

# Residents support golf course expansion plans

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Several of the neighbors on hand for the San Marino Public Golf Course's 11 Pines project unveiling Thursday said they liked what they saw.

"I wanted to see if they were going to take all the trees down," said Pat Cravens of Saratoga Farms, adding she was pleased the developer planned to keep trees as buffers and in other

spots.

"I wanted to see the layout of the golf course," said Pat's husband, William, adding the proposed layout seemed fine. Pat Cravens added that while she first heard that a bridge would connect the San Marino golf course with the 11 Pines parcel to the southwest, she was pleased to hear that a tunnel was now planned.

Citizens were not scheduled to make comments at the project

## A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SAN MARINO PROJECT WILL BE HELD DEC. 3, AT FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL.

presentation before Farmington Hills planning commissioners. Some reacted to the plan in the council chambers during a break, and in the City Hall lobby.

"I like it because there's no buildings directly behind me and they're going to leave some of the trees," said Tina Lemming, also of Saratoga Farms.

Harold Lundquist of the Old Homestead subdivision watched much of the presentation with

wife, Elizabeth.

"Originally the condos were over on Halsted Road," he said, responding to the new plan to build a new No. 10 hole along Halsted with condos flanking it on the east.

"Along the road would make more sense," he said.

"They're certainly trying a lot harder to please the residents," he said.

Elizabeth Lundquist added, "I'm pleased with the way it's turned out."

"It sounds very nice to me. I'm

kind of anxious for them to get started," said Marilyn Francis of Saratoga Farms.

"I'm glad they're keeping the area with the trees by the clubhouse. We use that road all the time," added Irene Kowalkowski, also of Saratoga Farms.

The public is invited to ask questions and make comments on the project at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Farmington Hills City Hall.

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## San Marino from page A1

landfill underneath. City Manager Steve Brock said the state Department of Environmental Quality has guidelines for such work.

Bruckner asked Brock if he was comfortable having city employees work 20-30 years in a facility set on a landfill, and if he would be comfortable working there himself. "Yes," the city manager said.

Hayes asked golf course architect Don Childs questions about the 70-foot net to surround the driving range, planned for the center of the 11 Pines portion of the project, at the southwest corner of Halsted and Eleven Mile.

Childs said the net would be black, and attached to cables running from the top and bottom of poles to protect golfers on surrounding holes from stray balls. "A practice and a teaching element is very important. There will be trees planted alongside the netting," he said.

Commissioner Paul Blizman quipped that if netting were placed along each hole "maybe I could take up golf."

An earth cap is planned for

the former landfill portion of the 11 Pines of the project.

"We've done significant testing. The good news is everything that is in this landfill is staying in the landfill," Brock said, except for magnesium which is migrating but does not pose a health threat, by state standards.

### Trees buffer

While most trees are to be removed, Brock and Childs said many would remain to serve as buffers. "There are some nice hardwood stands we are not touching," Childs said. "Many of the trees along the (11 Pines) perimeter will be saved."

Earlier plans to include offices as part of the development have been scrapped, to help create enough room for the 8,400-yard par-71 course. Childs said the course would be challenging for good golfers and accessible for beginners.

Architect Dan Miron showed drawings of a rustic clubhouse with stone hand accents and roof overhangs to create a mountain lodge feel. The 120-seat restaur-

ant and pro shop will be open year round, just west of the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Halsted.

Commissioner Glen Fleischacker asked about screening headlights entering and leaving the clubhouse parking lot. Miron said pine trees and foliage would provide some screening.

"We can augment that with some additional planting," he added.

Brock said ponds and wetland areas along the perimeter of the 11 Pines portion would remain, and a retention pond would be added at the northwest corner of that parcel. Bike paths are to circle the 11 Pines portion.

Ludwig said the 80 condo units are housed in 40 duplex buildings. The ranch and 1.5 story units range from 1,800 to 2,100 square feet with brick and stone accents. Fleischacker suggested a cul-de-sac for the south end of the condo complex private drive, so drivers would use driveways for turning around.

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