

Downtown spotlighted

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The DDA concept was approved this month by Farmington City Council, and a public hearing on its formation is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. at city hall.

Farmington is "10 years behind" other cities, because the last beautification effort in the city occurred 10 years ago, Wazany noted. "Physical decline tends to creep up on you."

He told merchants and city officials show window lighting, window displays and pedestrian lighting was

inadequate and should be enhanced immediately. He also suggested highlighting entries into the central business district. The Beautification Task Force, a subcommittee of the DFDC, is already studying lighting options for downtown.

"Lighting is a powerful tool," Wazany said. "It's the most cost-effective way of caring for a downtown."

THERE IS adequate space for a small hotel, 80-100 rooms, and plans to build one in downtown Farmington.

tion should begin immediately, the consultants said. They suggest a national company willing to build an inn-style hotel that offers "800 reservation service."

Also suggested is the development of market rate office space, condominiums and apartments in the downtown.

"The inclusion of these functions, re-hab or new, will add significantly to the image and positioning of downtown Farmington as a regional destination," according to the consultant's report.

'It's the principle now'

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meet with Haines and the kennel owners to attempt to deal with her concern.

Haines said Tuesday she will suggest that the meeting take place in her apartment so Costick and the kennel owners can hear what she's talking about.

"I feel like I am losing my sanity over there," Haines told council Monday. "It seems like the dogs are out there all the time. I can't believe I am the only dissatisfied resident."

BUT A kennel employee said Tuesday Haines is the only apartment dweller who has complained about noise.

"It's not fair. We are a business. She (Haines) knew we were here before she moved in," said the employee, who preferred not to identify herself. "I don't know what to do about it. This is jeopardizing our right to perform our service."

"I can't leave these dogs in cages all day," the employee continued. "When there is more than one dog, they are going to bark."

The employee took exception to Haines' complaint that the dogs are barking at 7:30 a.m.

"The dogs are never let out before 8 a.m. Never. As a courtesy, we have never let them out before 8 a.m. On Sundays, we wait until 10 a.m."

At night, the dogs are back in their indoor cages by 7 p.m., the employee added.

When Haines decided to move into Cedarbrook last November, she said she was shown a model apartment in

stead of the one she was to occupy because the previous owners had not yet moved.

Haines acknowledged that she saw the dog kennel signs, but because she didn't see what was to become her apartment, the kennel didn't immediately concern her.

"I do have the closest unit to the dog kennel," Haines said. "I have almost eye-to-eye contact with the dogs when I am looking down from my third-floor apartment."

HAINES' APARTMENT is approximately 150 feet south of the kennel. A landscaped berm with large trees separates the apartment complex from the kennel.

After talking with Cedarbrook's manager, Haines said she has been told she may break her lease and receive her full security deposit.

"But I am still losing money," she said, referring to moving costs. "It's not financial compensation I'm looking for. It's peace of mind."

"I think I'll stick it out," she added. "It's the principle of the matter now, to use a cliché."

Haines takes exception to the city's zoning and planning. She contacted the city's planning and zoning department to find out why a residential area is next to a kennel.

Hal Rowe, zoning supervisor, told Haines nothing could be done about the kennel because it is a non-conforming use. That means the kennel was there long before the apartments, the city's incorporation and its ordinances.

"They can operate and continue to operate as they have done for years and we can't do anything about it," Rowe said Tuesday. "It was there before ordinances. It was grandfathered in. There are no zoning violations here."

BUT HAINES said she can't understand why the property was zoned residential without requiring improvements at the kennel. According to the kennel employee, the current owners inherited the licensed business.

On Jan. 4, Haines filed a police complaint against the kennel and its barking dogs. The kennel was ticketed and the owners will be appearing in court, the unidentified employee confirmed.

Haines said Tuesday she believes city officials want to schedule a meeting with her and the kennel owners to avoid going to court.

After filling a police complaint, Haines posted a flyer in her 12-unit apartment building to gather support.

Although only one other resident attended Monday's council meeting, Haines said other residents have complained, including the apartment manager.

Although Haines more than likely will stay in her apartment, she said she's resentful.

"I don't think they (city officials and owners of the apartment complex) respect apartment dwellers. If a person is a homeowner, they would have taken action sooner. That bothers me. That really does."

The apartment management could not be reached for comment.

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