

Lathrup Village lot sizes spark a residential hassle

By CHERYL CHODUN

Two revoked building permits, two paved basements and an "inconvenient oversight" could cause the City of Lathrup Village a long-term battle.

And Lathrup builder Max Glass says he will slap that lawsuit against the city because he has no recourse.

It all began in January.

According to Glass, who's associated with Almar Builders of Berkley, he saw an advertisement for two residential lots for sale in Lathrup Village.

The lots were advertised as 50 feet by 150 feet with a 50-foot frontage. Glass

says that knowing Lathrup is a desirable, attractive community, he bought two lots from Dorothy Martin of H.L. Martin Real Estate in Lathrup. But he left the lots with some Martin's.

Glass says that he and Mrs. Martin first went to the Lathrup municipal building to see if there would be any problems with his building intentions.

According to Glass, Lathrup Village assistant administrator Robert Howard said the two lots on Kilbride Street were suitable to build on and there should be no problems.

The purchase was made. Two building permits were issued. And construc-

tion was started.

Now the basements are poured, the building permits are revoked and an appeal by the builder to the zoning board was turned down.

So what's the problem?

The lots which were advertised as 7,500 square feet each are actually 7,200 square feet. In Lathrup Village a standard size is 7,500 square feet with a 50-foot frontage.

"The neighbors in the area were the first to notice," said Lathrup city attorney James McCrory. "Most of the homes on Kilbride are on more than one lot and when adjacent residents

say two basements being poured, they begin doing some checking of their own."

McCrory says the residents maintain that the homes on some lots will bring the value of their property down and they want the builder or the city to rectify the situation.

Who is at fault? The ads said the lots were 150 by 50 feet, the builder says he assumed that they were and the city administrator who issued the building permits says that he, too, assumed the lots were of standard size, because of information on the building permit application.

Seller Dorothy Martin, buyer Max Glass and Jerald Stone, Lathrup's city administrator, all admit they "selected to check the details," but nobody will admit to taking the blame.

It will go to circuit court after Glass files a lawsuit and McCrory says the judge in the case will decide if Glass can go ahead and finish building his two homes, or if he can only build one house on two lots. The judge can

assess the monetary losses to the builder, if any, and decide who will pay for them.

"It was an unfortunate mistake," says McCrory. "But now the two houses are there, leaving a clear and present danger to children and residents in the area and the entire proceedings could take as long as a year."

Singing students warble for cash

By CARL STODDARD

Madrigal singers from Southfield's two high schools will be entertaining audiences in Canada and Europe later this year. But first they must sing a different tune here in Southfield.

"We need help," admits John Carter Cole, choral director for the Madrigal Singers at Southfield High School. His group plans to travel to Europe this summer as a featured singing ensemble.

Cost of the entire trip will be about \$20,000. They've raised \$8,000 so far.

Southfield-Lathrup's madrigal group, too, must sing for its supper. The group plans to travel to Toronto next month for a four-day singing tour. But first they must raise about \$75 for each of the 15 singers taking part in the tour.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 16, the Southfield-Lathrup madrigals will present a special kick-off concert in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$1. Tickets for sponsors are \$5 and patron ticket donations are \$10.

THIS SUNDAY, the Southfield-Lathrup group will be at the Pontiac Silverdome where they will sing the Star Spangled Banner before the start of the game. That performance, too, is designed to raise money. In addition, the students plan a variety of other fund-raisers, including a bake sale, to pay their way to Toronto.

The singers will travel to Toronto May 18 and return May 21. While there, they will perform in concert for the North York School District's music ensemble, the school district administration and city officials.

On Queen Victoria's birthday, a Canadian national holiday, the singers will visit the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children where they will give a special performance. Small, "impromptu" concerts are planned for city parks and Ontario Place, a futuristic exhibition area on the Toronto waterfront, said Southfield-Lathrup music director David Jorlett.

Teen driver killed in crash

A Farmington Hills boy was killed and two Farmington boys injured when their car hit an electric utility pole head-on in Livonia Sunday.

The driver, Travis William Moore, 16, of 34055 Nine Mile, whose Livonia police said he was driving was killed after his car rammed a Farmington Head-on pole, a half-mile south of Schoolcraft, between 45 and 50 miles per hour.

Passengers who were injured and treated at St. Mary Hospital, were

Jorlett said the trip came about as part of a suggestion from Beverly Cole, choral director of instruction for Southfield Public Schools. Ms. Gould, formerly from Toledo, suggested that Southfield might link up with North York, a suburb just north of Toronto.

Jorlett envisions the madrigal trip as the first step to a more permanent relationship with North York. In time, he said, the suburb might become an international "sister" school district.

"If THE plan works, North York and Southfield might continue to trade visits, with the visits expanded to include students interested in sports, arts or other areas."

"It's logical that music is the first step," Jorlett said. "It's the universal language."

Southfield High School's madrigal singers are planning a three-week singing tour of Europe, beginning July 5. First, they need the money.

The group has already sponsored a number of sales. Next Tuesday, May 2, they will try an even more ambitious project to garner cash.

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., the singers will stage a sing-a-long at the mall at Northgate Center. Students have obtained pledges from local businesses and individuals based on donations per song.

They plan to sing about 180 songs.

After that, they'll let their voices rest and switch their fund-raising activities to such things as car washes and other sales.

The madrigal singers were asked by the Discovery Youth Chorale and Orchestra to join their group in an European tour this summer as the featured singing ensemble. During the tour, students will travel to Germany, Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia. They even plan to sing at the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican.

Person interested in helping sponsor the group may contact Cole at Southfield High School.

Persons interested in supporting the Southfield-Lathrup trip to Toronto should call Jorlett at that high school.

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