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Twenty-Five Cents

Oak Hills calls it quits on plans for expansion

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

After months of planning in the face of strong opposition from nearby residents, Oak Hill Nursing Home officials have voluntarily dropped expansion plans for the 137-bed facility on the northern edge of Farmington.

In a letter to city planning commissioners, Dr. Edwin Blumberg, Oak Hill's owner, withdrew his request for a special exception use allowing the expansion in a residential area.

"They (Oak Hill's board of directors) indicated they withdrew their request for several reasons," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

In withdrawing his request, Blumberg said that the planned expansion is "no longer financially viable," and that he was uncertain whether the state Department of Public Health would issue a certificate of need allowing the addition of 40 new beds in the nursing home.

Concern over public opposition to the proposed expansion was also listed as a reason for dropping plans.

Blumberg, who owns several Detroit-area nursing homes, said through a personal spokeswoman that besides the letter he sent to planning commissioners and his attendance at a commission meeting earlier this week, he had no other comments.

LAST DECEMBER, city officials said Blumberg wanted to buy six nearby lots for an addition to the nursing home and two new parking lots.

Foremost in Blumberg's plans was the possible addition of 40 beds.

But because most of the nursing home's patients are on Medicare or Medicaid, the money the state would reimburse Oak Hill for each of the additional beds "was insufficient to work out financially," Deadman said.

"Apparently the state would allow only so much money spent on each bed," he added.

Although attempts were made to verify the situation with state health officials, no one in the agency seemed

to know any details about the nursing home's expansion plans.

Other changes in the nursing home, on the south side of Grand River, between Fleet and Gill road, included bringing the facility into compliance with the state health code which was revised in 1978.

Those changes would include enlarging the kitchen capacity, building administrative offices, employee lounges, storage rooms, recreation areas and therapeutic rooms.

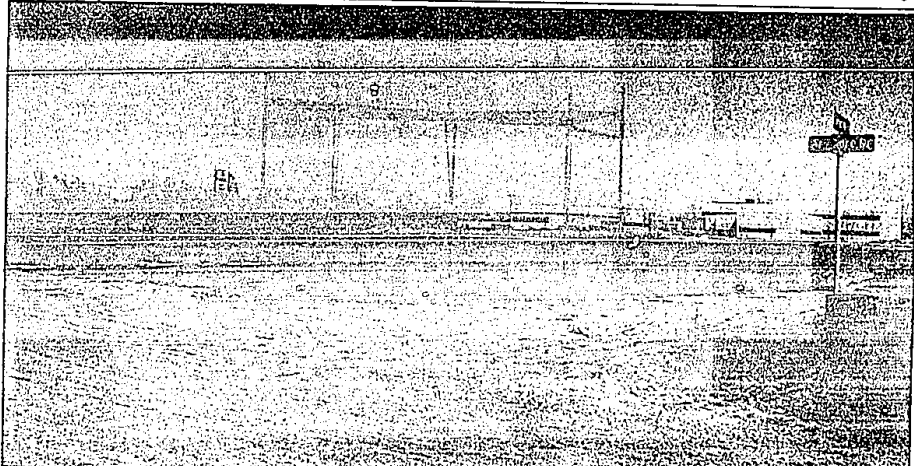
Although Blumberg has canceled his expansion plans, Deadman said that the local physician will still attempt to

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington resident Waino Anderson is happy, yet cautious, that plans for an expanded Oak Hill Nursing Home have been nixed.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

When developers complete their plans for a three-building office complex, highlighted by a renovated Bond Elementary School,

those two ball diamonds will be moved from 13 Mile and Ardmore north to abut the Oakland subdivision.

Ball diamonds will be moved

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Two baseball diamonds near Bond Elementary School will be saved despite plans to build two new buildings near the school to form a three-building office park on 13 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

When developer Ronald Hughes purchased from the school district in 1980 the old school and surrounding property abutting the Oakland subdivision, he agreed to eventually donate the two Little League ball fields to the city's recreation department.

Before Hughes donates the ball fields in the fall, when construction begins on the two proposed buildings, the developer and building partner Bob Katzman plan to relocate the fields a bit north of the existing location.

"We'll move them north, totally renovate them and then donate them to the city," Hughes said.

The ball fields, at 13 Mile and Ardmore, will serve as a buffer between the proposed office park and Oakland subdivision which sits on the north and

west side of the Bond Elementary property, said Douglas Gaynor, Farmington Hills director of special services.

HUGHES AND Katzman are trying to obtain a 16-foot variance to make room on the existing property for the ball fields and parking.

According to city zoning ordinances, the developers must have a 25-foot setback off of 13 Mile Road for the planned parking area for the two new buildings. But with a 25-foot setback, "the land allocated for the ball fields is very tight," Hughes said.

When the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) met last week, they adjourned the request for a variance until the May 1 meeting when an Oakland resident complained about drainage problems in the area.

Meanwhile, Hughes and Katzman will present their site plans before the planning commission tonight at 7:30. The site plan will include the required 25-foot setback.

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Clarenceville candidates file for board election

By Teri Danas
staff writer

The race is on in the Clarenceville School District as five candidates filed petitions by Monday's deadline for the June 11 school board election.

Incumbents Richard J. Wood and Michael Manore face challengers Daniel S. Bibik and George T. Roberts for two four-year posts. A one-year board seat drew one candidate, Linda M. Ahnert, who is virtually assured election short of a strong write-in campaign.

The Clarenceville district includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

Manore, this year's board president, is seeking his second term on the board. He is employed as a city planner by Wade-Tim Consultants. Manore has three children, two attend the junior high and one is a special education student in the Farmington Schools. He headed the Botsford PTO, Softball

League for three years. His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in geography and master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State. He lives on Gillman Street in Livonia.

Richard Wood is seeking re-election after 20 years on the school board. He is employed as an engineer for the Ford Motor Co. Three of his children are Clarenceville graduates and the youngest attends the junior high. Wood is a member of the Clarenceville Band Parents and Friends Club. He lives on Maplewood in Livonia.

Bibik of Livonia is employed as a refrigeration technician for A.C. Couits, Wilson. He has two children in the district. One attends Botsford Elementary and the other Clarenceville High. Bibik received his high school diploma from Clarenceville High in 1981 but received a G.E.D. certificate while he was in the service in 1958. It's his first bid for office though he was considered last year to fill the unexpired term of retired

trustee Lee McDowell. Bibik is treasurer of the Clarenceville Band, Parent and Friends Club. He lives on Brentwood in Livonia.

George T. Roberts, a resident of Ontario Street in Farmington Hills, is seeking his first bid for a school board seat. The only non-Livonia candidate in the race, he is also a member of Farmington Hills' zoning board of appeals.

He worked as a construction electrician until eight years ago when he retired because of a disability. He has no children currently in the system but three attended Clarenceville Schools. He is active with senior citizen concerns. His memberships include a professional planning officials group and the Moose and D.A.V. organizations. He was considered last year to fill Lee McDowell's post.

Ahnert, a high school graduate, has been active in the district's Parent Teachers Organization for 13 years. This year, she serves as publicity chairman. She has been an active volunteer at the Botsford preschool program as a room mother. This is her second bid for a seat on the Clarenceville School Board. She ran in 1982 and also was considered last year to fill the

unexpired term of Lee McDowell. She has four children. Two attend the high school, one attends the junior high, and the youngest is in elementary school. Ahnert lives on Gillman Street in Livonia.

Appointed incumbent Norm Hunt decided against running.

The deadline for withdrawing is 4 p.m. Thursday.

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District eyes millage increase

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

At its regular meeting Tuesday night, Farmington Board of Education members announced a proposed millage increase of 1.2 mills for the 1984-85 school year.

School board members scheduled a public hearing for 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, to hear taxpayers' comments on the proposed millage and the 1984-85 budget.

If trustees approve the proposed millage increase, it will raise \$1.36 million for the schools.

"We are raising what has already been authorized by the voters. The millage has been reducing since the 1978-79 school year when it was at a high-water mark of 39.66 mills," district Superintendent Lewis Schulman said. Schools are levying 33.7 mills and operating on a \$44 million budget.

Board treasurer Richard Wallace warned of an increased deficit if the board waited much longer to take action.

"Financially we are three-quarters through the 1984 school year and our

oral quarrel

How do you feel about festival date change?

Last week the Founders' Festival Committee announced that it was changing the date of the summer annual event and moving it up by one week. It also announced that it was going to restrict downtown concessions to local groups.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: How do you feel about the festival

committee changing the date of the event and restricting the downtown concessions to local groups?

To reply to this question, call 477-5458. You will have until 1 p.m. on Friday to answer. Look in Monday's edition to see how your neighbors feel about this issue.

Woman injured in kitchen fire

Careless cooking is listed by Farmington Hills fire officials as the cause of a house fire that occurred just before 4 p.m. April 6.

Kitchen cabinets in the home of Mary Buckthorpe, 27609 Dorcen, caught fire after the 52-year-old woman apparently left a hot stove unattended, said Lt. Richard Marinucci. The woman suffered minor smoke inhalation, according to Marinucci.

Fire officials estimated approximately \$10,000 worth of damage was caused to a kitchen wall and ceiling, including smoke damage throughout the house. Another \$4,000 of damage was caused to the contents of Buck-

thorpe's house, fire officials estimated.

The fire, which was extinguished within three to five minutes, was discovered by Farmington Hills police officer Tim Conner who helped Buckthorpe out of her burning house, Marinucci said.

Although Buckthorpe has a smoke detector in her kitchen, located somewhere close to the stove, it apparently melted before it activated, Marinucci said. Fire officials are cautioning residents to avoid placing smoke detectors in kitchens, particularly near stoves or ovens.

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