

# West Bloomfield homeowners attack cluster housing

By MARY LOU CALLAWAY

Cluster housing could be a big political issue in West Bloomfield this year. The West Bloomfield Homeowners Association, a coalition of 14 township subdivision associations, is circulating petitions to remove the cluster option from the township zoning ordinance. The township has more than 100 subdivision associations. The WBHA is headed by Donald Eby, who will attempt his fourth bid this year to unseat Supervisor John Doherty.

"It's drastic, but I'd rather see more conscientiousness on the part of elected officials. There's a place for everything, even clusters, but not on hundreds of acres at a time," said Eby. Eby said he will only use the petitions to get the matter on the ballot "if the planning commission and board make it necessary by a lack of response to the group's demands."

"I'm getting a lot of feedback from people who agree with us," he said. Some of those, he said, are residents adjoining Darb Lake. There, a cluster site plan comes up April 22 for a 192-unit project on 109 acres in the Hiller-Willow roads area.

Clusters are usually attached or detached condominiums. Open areas outside of the home themselves are jointly owned by all residents of the cluster.

Township Trustees Tom Law and Dennis Valsts have objected recently to what they believe are too generous allowances given to developers for land they could not build on anyway. "Many citizens don't fully understand the cluster option simply gives more flexibility," Reynolds said. "We feel there are abuses. The cluster option is being used as a guise to

overshadow multiple zoning," said Eby. He plans to mail every subdivision president two petitions hoping to get at least 2,000 petition signatures. The petition calls for removal of Section 1503 from zoning ordinance 55, which calls for "providing alternatives to the single-family residential development of subdivisions."

THE CLUSTER option can be applied where there are wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, unusual topography or other natural assets which should be preserved. Other conditions allowing the cluster option are slopes that would make a site undevelopable under normal approaches, a need for mass grading, a flood plain or poor soil conditions. The purpose of clusters, Reynolds said, is not to increase density. Up to 25 percent of the area may be included in acreage for density computation. But a body of water must be entirely within the site for it to count, Reynolds said.

Eby says on a former Frankel proposal schedule for a public hearing April 22, some of the sites could be cluster, "but not all. There's a deer herd there." Frankel is asking cluster qualification for 96 acres south of Pontiac Trail, west of Orchard Lake Road between Morris Lake and the Grand Truck Railroad.

Another parcel bothering Eby is a 51-acre cluster on Middlebelt between Lone Pine and Walnut Lake roads requested by developer Alfred Macksey.

# Critic of Walled Lake school board found dead

Arthur Stokus, an outspoken critic of the Walled Lake School Board, was found dead by friends in his Walled Lake apartment last Monday.

Police were still investigating the incident last week. A spokesman for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's office said results of an autopsy to determine the cause of death would be available sometime early this week.

Stokus' outspoken criticism of the Walled Lake Board and administration prompted ill feelings from some individuals who charged Stokus with being partly responsible for the three millage defeats suffered by the district last year.

Stokus reportedly had been distributing flyers urging people to attend a special school board meeting on the afternoon before his death.

He is survived by his parents, Melvin and Viola, of Gladwin; and two brothers, Melvin and Lawrence.

The body was found at approximately 9:30 a.m. by a friend, also a teacher, who became concerned when Stokus neither showed up for school nor called in sick.

According to police reports, Stokus was seated in a chair watching television at the time of his death. A plastic bag was found over his face, police said, and the television was still on.

Police said no indications of foul play or violence were discovered in the apartment. His wallet and money had not been touched.

Stokus, 32, attended Walled Lake schools, graduating in 1966. He received a degree from Eastern Michigan University and returned to the district as a teacher in 1970.

He was active in the Walled Lake Education Association and was a member of the Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church.



CHARLES GUNDERSON

# Hills man appointed Chrysler planner

Charles Gunderson, of Farmington Hills, has been appointed director of product planning for Chrysler Corp. He is responsible for car line and truck product planning, power train and corporate components and long-range car planning and strategy. He joined Chrysler in 1956 as a

Chrysler Institute student. He served as a styling planning coordinator, studio engineer, product cost analyst and senior product planning analyst. In addition to his master's degree from Chrysler Institute, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

# Parents want music

(Continued from Page 1A) schools a day," Levinson said. "EVEN IF the teacher starts out fresh in September, the potential for burnout is there. This doesn't make for a quality music program." "We tend to lose the most talented children. They become impatient, disgusted or disappointed." One instrumental music teaching position will be eliminated next year at the elementary level. The position is being dissolved because of the moving of sixth grade from elementary to middle schools, the closing of another elementary school in June, and declining enrollment, according to Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent of instruction. "When a position is eliminated, teacher moves become involuntary

transfers. Sometimes it becomes a situation of survival," Freedman said. "But the teachers move to positions they are certified to teach. Their training is all the same." Each elementary school will have two classes in string instruments and two in wind instruments in September, and instrumental music will be offered to 4th graders for the first time, Freedman said. Middle schools will offer beginners, intermediate and advanced study classes in music. Freedman admits to a decline in the number of high schools students involved in the music program. "It's happening in other districts as well," he said. "A lot of it has to do with the number of options available. Kids have an awful lot to choose from," he said.

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