

Council awash with flooding concerns

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A proposed development for 25 new homes on 13.5 acres has Farmington Hills Council members worried about potential flooding.

Council unanimously approved the preliminary plat for Pinebrook Estates subdivision on the north side of 10 Mile and east of Orchard Lake, but with the stipulation the city planners and developers work further on detention and water flow issues.

The proposed development would be wedged between The Hamlet and Springbrook subdivisions. Hills Planning Commission still has to approve formal site plans before construction would start.

"I've been taking a stronger notice of detention ponds... it seems like we're building our ponds close to a 100-year rain fall," Councilman Terry Sever said. "... We're getting more than a 100-year rainfalls."

"What happens is the over-

flow happens on someone else's property," Sever said.

Sever suggested the developer move two houses to the south to help with water retention. That would radically affect the site plan, though.

Sever's concern was shared by at least one resident of a neighboring subdivision.

"I have no problem with yard or basement water and I want that on the record," said Marty Heinemann who lives on Westmoreland in Springbrook subdivision. "So, when and if I have problems I'll be able to say, I told you so."

"With such a narrow distance (the properties), where is the water going to go?"

The development meets all the requirements, the developer said. Steven Schafer of Phoenix Land Development has met with residents in Springbrook and Hamlet subdivisions.

As far as the retention, "We exceed your (detention) requirement by 30 percent. I

think we're pretty much covered," Schafer said.

Some residents are supporting the project, including an existing homeowner who will be part of Pinebrook Estates.

William Schulkins has lived at the site for 77 years. He'll be able to connect to gas and water lines provided with the development.

He's lived with well water, septic tanks and propane gas for that entire time. He's selling a half-acre of his property to Phoenix Land Development while his family is selling six acres to the proponent.

Schulkins will be able to get hooked up to public utilities and receive a new road under the proposal. He has a private road to his property, where he was born.

"I can't understand why you give them such a hard time on this development," Schulkins said to council. "We've been here years and years and probably don't have much time to live... I'd like to get something out of the property."

Enberg elected president of Farmington school board

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A new era for the Farmington school board began Tuesday night, as Linda Enberg took over as president and Frank Reid was sworn in as the newest trustee.

Enberg, elected to the board in 1995, assumes the top post last held by David York, who chose not to run in the June election. Reid is a veteran parent volunteer with background in finance and technology.

Both sounded eager to get going with their new duties.

"Being vice president last year was nice training," said Enberg, who has two sons who graduated from Farmington High School. "I appreciate the vote of confidence. I will try to facilitate communication with the public, and between board members and staff."

Enberg, also active with Farmington Families in Action, was unanimously elected president during the 1997-98 organizational meeting that preceded Tuesday's regular board agenda. Other new officers are as follows:

vice president, Cathy Webb; secretary, Patricia Brumlette; treasurer, Joseph Sroka.

Effective communication is viewed by Enberg as critical if the proposed two-question bond issue totalling \$93.1 million is to be approved.

"First and foremost," said Enberg, listing top board goals for 1997-98, "is the bond election that's coming up very quickly. It's very important for us to get information to the voters on that."

She said a series of four mailings per household is expected to begin in early August. The bond issue date, "pending state approval, is Sept. 16."

Meeting on bond date

On Tuesday, board members amended the bond proposal, reducing it by \$1.9 million. The state treasury department must OK the change, which is considered routine. If the go-ahead is received as expected, the bond election date will be officially called at a special board meeting 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 29.

That reduction to the bond

was made possible, said Superintendent Bob Maxfield earlier, when the district only needed to use \$1.1 million of \$3 million set aside in the general budget to handle resolution of a county-wide dispute. That flap was over the distribution of special education center program funds.

Later in the year, Enberg and the board will begin delving into the matter of contract negotiations with unions for teachers and other employee groups. Contracts for the groups will expire at the conclusion of the '97-98 school year.

According to board newcomer Reid, he is "very honored to be serving at this time, when this district is very much on the threshold of moving up to the next level of excellence. We have all the ingredients present to make that happen."

He said his first meeting went about as smoothly as possible.

"One of the hallmarks of a good board meeting is that there are no surprises," said Reid, information systems manager with Johnson Controls Automotive Systems Group in Plymouth. "I received my board packet in sufficient time and was able to follow along and participate."

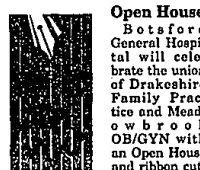
Reid was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting by 47th District Judge Maria Parker. Trustee Bobbie Feldman also was sworn in, for the start of her second term.

Reid's commitment to improving education in the district goes back more than a decade. He worked on parent volunteer groups and committees, including a "blue-ribbon" panel that made recommendations for the defeated \$110 million March bond issue proposal.

"Frank will be an excellent addition to the board," said Maxfield. "He's a real natural choice."

Maxfield also likes the choice of Enberg as president. "She does her homework and sees the big picture."

Edison workers plug for charity



Open House

Botsford General Hospital will celebrate the union of Drakeshire Family Practice and Meadowbrook OB/GYN with an Open House and ribbon cutting ceremony starting at 10

a.m., Saturday, August 2. The event will also include tours, health care activities and refreshments.

Edison Employees Help Local Charity

Over 50 volunteers from Detroit Edison gave their time and talent to help clean the grounds and coordinate a field day for the children at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center on July 23.

Volunteers painted the Center's historic red caboose, washed agency windows, cleaned vehicles and the Center grounds. The children were also treated to a day of games, team sports and lunch served by the Edison volunteers.

New Director of Mercy Health Plans

Deborah L. Scott has been named director of Medicaid programs and community affairs for Mercy Health Plans, a managed care subsidiary of Mercy Health Services.

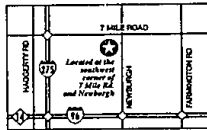
She will be responsible for the operations, projects, and state compliance for Medicaid programs in Michigan and Iowa, as well as community affairs.

Scott comes to Mercy from D.L. Whiting and Associates, where she was a health care consultant for Mercy Health Plan's Care Choices, Mercy Hospital in Detroit.

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