

Hills again rejects senior housing plan

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A senior housing proponent looking for a tax abatement fared no better a second time around. "I'm back with the best proposal I can make," said Mark Sturing, attorney for Bostak Companies, which is proposing a 120-unit Grand River/Mulrwood Enclave senior development on the north side of Grand River, west of Drake. "If you turn this down, I promise I won't be back with another proposal."

He won't be back. Farmington Hills council members were just as vehemently opposed to the plan at Monday's regular meeting as the last time. They shot down the request 7-0.

Council members turned down a similar request for payment in lieu of taxes request Oct. 20. Four senior housing complexes in Farmington Hills have similar tax abatements.

In the revised proposal, the developer offered to subsidize 12 of the 120 units, which is roughly \$28,800. The estimated abatement would be \$87,820.

Rents would be \$700-\$900 a month, which council members think are still too high to qualify for the tax break.

"There is no possible way these seniors could pay \$700, \$800 and \$900 in rent; it's impossible," Councilman Jon Grant said. "Their gross incomes are not that high."

"This project serves no public service to the seniors of this community."

Councilman Jerry Ellis commended the attorney for providing more in-depth information, though there may have been too much background, the councilman added.

The project is heavily leveraged and high rents are needed to pay the mortgage, Ellis said. He also noted investors were only putting in \$1,000 each into the development.

"The only one making a substantial investment here is the city of Farmington Hills," Ellis said. "There is no way, no way I can support this when the benefit to the community is actually made by the community itself."

Show brings news to use



Have you had your fill of "blood and guts stories" - murders, suicides and gory details on TV Network News? Then it's time to take a break from the ordinary and tune into "INFO TV-12 News Magazine." "New News Magazine" runs on INFO TV-12 at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Mondays 5 p.m. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 3 p.m. Fridays. Quality of life issues that affect your community directly and information that everyone can benefit from detail the program. For instance, you'll watch stories on how local Senior Adults honored World War II Veterans for Veteran's Day. And what about the proposed development of 53 more acres at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake? That's a major concern to anyone who lives in this area and has traveled our roads in rush hour traffic. Then there's the proposed oil drilling at I-275 and 8 Mile. With residents up in arms about its environmental impact, will Farmington Hills City Council give West Bay Exploration Company drilling rights? Did you know about the Labyrinth at O.C.C.? Professor Robert Piepenburg talks about

its use for meditation and relaxation, besides its historical significance associated with the pilgrimages. "News Magazine" is produced on a monthly basis by Frank Benesh. Frank comes to Community TV for more than 20 years in Broadcast Television News. "I really believe in the medium of Community Access TV," says Frank. "It's a great way of getting your message across. Doing a local news show affords us the opportunity of covering events in the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi that may not be covered in the mainstream media but are still important."

He's looking for volunteers who'd like to originate and write stories, edit stories, run a camera or be in front of one.

Anybody out there interested? Call me at (248) 473-7266 and I'll put you in touch with Frank. Come on - get your feet wet. The only requirements are that you either live, work, own property or a business, attend an educational institution or are affiliated with an organization in Farmington, Farmington Hills, or Novi.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

CEMS nets top award for service

Community EMS (CEMS) received the nation's highest award recognizing outstanding community service programs sponsored by medical transportation providers.

The Southfield-based organization was presented with the American Ambulance Association's 1997 Community Partnership Award at the AAA's annual conference in Seattle this week. In addition, CEMS was the recipient of two other national honors by AAA.

"We're deeply honored to accept these awards on behalf of the CEMS family," said Community EMS President and CEO Greg Beauchemin.

CEMS was chosen for the top honor from among 50 ambulance providers from throughout the U.S. by a panel of experts from the medical transportation and public relations industries. In addition to the Community Partnership Award, CEMS also was awarded top national awards from AAA in the corporate communications and public information programs categories.

CEMS, which serves Southeast Michigan, is the largest not-for-profit medical transportation provider in Michigan over the last 15 years.

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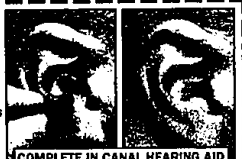
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