

Land swap sparks worry

**BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER**

A Farmington Hills plan to make a land swap with a developer in order to expand a fire station has condominium owners who live next to the site concerned.

The city's original site plan for its Fire Station No. 2 on Middlebelt south of 13 Mile does not leave enough room to expand from two to three bays and add office and training space.

Thanks to a land swap with developer Michael Kallis, the city can now expand at the site. But despite the assurance of city officials and Kallis of a "win-win situation," Heatherwood Condominium residents said they want guarantees that they would not have to pay for any problems caused by the swap and the developer's expansion of the condominium.

"Nothing's been mentioned about the effects of the develop-

ment of phase II," said Burton C. Davis, a resident of phase I of the condominium development next to the fire station.

Burton, who with his wife owns one of 18 phase I condos at Heatherwood, said work on phase II, which will add 13 more condos, has already caused damage to the phase I homes — a cost he and his neighbors have had to pay.

Davis said trees on Heatherwood property had died, but landscapers had not honored a warranty because the developer, Kallis, had not paid them on time.

But city attorney John Donohue said the developer would have to put \$38,000 into an escrow account, held by the city, in order to expand the development.

That money would be used to pay for any damage to phase I caused by the new development. City Manager Bill Costick said the city would also share financial

responsibility for a retention pond it would share with Heatherwood.

Dale Countegan, city planning director, added that there is still money left in the escrow account used to repair damage to phase I.

"By charter, before this transaction can be completed, the accompanying ordinance must be approved by the city council," Donohue said. "Council has to be satisfied that the conditions of the agreement are satisfied."

Those conditions include approval by the Heatherwood Condominium Association, and understanding of how retention pond costs will be shared, the requirement of the \$38,000 escrow deposit and the city's "usual close attention" to the progress of the development.

"We are at least able to do what any private developer can do, and more," Costick said. "We're a good neighbor."

The council approved the site plan unanimously.

Classes span range of interests

Farmington Community Education offers winter classes to be held at the Community School, 30415 Shiwawasse, Farmington Hills.

Registration can be completed in person or by mail. More information can be obtained by calling 489-3333.

Following is a brief list of some of the new and different classes offered. A complete list can be found in the Community Education Winter Brochure that was mailed to area residents in December.

- Japanese Woodcutting — Students learn to carve reversed images on a piece of plywood, to apply water soluble ink and to create images on Japanese paper.
- Creative Writing — Experience writing in a variety of ways: prose, poetry, short stories. Concentration will be on narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive aspects.
- Senior Easy-Does-It Exercise

- Join in a fun exercise workout. A slow warm-up with range of motion movements. Ease on into a slightly more vigorous cardiovascular workout. Stretches and cool down. Relaxation in chairs.
- Dress For Fun — Choose a relaxed and comfortable dress style and have it be right for you. Flatter your figure and your face. The first week: What's right for you in clothing style and color. The second week: We'll put it all together.
- Basket Weaving — Beginning, learn the basics of baskets and make a square and a round Shaker-type basket.
- Chair Caning — Learn seat weaving with rattan cane. Bring refinished chair or stool to class.
- Interested In Adopting? — Open to prospective parents considering adopting infants, older children from other countries. Discussion around all issues of adoption. Handouts include a list

of local and national resources available to parents considering adoption.

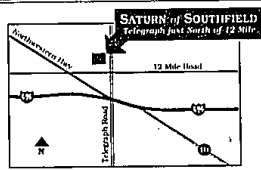
- Child Care and Infant/Child CPR — Class will train caregivers in these essential skills: preventing childhood injuries, giving first aid to infants and children, learning about child development, recognizing the signs of child abuse, preventing infectious diseases, caring for children when they are ill, and communicating with children and parents.
- Modern Bidding Conventions — Learn some of these bridge conventions such as five card majors, weak two bids, Jacoby transfers, splinter bids and more.
- Childbirth Refresher Course — For parents who are expecting again, this consumer-oriented, holistic approach to childbirth will focus is on new philosophies and approaches to labor and delivery. Couples will gain "tools" for the birth experience including relaxation techniques, visualization, working together as a couple.

'The Sound of Music'



Getting ready: Stephanie Shier and Claes Lofgren rehearse a scene from "The Sound of Music" to be staged at Farmington High School, 32000 Shiwawasse, Friday-Sunday, Jan. 29-31. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, on sale at the End Zone store in the school, are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

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