Court rejects residents' bid to stop Park LaSalle

Franklin Village has lost another round of a six-year battle to block the \$125 million Park LaSalle development

in Southfield.

Michigan Court of Appeals last week rejected a request to reconsider a law-suit brought by the village and Southfield resident Lilyan Victor last spring against Southfield and its zoning board

field resident Lilyan Victor last spring against Southleld and its zoning board of appeals.

The court action paves the way for the controversial high-rise complex.

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The court Judge William Beer's ruling that the village and Miss Victor have no standing to take legal action against the proposed 50-acre development in the 12 Miller-legraph-Northwestern Highway 'Sliver Triangle," about one-half mile south of Franklin.

Franklin Village and Mrs. Victor, re, about one-nair mine south of the citizens.

C. William Garratt, attorney for the Franklin Village and Mrs. Victor, citizens' group, said the disposition of

who lives across from the Park LaSalle site, aren't aggrieved parties and haven't suffered special damages, according to the appeals court. The complainants falled to adequately prove economic and estitel loss because of the project, the court ruled.

Fred Doner, head of Concerned Citizens of Franklin, claims the appeal court's action is just a "minor motion." A second lawsuit — filed by the citizens group and other complainants against Park LaSalle developer S. B. McLaughlin Associates inc. of Canada — is still pending in Oakland County.

"WE'RE DISAPPOINTED about the suit lost in Lansing," Doner said. "But that's not the major thrust of the action against the developer. That lawsuit is still in court and we're optimistic about the outcome."

the case by the appeals court has no affect on the pending lawrult.

"Our suit involves different people, different theories, different avenues of relief and different defendants (S.B.McLaughlin)," Garratt said.
This legal action was filed in Judge Bugene Schneix's Oakland County Circuit Court last February by Concerned Citizens of Franklin (Franklin Village). Townhouse Condominium Association, in Armington Hills and East Michigan Environmental Action Council
The lawsuit claims the proposed

Environmental Action Council
The lawsuit claims the proposed
high-rise project "at Franklin's front
door" would turn 50 acres of land rich
in natural resources into an area like
Northland Shopping Center and is in violation of the Michigan Environmental
Protection Act.

MCLAUGHLIN was allowed by the

court to proceed with construction of a nine-story office building and a 12-story condominium on the site. However, Larry Griffits, attorney for the developer, said construction has been held up by the lawsuit.

"The foundation of the condo is in but the nine-story office building hasn't been started," Griffits said. "This is an expensive project and as a practical matter if the judge rules against us, he could order the buildings to be forn down.

"While the lawsuit is pending, the developer is hard pressed to get a construction loan. We're antious to get this

"While the lawsuit is pending, the developer is hard pressed to get a construction ioan. We're annious to get this litigation resolved. The longer it goes in, the more money it costs my client, not to mention the aggravation. Because the Environmental Protection Act is vague, Griffis said, it's difficult to prove what constitutes violation of the statute. He also refuted Garrait's claim that McLaughlin is obligated to

statement on the project.

The developer submitted a community impact statement as required by the city of Southfield, Griffis said. An environmental impact statement is only required when federal funding is involved, he said.

involved, he said.

As planned, the project would take
10 to 12 years to complete, according
to Billy Turner, vice president of
McLaughlin in the Southfield area.
Development plans include one 25story apartment building, four 20-story
apartment structures, the 12-story condominium and nine-story office build-

ing, a four-story note; heath cino com-plex and a one-story recreation build-ing.

Parking is proposed for nearly 4,000
cars. The buildings would house 3,000
residents and about 500 employees,
Turner said.

Garratt claims McLaughlin is planring to medity the site plan. Criffic.

Garratt claims McLaugain is pian-ning to modify the site plan Criffis, however, said the site plan can't be changed without going through the whole planning and zoning procedure again. The developer has no intention of doing this, he maintained. Griffis said he hopes court hearings on the acas mill sesume in December.

Hospice movement conference planned

A Conference on the hospice move-ment will take place Thursday, Dec. 4, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Mercy Col-lege of Detroit. Jory Graham

lege of Detroit.

Jory Graham, syndicated columnist, will speak on "What Patients and Families Need" in a session on terminal ill-

ness.

Josefina B. Magno, M.D., executive director of the National Hospice Organization, will give an overview of the movement.

movement. Conference workshops will consider various aspects of hospice care, including the role of doctors, nurses, social workers, clergy and volunteers. Other sessions will focus on "Children and Death" and "Special Needs of the Elderly"

erly."
"The purpose of this conference is to provide health-care professionals with the information necessary to support individuals and families who choose the hospice at the time of an approaching

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death," said Dr. Joan Karr, director of Continuing Education at Mercy College.

Continuing Education at Mercy College.

He office is co-spansoring the conference with Heppter of Southeastern Leading the College of Southeastern Michaelman, will describe her newly opened facility in Southfield.

The hospice is both a place and a program enabling iil persons to live effectively when curative treatment is no longer possible and when heroic measures to prolong life are not appropriate or desired, said Mrs. McCutston.

The \$40 conference fee includes lunch and breakfast; a reduced fee of \$15 applies to full-time students and senior citizens. Further intermediate of Continuing Education at Mercy College, \$52-8104

The public is invited to attend an in-

formation session on the hospice move-ment Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m. at Magno and Mrs. McCuistion.

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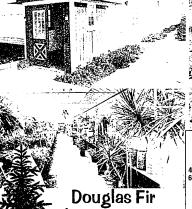
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