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In Farmington Hills

Senior zoning debuts before housing group

Senior citizens in Farmington Hills could be closer than they realize to having an apartment complex of their own. A preliminary ordinance, which would permit properties to be zoned exclusively for senior residences, will be unveiled before the housing commission Dec. 21. City attorneys were commissioned to come up with a draft of the ordinance after the Nardines unsuccessfully tried to build a senior residence behind the Nardin Park Church, Laverie, Mich. and Middlefield, about 10 months ago.

The ordinance will be reviewed by the Planning Commission before being submitted to the Farmington Hills City Council within the next two months, according to Thomas Grubak, housing commission chairman.

In spite of the rezoning, some representatives of the Nardines expressed concern that the city has been dragging its feet over the issue.

It was acknowledged that the ordinance was recommended by the Rev. Meredith M. Nardin, Nardin Park Methodist Church.

MSHDA CITY Farmington Hills is one of the few cities in Michigan which has zoning laws which allow a 100 percent senior citizens' residence in the ordinance.

He believes that the city has been dragging its feet in doing their report since July, when the commission asked the attorneys to investigate the problem.

He stated that the city has been less than cooperative in transmitting information about the ordinance's progress to the Nardines.

"We've had to go knocking the information, rather than having the city which is reported," he said.

Grubak insists that his group is moving as quickly as possible.

"I think we have been making progress. The preliminary ordinance will be re-

vised by the city attorney and will be taken to the council as soon as possible," he said.

If you don't get something done the next day, some people say you're dragging your feet. I've sat up six nights until midnight drafting an ordinance. I take a drink of someone saying we're dragging our feet," he said.

One of the basic problems faced by the commission is that many persons move into Farmington Hills with a goal in mind to watch their purchasing power decline when they retire on a fixed sum, Grubak said.

It is difficult for them to pay \$100,000 monthly rent in Farmington Hills on a fixed retirement income," he said.

But they've been residents for a long time and this should be able to help," he said.

Hills commission is looking into the possibility of a governmental agency to help with a mortgage loan to between \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Another problem facing the drafting of the ordinance is the fact that changes of district lines would be below districting the city. Since the ordinance restricts the use of a property to one group, administrators have been cautious about the wording of the ordinance.

The ordinance limits the use of the property to older persons with lower income. When the ordinance is passed, the government would have expressed concern over the possibility that a senior residence could fail. In that case, the owner

would be stuck with a property which is zoned for an express purpose.

Commission members have constructed the ordinance to include a clause in the ordinance which allows the property's return to use as an ordinary apartment dwelling after remodeling.

The ordinance would include Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) guidelines as requirements for future builders of senior apartment complexes in Farmington Hills.

MSHDA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) don't want the seniors to be isolated," Grubak said.

The requirements provide for food markets, drug stores and shopping centers within walking distance of a senior residence center. The complex also would need to have a place where residents can meet and a separate room to be used by visiting doctors.

The Nardines plan also would include MSHDA requirements. The complex would be near a bank and a health club," Moshier said.

The Nardines are anxious for the ordinance. They have a one year option to buy the land behind the Methodist Church. The option which expires in April 1977.

If the commission and the council work in the ordinance past April, the Nardines would have to come back with the church.

That would include presenting their case to the church trustees again according to Moshier.

Meanwhile, the group has received between 700 to 800 requests from seniors asking for rezoning in the Nardines' complex.

Once the zoning is completed, we can move rapidly. Our package is ready to go," Moshier said.



Battling against time

Barney Slobin and Greg Beauchemin spend their days fighting time as they try to get accident victims to hospitals, quickly. For an inside look at an Emergency Medical Service, turn to Page 3. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



It's that time of year again. The snow shovels, boots and other signs of winter are in evidence, again. A Wisconsin man probably regrets driving to the area, just in time to catch the first snowflake of yet another winter. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Edgar Guest III has directing fever

Edgar Guest III hesitated at following his family into writing and radio—but he is running after a career in directing because he's "got the fever."

Right now, Guest is directing R and G Productions' presentation of the Neil Simon play "I Do, I Do," which begins a run at the Bradford Inn, Farmington, Jan. 28.

His father "Bud" Guest is a well-known radio personality and story teller. Grandfather Edgar Guest wrote homespun verse for the Detroit Free Press for many years.

He used the idea of going into radio because of the inevitable comparisons to his father.

"I would be compared to dad and would come up short. Or I'd have to go to a place where I wasn't known and I didn't want to do that," he said.

"My dad had radio all tied up," he said. "But people do tell me that I sound like my father."

"I never heard it in myself, really, except sometimes when I hear my voice on the tape recorder," he said.

He avoided writing for almost the same reasons as radio.

"I didn't write as steadily as my father or grandfather," he said. "I wrote sketches for reviews, occasionally."

Guest, 27, started out to be an actor, but found that he liked the control of a production that directing affords.

"I'd much rather direct than act," he said. "It's in my blood."

"It's necessary to understand acting, so

you can understand the problems and the pressures that the actors face."

But I feel more in control, more confident directing."

He admits that the job does have its drawbacks.

"When the play's good, everyone compliments the actors. When it's bad, they say that the actors were good but they had a bad director," he said.

Still, I like standing in back of the house, watching things that I told the actors to do."

His training for directing was picked up at Denison University, Ohio and through such projects as a summer spent on a touring the Orient under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.

"We toured for three months overseas," he remembered. "In one service bar we used beer trays for reflectors for the stage lights."

The next summer, when I was in college, I did 10 shows in 10 weeks. And one year, I toured with my own one-man humor show, throughout the Midwest, wherever they wanted me."

Last summer, he directed 12,500 participants in the Boy Scouts Bicentennial Festival.

That was a logistical problem," he explained.

Although he admits that his name has helped open doors for him, he is quick to add that once he got a job, he thought more was asked of him.

"I'm proud of my father, my grandfather and my name," he said.

I have to work harder because of it, but that doesn't bother me."

When my dad was on the radio, he talked about the family. People I really didn't know very well, knew me better than I knew myself because of the show."

Workshop unravels scholarship puzzle

Harrison High School is presenting a scholarship workshop designed to take the guessing out of applying for financial aid. Parents and students from all of the Farmington high schools are invited to attend the session at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8 in the Harrison auditorium.

Thomas Blesch, coordinator of scholarship and tuition grant programs and student financial assistance services from the State Department of Education, will be among the workshop speakers.

Harvey Grotrian, associate director of financial aids from the University of Michigan is included in the evening's program.

Grants, scholarships, loans, job options and an estimation of current college costs will be discussed. The 90-minute program will give an explanation of a financial aid officer's role.

For further information, call Jill Turley, workshop chairwoman, at Harrison High School, 477-3315.

Brotherton favors passage of stricter juvenile code

Among myriad proposals designed to stop juvenile crime that Michigan State Legislators will examine when they return to Lansing in January, one that suggests judges should place a stronger emphasis on the youth's past record than in his case.

Age has nothing to do anymore with the ability to commit a crime for which juveniles can be incarcerated," said State Rep. Walter Brotherton of Farmington.

Juveniles are committing crimes which older criminals are avoiding because they're afraid of the consequences," he said.

The courts are more lenient with the juvenile offender and the youth take advantage of this attitude according to Brotherton.

He supports a move to place young offenders in juvenile homes, foster homes or correctional facilities expressly for youths rather than handing them over to the care of their families or social workers.

THE BILL, which was introduced by House Republican Lester Dennis (Lawton) would allow the state to sentence youths between 15 and 18 to juvenile institutions.

If the bill passes, Brotherton would object to placing some juvenile offenders in a separate special wing of adult detention centers, although he admits it wouldn't be an ideal situation.

Youngsters shouldn't be placed with hardened criminals who take advantage of them or teach them to commit further crimes," Brotherton said.

Courts should try to help youngsters who show signs of getting into more serious trouble when they grow older according to Brotherton.

The preventive measure could eventually decrease the amount of juvenile crime," he said.

I don't agree that a youngster should be tried for status crimes such as running away from home. Even if it isn't an adult crime, something should be done."

There's a youngster who's moved up and out of all who should be taken under supervision for a short period of time."

They should investigate what the root of the problem is in the child," he said.

Maybe that's a problem in the home or with the child that causes him to run away. It does not help to throw the child back on the streets," he said.

In the youngster gets into more serious trouble when they grow older, he has record and is in bad circumstances before paying any price," according to Brotherton.

Look for many of emotional stress at home may have forced the kid to commit the crime," he said.

So serious crime to juveniles is a problem shared by everyone," Brotherton said.

It's not a problem limited to Detroit. People in the suburbs are going in different parts of the city."

There are all kinds of cases where parents are in Detroit come into the suburbs to live."

Boys reach out to others through line and colors

By HOWARD RONTAL

Six boys at Boys Republic are turning the inside of the arts and crafts building into a work of art.

The walls of the building are divided into panels and for each panel, a boy paints the design of his choosing.

The panels are geometric, and done in sharply contrasting colors.

The painting has become such a popular activity that it has spilled over on the table tops, also done in geometric patterns and vivid colors.

One of the supervisors told me about it," said Tom, 15. "I was interested in learning how to draw."

"When I got on the scene, I noticed he had talent," said T. Q. Brindley, a professional artist turned volunteer artist. Tom was quite withdrawn before he began painting.

"The kid came out of a shell and he's really gotten active," said Brindley.

Behind the enjoyment of artistic creation, Brindley hopes his boys will find new pride in themselves.

"They've been called dumbdumbs all their lives since they were knee high to a grass hopper. If they have no guidance, nobody to look up to, they'll get themselves in a lot of trouble."

MAYBE HIS FATHER is in jail or his mother's working the streets. He has to see that there's more to life than the streets," said Brindley.

The boys put up some resistance to instruction at first, but Brindley, who everyone, including the boys, calls "T. Q." has found ways to overcome it.

"I can't paint a wall," they said to him at first. "I'll get it all over me."

"I was wearing a tie and jacket and I picked up the brush and started to paint. Now they're not and the first to continue me when I'm not," said Brindley.

Brindley noted that the boys don't even swear in his presence.

Brindley, who paints portraits and animal pictures, first began instructing at Boysville in Saline, Michigan this summer. Drawing more than 100 miles a week into

Saline proved too time consuming so with the help of the Farmington Hills Area Council, he established an eight week pilot program at Boys Republic. He's hoping the council will fund the program through the balance of the winter.

During the winter months if they're not interested in him, they've got a full-time on their hands," said Brindley.

He's given food of the youngsters. They're a lot of fun to work with. I really enjoy it."

The boys in the program seem to want to continue also. Their next project is to design and paint a mural over the entire floor of the building.



News Editorials
Suburban Life
Community Calendar
Sports

Section A
Section B
Section C
Section A

HOMETOWN STAR

Twelve-year-old Donald Psenicka is the star of a Kinney Foundation film, "High Flood Pressure-Public Enemy No. 1." Read about this strong-willed kid who tells about his struggles in this educational film on page 11.