

Ordinance expected to hamper building

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The type, quality and "proportion" of materials used in the exterior facade must be somewhat similar to nearby homes.

The architectural character of the new house must be somewhat similar to the character of nearby homes, exclusive of the number of stories and/or floor levels.

The new home's facade, as seen from the street, is not identical to the facades of adjacent homes.

Morticians discuss death

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However, the funeral home, by law, has to make the arrangements whenever there is a death and whatever means of disposing the body is chosen.

A cremation costs approximately \$800, according to Rock.

The cremation is done in a large furnace with temperatures from 1,800 to 2,000 degrees. The body is incinerated to ash, except for bone marrow, which is pulverized.

An urn, in which to place the ashes, can be purchased at anywhere from \$20 to \$250, Rock said. The urn isn't mandatory and usually isn't used if the remains are to be buried.

THE INCREASE in cremations is a reflection of larger population numbers, and thus, more deaths, McCabe said.

The death rate is related to the economy, he said. More people die when the economy is good. When the economy is bad the death rate decreases, he said.

"The last couple of years we've (the funeral business) gone through a slower time," McCabe said. "I can't say why that happens.

More than 50 percent of the deaths occur in the night. Many occur on weekends and during the winter and fall seasons, because it's "a psychologically down time," he said.

Holidays also are a time when a lot of people die, McCabe said. He attributes this to anxiety.

McCabe and Rock agree that "trying to sell the family" on options that would cost more isn't an accepted practice.

"Sometimes you're dealing with guilt (by the family members) and we (funeral directors) become the scapegoat in that someone has to be blamed for the traumatic loss, and look whose here," McCabe said. "But, we understand that because of our training."

"I'm trying to do as much as I can to ease the burden," Rock said.

will be stuck because potential home buyers cannot afford \$200,000-\$300,000 homes because of down payments and interest rates.

"But I don't actually know how bad this ordinance will be if the economy picks up," he said.

Under the ordinance, if a building permit is denied because the builder's plans do not comply with the new size and design standards, the builder may appeal the decision to the One Family Residential Review Board.

Although Winton thinks the appeal process won't adversely affect a builder's construction schedule, he believes "policing this ordinance will be a burden on the taxpayers of Farmington Hills."

Because the ordinance is new, Thomas Biaseili, the city's director of public services, reported to council this week that currently no additional staff is

needed to enforce the new policy.

But that decision is based, he said, on the request that builders will provide thorough information when applying for a building permit. That includes providing photographs of homes that are near the proposed new house.

How fast the building permit review process will take, Biaseili said, depends on what other work the building review official has.

"I really can't put a good finger on that because we don't have enough experience with this (the ordinance)," he said.

Biaseili indicated in a report to council that the cost of homes to the consumer may increase because of the time a builder must spend on getting his building permit approved.

Winton claims that is not necessarily true. The economy dictates the price of homes, Winton stressed.

Public access is eyed

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Even though 13 channels are available, the citizen public access committee will try to develop good programs on one channel at a time, Samuelian said. When the first channel is filled, work will begin on the second channel.

The citizen public access committee invited school officials in the three cit-

ies, including parochial schools, to the educational committee meeting. Church officials were invited to the religious committee meetings. However, anyone may attend the meetings.

Anybody who has a particular interest in programming should attend, Samuelian said. That's the only way an idea will become a good cable television program, she added.



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