

Judge's order prohibits use of homes on 9 Mile as models

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Manufactured housing builder Howard Keating has agreed not to use two completed houses on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills as sales models.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Norman Lippitt Wednesday granted Farmington Hills' request for a preliminary injunction to prevent Keating from using the houses as models for sales.

A show-house hearing had been scheduled for Wednesday, but the day before the hearing, Keating's attorney agreed that his client would not use the houses as models or advertise them as such, city attorney Paul Bibescu said.

Keating and spokesmen for Keating Community Homes of Bloomfield Hills have consistently denied using the houses as models. They have maintained that they are only trying to sell the individual houses that have been completed.

"The preliminary injunction stays in effect until further order of the court," Bibescu said. "If the preliminary injunction goes okay, it will turn into a permanent injunction."

We're going to monitor the situation."

The preliminary injunction is the latest in a series of events between Keating and the city. The injunction is the result of a lawsuit filed May 6 by the city against the builder. The city council previously gave the city attorney and staff authority to ensure that Keating's work sites are cleaned up and that he is conforming to city ordinances.

CITY OFFICIALS still want Keating to try to sell the two completed houses on the north side of Nine Mile, just east of Karen Place. One of the houses is occupied by a family

waiting for their nearby manufactured house to be completed.

City officials and residents don't want the two houses used as models. Using houses that are not in developing subdivisions as models for areas outside of the area where the completed house is located violates a city ordinance, according to the city's complaint.

Last December, the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals denied Keating's request to use the two Nine Mile houses as models. In the denial, the ZBA said that using the houses as models would be inconsistent with the spirit of the ordinance that prohibits commercial uses in residential zones.

The request also was denied because the houses as models don't promote or preserve the character of the residential district, according to the public hearing minutes.

The city is still withholding building permits from Keating, pending work-site cleanup that's satisfactory to city staff. Though progress has been made, debris still must be cleaned up and grading improved at some of the Keating sites north of the two Nine Mile houses, assistant city manager David Call said.

Common Campus principal named

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Highmeadow was a Farmington elementary school until it was closed and sold in 1981 to the Lutheran High School Association, which used it for Lutheran North-west High School. The district bought the building back in 1987 and has used it during the past year for community and adult education programs.

This fall, Highmeadow will house the alternative common campus program. Community education programs there will move to Shiloh Center, and officials are still seeking a new site for the Boys Republic alternative education program, currently at Shiloh.

Highmeadow is north of 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

COLLITON TOLD trustees Tuesday she is happy with the new post and is looking forward to building a new program from scratch.

"I've always seemed to be in the right place at the right time, with the right people," she said. "I've worked hard for it."

Colliton originally had ideas for the proposed new elementary school on the district's west side and was looking forward to working on it through her staff development position.

"I was developing some concepts," she said, "and all of a sudden this school came along. They were doing exactly what I was looking toward doing."

Colliton said she will focus on forming a school "culture" through specialized curriculum, teaching strategies and further staff development.

"I need people with a lot of talents," she added. "We're looking for super teachers."

COLLITON FEELS she has a special strength in working with parents and plans many activities to involve them in the Highmeadow project.

Assistant superintendent Mary Lou Ankele, who has worked closely in setting up the Highmeadow pilot, called Colliton "vibrant, enthusiastic, highly organized, knowledgeable, skilled and highly sensitive to the needs of the community."

Teen wins service award

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She doesn't regret spending her free time toiling over the house while others back home were tanning on the beach: "I always wanted to go."

BACK AT home, she's part of a team of five Farmington High students trained to be SADD peer counselors. She helps arrange for the team to visit fifth graders. After talking with younger students, she surmises that they're exposed more to alcohol than she was at that age.

"You walk into the fifth grade and there's a kid with a Spuds McKenzie T-shirt on," she said.

"A lot of them connect alcohol with violence," she added. "They think someone's going to hold a gun to their head or a knife to their throat and make them drink."

"There are kids who come home and aren't supervised, or maybe have an older brother or sister around, and they talk about going into their parent's liquor cabinet."

Although each member of her family grapples with a busy schedule, they make it a point to have dinner together. And they're supportive enough to understand that it's im-

portant to their daughter to be able to devote a lot of time to school activities this year.

"Most of the time, my parents let me cut something out, like going to my younger brother's baseball game. I spend more time at school than at home," she said.

IT'S A SCHEDULE that doesn't leave much time to read for pleasure, but it makes room for her to see friends. "Now that forensics is over, I have my Saturdays free again," Jensen said.

While it's common for high school seniors to select a lighter academic schedule for their last semester, Jensen is continuing with advanced placement English, physics and French in addition to writing for the school paper.

She sees it as a prelude to more serious academic work at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Planning on a career as a secondary teacher, she's considering focusing on English and communications.

As the semester and her high school career come to an end, Jensen and her friends are succumbing to senior nostalgia. "We've become sentimental. I've known lots of my

friends since sixth grade."

Looking back on her senior year, she notes only one regret. "I think I might have done a little bit more. I would have been on Student Council last year, too. And I would have worked harder."

"Maybe, I would have been active in a sport."

Power students win awards

Several advanced placement English students at Power Middle School in Farmington Hills have won a variety of awards this spring, according to teacher Martie Ports.

They include:

- Jason Zydrski, who won \$100 for the Lee Peel Historical Contest. He did videotapes in which he visited the Farmington Historical Museum, senior citizens, and various local historic landmarks.
- Matt Weston won \$25 for a written selection in the same contest.
- Allison Streit won \$50 for her

essay on "Allegiance to the Flag."

• Sarah Edder won first place in the "America and Me" Contest. She received a certificate and a plaque. Jean Cheng won second place and Jackie Cornwell won third place.

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