

THE COUNCIL also approved a request from the village Park Commission to solicit bids on a new shelter building for Beverly Hills Park.

The \$26,000 structure is to be located at the north end of the park on Beverly Road, west of Southfield Road.

It will be funded by a \$13,000 federal grant, in addition to \$6,000 in state funds and \$7,000 in local money.

The picnic shelter, measuring 72 by 30 feet, will be a decorative wooden arch structure with a concrete floor. It includes rest rooms and a storage area. There is an option to add a fireplace.



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