

Fence from page A1

game days to prevent kicked field goals and extra points from sailing onto Power, near one end of the football field.

Hurley said Our Lady of Sorrows hopes to have the \$65,000-\$70,000 fence up next spring, paying for the project out of its general fund.

"We were able to provide a better explanation to council about what we wanted to do and why we wanted to do it," Hurley said. "When it was presented in October, maybe what seemed as obvious to us didn't seem obvious to

those who are not here on a day-to-day basis."

Several city officials and residents concurred with the monsignor.

"I think they did a good job bringing back a landscaping plan that really softened the area," said city council member Jim Mitchell, who attends Our Lady of Sorrows.

Mitchell said it was more evident during Monday's presentation that a fence was needed for safety reasons.

One reason: Our Lady of Sorrows is projecting an enrollment increase from 850 to 1,100 in the next couple years. Another is that construction of a family activities center and additional parking will require the campus' athletic fields to be crammed into an area more than one-third smaller.

"The 38 percent shrinkage of the fields is significant," he added. "That was a very important issue they were able to present tonight."

Our Lady of Sorrows member Doug Burley, asked about the

approval as he was leaving city hall, was pleased with the result. "It will enhance the property and the main goal was to keep the children safe while they play."

Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff, following the meeting, credited the turnaround to how Our Lady of Sorrows and the architectural firm "heard what the people said (on Oct. 20) and incorporated those things."

"They added quite a bit more trees and shrubbery. They added the gates. There was more consideration to how the thing

looked to the residents living around there."

Also promoting communication and understanding of the issue was the fact that both Giffels, Hoyem, Basco Inc. and the city sent out letters to residents living near Our Lady of Sorrows during the weeks following the Oct. 20 meeting.

On Monday, the only audience member who spoke on the issue was Carol MacLennan, who does lunch duty at Our Lady of Sorrows.

"There is a need for the fence," said MacLennan to the council, "because our older kids play in

that entire area and they do go out into the street. A fence would stop them."

She said a fence would be preferable to the option of putting up a virtual wall of landscaping, which was earlier suggested. "If you do the shrubs, they'd be hiding in them."

There still will be plenty of trees and shrubs, but only for aesthetic purposes.

"This is going to make a very attractive presentation for the school and parish," Mitchell said. "They'll be proud of it and the community will be a beneficiary."

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