

Zoning battle may go to court

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"This apartment plan sends out the wrong message about the future of Southfield," said Don Robb, vice president of the Cumberland Condominium Association. "Don't let this be a city of renters."

The Farmington Hills City Council has long opposed the proposed rezoning of property along the 11 Mile-Inkster area, which is residential.

"We felt the hard density was something that wasn't desirable," city manager William Costick said. "We are concerned to see higher density extended along there. It would not have been in the best interest of the communities."

Two weeks ago, the Farmington Hills City Council issued a resolution opposing the proposed rezoning. "This rezoning would allow low-rise development, which contributes to further incompatibility with the character of the single family resi-

dential development in Farmington Hills," according to the resolution. From I-696 to Eight Mile in Farmington Hills, the Inkster corridor is residential, Costick said.

The Southfield school board stands to get \$2.5 million from Occidental Development for the 50-acre tract on the east side of Inkster Road south of 11 Mile if it's rezoned for a two-story, 557-unit apartment complex.

THE SCHOOL board earlier in the controversy pledged \$50,000 toward attorney fees if the rezoning was denied. The planning commission had twice rejected plans for the project. Robert Wright, school board president, said Tuesday the issue will probably proceed through legal channels. But it's up to the board to decide, he added.

Stephen Bromberg, an attorney representing Occidental and the school board, made no public men-

tion of a lawsuit. But he called the single-family zoning on the property "unconstitutional and confiscatory." Homeowners gave several reasons for their opposition.

Two-lane Inkster Road is inadequate to handle traffic from a 557-unit apartment project in the burgeoning northwest section of the city, homeowners said.

An apartment complex on the last remaining undeveloped stronghold in the area would overburden the existing sewer system on 11 Mile, according to residents. That system wasn't designed for an apartment on the site, according to city engineers.

BUT BROMBERG maintains the site is economically unfeasible for single-family residential development. City officials, however, say homes can be marketed and are a viable use for the property. Apartments would be out of character with the neighborhood, officials said.

The future land use plan pegs the land for schools and parks. Wright, who voted for the school's contribution for legal fees, said, "The city and schools shouldn't disagree over property. I'm not mad at the city council. They do what they have to do, and we do what we have to do. But we shouldn't point the finger at each other. There should be no sour grapes."

School district attorney Bert Shifman said the schools are obligated to dispose of the surplus property for the benefit of city taxpayers.

"This isn't a question of choice, but of necessity," he said. "Without good schools, Southfield can't attract young families. Hiring professionals to staff the schools requires increasing revenues. The need for money doesn't decrease with a declining enrollment."

Staff writer Joanne Malczewski contributed to this report

Holiday schedules Farmington post office

The U.S. Postal Service will operate on a holiday schedule Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.

Farmington postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery or lobby window services that day. Special deliv-

ery service and Express Mail service will be provided.

Holiday collection schedule will be provided as late in the day as possible to meet first-class mail service standards.

Normal service will resume Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Secretary of state branch

The Michigan Department of State has announced that the Northville Secretary of State branch office will be closed at the end of the business day August 30.

The office, at 42357 Seven Mile, Northville, will be closed at 5 p.m. on Aug. 30 so that the Northville Plaza can proceed with extensive remodeling plans.

Because the office will be

closed beginning Aug. 31, citizens wishing to transact business may do so at other branch offices in the area. These offices are at:

- Farmington — 38487 W. Ten Mile Road
- Canton — Harvard Square Shopping Center, 6034 Sheldon Road.
- Livonia West — 33250 Six Mile.

Youth charged with killing woman

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While the investigation continues, the accused's companion continues to reside at Boys Republic.

"His reaction to all that is happening is quite normal. He is very concerned and staying put. He recognizes this is the safest place for him at the present time," Griffin said.

WHEN THE boys were discovered missing from the youth home in late July, Griffin said she followed normal procedure and notified the state Department of Social Services, which has custody of each of the boys.

She also notified the Michigan State Police, Farmington Hills police and the parents of each boy. A warrant was issued for their arrest.

When the boys were returned to the facility by state social service of-

ficials, Griffin said she carefully questioned them as to their whereabouts and actions during the week they were missing. "They assured me they had not been involved in anything, there was nothing I needed to know that I did not already know," Griffin said.

On Aug. 15 she was notified by River Rouge police that a warrant for murder would be issued in the arrest of the one youth.

"It's a terrible tragedy," Griffin said.

Church hosts breakfast

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene's annual Labor Day Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 4, followed by worship service at 10:30 a.m. led by Jack French. The evangelist and his wife were missionaries in Brazil for four years. His focus for the past 17 years has been to reach out to youth.

Immediately after the service there will be a reception for Vernon and Carolyn Lunn, who are moving to Kansas City. Lunn is recently retired from his position as executive

vice president for Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. and is a long-time member of the church board. His wife has taught the community Bible study and Sunday School classes.

At 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, the congregation will hear a report from the teens and adults who participated in a "Work and Witness" outreach in Hawaii.

The church is at 21260 Haggery Road, Farmington.

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