

Baldwin site, senior housing bids due today

By ALICE COLLINS

new development proposals for the Baldwin property - the downtown Birmingham site designated for senior citizen housing - will be opened at 5 p.m. at city hall.

The proposals or concepts may or may not be for senior housing, according to a solicitation letter the city commission distributed to prospective developers.

The letter called for any and all proposals within the current multiple family residential zoning, with plans for senior housing of particular interest.

Two bids had been received in the city manager's office by Friday afternoon, according to Steve Schwartz, options auditor and coordinator for the city. Schwartz added that several telephone calls had come in indicating other proposals would be delivered before the Monday deadline.

One of the proposals that will be needed today will be for a senior

housing-commercial-public use building designed by John Suh of the Lawrence Institute of Technology's school of architecture, it was learned last week.

Accompanying Suh's proposal will be a letter from PRIDE/People Rallying in Defense of Equality, a lobby for subsidized senior housing in Birmingham.

PRIDE's letter will indicate that PRIDE finds Suh's proposal worthy of study and consideration, according to spokesman James Lafferty. "It also calls on the commission to consider other senior housing proposals."

Since the city commission announced it would consider other than senior housing proposals for the site, PRIDE, the Birmingham-Bloomfield League of Women Voters and several ministers in the Birmingham area have asked the commission to consider only senior housing proposals.

The 1.5-acre southern half of the

Baldwin site on the northwest corner of Chester and Merrill was designated for senior housing by a public vote in 1976. Any other use of the property would have to be approved by voters.

The northern half of the Baldwin property is designated for parking in an agreement with Jacobson's.

MAYOR BERT Jackson said Friday that commissioners would need time to review the proposals before deciding how to proceed.

On matters such as this, the commission usually asks the city administration to make an evaluation.

When the city considered senior housing proposals for the site in 1975, bidders were invited to make presentations before the commission.

Suh's development proposal is expected to include some subsidized senior housing, public uses such as a post

office and library extension, and shops, parking and other services.

BIRMINGHAM has been involved in a several-year dispute over senior housing.

In March of 1976 the city commission authorized negotiations with Baldwin House Corp. to design, build and manage a senior citizen development on the Baldwin site. In April of 1978, voters defeated two proposals on housing. One called for the non-profit Baldwin House Corp to build the housing with state financing and rent subsidies through the federal government (HUD). The second ballot proposal was for a bond issue with taxpayers paying the bill.

In April of this year, voters rejected a \$4.5 million bond issue that would have paid for a city-owned 136-unit structure.

The U.S. Department of Justice is currently investigating Birmingham for possible civil rights violation in

connection with the senior housing struggle and the elections associated with it.

Sheldon named Realtor of Year

Gerald Sheldon, a Southfield real estate broker, was named Realtor of the Year by the South Oakland County Board of Realtors.

Sheldon is a residential real estate consultant with offices on Southfield Road in Lathrup Village. He started in the real estate business 21 years ago in the Southfield area. Sheldon lives in Royal Oak with his wife Catherine.

Ronald Schebor, president of the county board, announced the award. Sheldon was honored at an annual banquet of the Michigan Association of Realtors at the Detroit Plaza in the Renaissance Center.

Maurice Richards, executive officer of the board, gave a number of reasons for the selection of Sheldon for the award.

Sheldon was president of the board in 1978 and is active in state and local real estate affairs. He serves on the board of directors and is chairman of two committees, equal opportunity in housing and bylaws.

Sheldon has been instrumental in obtaining the board's acceptance of the HUD-National Association of Realtors Affirmative Marketing Agreement, Richards said.

Artist's co-op stars local talent

The city of Southfield, in conjunction with the Southfield Artist's Co-op, will host an art show from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 16 at the Arts and Recreation Building in the Civic Center.

Paintings in oil, watercolors and silk screens will be on display along with drawings, ceramic sculptures and weaving. These works may be purchased.

Some of the artists represented include: Maureen Jannot who will show ceramic sculpture and organic forms; Bob

Coleman who will display metal sculptures; Roz Levitt whose specialties include oil paintings and pencil drawing; and her husband Leonard Levitt who will bring weavings from natural fibers.

Sue Young will show her ceramics and sculpture and Henry Caroselli

will show water colors.

Gail Kaplan will display water colors of sports personalities and places as well as Jewish ceremonial sculptures and Cheryl Safren will show her paintings.

For more information call Marlowe Belanger at 354-4717.

Theater group in showcase

Albion Productions, Inc., of Southfield is one of the companies from the United States and Canada selected to perform at the National Showcase of Performing Arts.

"Showcase '80," aimed for young people, is scheduled for March 21 and 22, 1980, at the Civic Center in Syracuse, N.Y. Albion Productions will present a new musical drama, "A Place to Be Me," by Kay Britten, to nearly 400 sponsors of young people's series from cities across the country.

"Showcase '80" is a program of the professional

Children's Theater Presenters and Producers of the Children's Theater Association of America, a division of the American Theater Association.

The first National Showcase was held in March 1979 at the National College of Education in Evanston, Ill.

More than 50 companies applied to be in this national event for children's programming. The showcase committee is comprised of nine producers and presenters of children's programs.

For more information, call Kay Britten or Sally Sanfield at 354-1128.



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