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Development threat speeds Credit River unity

Credit River Twp. in eastern Scott County is a quiet, rural community with farms, woods, open space, rolling hills and the Credit River, a small winding creek.

It's typical of many communities on the Twin Cities area fringes facing development and urbanization.

Some Credit River residents fear that undesirable development may destroy the rural atmosphere they enjoy. They also are afraid of the high costs if sewers are built there.

So they are forming the Credit River Farm and Homeowners Association, which Kenneth Freude, temporary president, said will be a "watchdog" over development proposals.

"At least we are going to raise some discussion before things get passed," he said.

He said the organizers, many of them new residents, got together after they found out about plans for a night club and a landfill. Some owners of nearby property, afraid the projects would lower property values, managed to block them.

Freude said older residents and farmers "feel we are trying to run the whole township. That's not really the case."

Mrs. Richard Novak, an organizer with her husband, said many members of the group moved to Credit River for the same reasons as the Novaks did.

"We like the open space. There's no air pollution," she said. The Novaks and their four children moved from St. Paul to their 80-acre "gentleman's farm."

The association is not against growth, she said.

"We just want orderly growth. We want to avoid urban sprawl," which would require expensive sewers running across vacant land to serve spot developments. Many residents and farmers fear they may be forced to

Metro Focus
By Betty Wilson

sell if rapid development brings high taxes and sewer charges, she said.

Myles Mares, a town board member and a farmer, who has lived in the township more than 40 years, said he doesn't want to see Credit River grow rapidly and "become a great big Apple Valley or something like that."

"Some people are afraid of that because they moved here from Richfield, Bloomington, Burnsville and other areas where it did happen."


But he'd like to see a balance of light industrial and commercial growth in relation to housing, he said.

He said the night club and landfill would have been "a start in the right direction."

"Any time something could come into the area, it's opposed by some residents," he said.

The Farm and Homeowners Association is a good thing, he said, because it's brought the different sides

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