

Donations sought as Franklin fights project

By MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY

Franklin residents are being asked to pay \$100 per household into a legal defense fund to fight the planned \$135 million Park LaSalle development in northwest Southfield.

Letters were mailed to all Franklin residents this week seeking the contributions for the war chest and claiming that continuation of the village's "rural" and "peaceful way of life" is at stake.

Concerned Citizens of Franklin, a citizen's group, is soliciting the \$100-per-household tariff to continue in the Michigan Court of Appeals a six-year struggle against Park LaSalle.

Park LaSalle is planned on a 50-acre site in Southfield's 12 Mile-Telegraph-Northwestern Highway "Silver Triangle," about one-half mile south of Franklin Village.

Last month, an Oakland County Circuit Court decision cleared the way for developer S.B. McLaughlin Associates to move ahead with construction of a 12-story luxury condominium high-rise and a nine-story office-retail building. Concerned Citizens of

Franklin is appealing the ruling.

The buildings are the first phase of a planned development which would eventually house 3,000 residents and employ 500 people.

IN THE letter to residents of the village, Concerned Citizens president Frederick Doner acknowledged the \$100-per-household fee is "not peanuts."

"We estimate the cost of this lawsuit to be in the area of \$100,000, in addition to volunteer help from village residents," Doner said. "To pretend that we will cost much less would be kidding ourselves."

"If this amount seems high consider the alternative of not defending Franklin, having little hope of stopping Park LaSalle and watching your property values and way of life rather rapidly fade away," Doner said.

The 3,100 residents of Franklin are living in 980 dwelling units, according to the most recent 1978 figures of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

DONER CLAIMED that when completed Park LaSalle would be a "new magna metropolis" and a "major city within plain view of our residential homes."

"Not only will traffic on Franklin Road increase, possibly causing the widening of Franklin Road, but the air pollution, increased crime, lowered property values, cost of drains, roads and visual pollution could have a devastating effect on our rural way of life," Doner told residents.

"We have reached a pivotal point in the six year history of our efforts to stop this project," Doner said.

"We have reached the point where we either raise enough money for appeal and a court case or we let others decide our fate."

"If the funds are not raised, our efforts will have to stop. The price to retain our rural way of life is high."

Doner noted that residents in the past have helped pay the legal bills in fighting the project.

IN OCTOBER Circuit Court Judge Gene Schnetz granted a preliminary injunction prohibiting work on any structures other than the condominium and office-retail building pending the outcome of the trial.

Initiators of that legal action were Concerned

Citizens, Franklin Village Townhouse Condominium Association, Council of Homeowners Association in Farmington Hills and the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

After years of planning, construction was started four months ago on the condominium high-rise. Utility services have been installed and the land has been balanced and graded.

As presently planned, Park LaSalle would have more than 50 acres of floor area. It would include two 25-story structures, four 20-story structures, a nine-story office building, four-story and one-story recreation-oriented structures, parking for nearly 4,000 cars and a 1.3 acre retention pond.

"We have reached a pivotal point in the six-year history of our efforts to stop the project."

— Frederick Doner

Doctors take 2nd look at area drugs

(Continued from page 1A)

Patients should be advised to avoid mixing alcohol with Valium or taking other anti-depressants without notifying the doctor. Psychotropic drugs should be prescribed in tandem with Valium, according to Penn.

Valium doesn't collect in the body. For this reason and for its effects on patients before surgery, Penn advises that other drugs in the same category as Valium — benzodiazepines — can't perform the same medical tasks as Valium.

But for patients who do take the drug, there may be accompanying drowsiness, fatigue, loss of coordination, confusion, depression and headaches. Blood pressure levels might lower and the patient may notice a change in bowel movements and urinary retention.

In extremely rare cases, according to Penn, patients taking Valium may become subject to a loss of white blood cells or develop liver problems. In other rare cases, the patient's brain waves may change.

AN OVERDOSE of Valium may result in hallucinations and a drop in blood pressure. In such cases the body needs to be cleansed of all traces of the drug.

But if the administration of the drug is handled properly, there shouldn't be a problem, said Penn.

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