



Artist's rendering of the proposed Auburn Hills housing development

308 Housing Units Planned for AH Project

by Jim Stickford

The Parkways housing project – planned to contain more than 300 units west of Adams Road and south of the Forester Square development – got one step closer to reality last week.

The Auburn Hills planning commission unanimously approved the project's development plan on Aug. 27.

The next step, said Shawn Keenan of the city's Community Development department, is for the city council to give final approval of the plan. The council is expected to vote on the proposal at the next council meeting on Sept. 9.

The city has been working on this project for about a year. Keenan said that while there was discussion among planning commission members, the planning proposal was easily approved.

Steven Cohen, director of Community Development for Auburn Hills, said the Parkways project

is designed to be a multi-generational housing project on 22 acres of land that is currently owned by the city.

"There will be a total of 308 housing units," Cohen said. "The project is being proposed under what is called a 'planned unit development.' Under state law, cities are allowed to make proposals with developers if both agree on questions of flexibility on things like setbacks and other zoning rules.

"The city is very comfortable using this law in connection with the Parkways project. We've used it for the past 13 years on other projects."

Cohen said Parkways is a "neo-traditional" style development. It will consist of condominiums mixed in with single-family homes. The breakdown is 76 townhouse style units, 72 stacked flat units and a three-story 160-unit senior housing building that will be situated along a new boulevard.

"The whole project is meant to evoke an 'old village' atmosphere," Cohen said.

"We hope that once it's complete, the people who move there will support the city's downtown businesses."

The project will be developed by Mocerri Companies under their LLC, the FMD Land Company, Cohen said.

In addition to the housing units, Auburn Hills plans on building a city-owned park covering about two acres of open space.

Cohen said that if everything goes according to schedule, the first phase of construction will begin sometime in the spring of 2014.

He said the entire project, once construction begins, should take about three years to complete.

"This is something very positive for the city," Cohen said. "I think people will be very pleased once it's completed."

Chrysler Foundation Helps Area's Schoolchildren Get Meals, Snacks 'For Hungry Minds, Hungry Bodies'

by Jim Stickford

The Chrysler Foundation has teamed up with Forgotten Harvest and the Friends of the Detroit Public Library Foundation in a program that helps feed hungry minds and hungry bodies.

John Owens, director of Communications for Forgotten Harvest, said the group, which works to address the community's serious need for emergency food supplies, has been working with the Chrysler Foundation and the library foundation for a little over a year on a project to provide meals and afterschool snacks to children participating in Detroit library programs.

"The Chrysler Foundation has been working with us for a while," Owens said, "helping with things like trucking and such. I've worked with their man, Brian Glowiak."

Glowiak, vice president of the Chrysler Foundation, said he had a meeting with Patrice Merritt, director of the Friends of the Detroit Public Library Foundation, and she told him that kids participating in library programs were hungry and that this hunger caused attention problems.

"Things clicked from there and we thought it would be great if we could get a partnership with Forgotten Harvest, the Chrysler Foundation and the library foundation," Glowiak said. "That's how all this happened."

Glowiak said the Chrysler Foundation started giving Forgotten Harvest a grant last year. The original one was for about \$25,000. Because the program over the last year proved so successful, the Chrysler Foundation increased that amount to \$74,000.

"It is difficult for children or adults, for that matter, to concentrate and learn when they are hungry," said Susan Goodell, president and CEO of Forgotten Harvest.

"Our partnership with the Detroit Public Library and The Chrysler Foundation provides an ideal opportunity to provide nourishing food to hungry children, which ideally will enhance

their chances to learn and grow." For years, Forgotten Harvest has made it a top priority to target their services to children.

Once Forgotten Harvest gets the grant money, Owens said, his group takes over and works with the library foundation to provide meals and snacks for children who are participating in library programs.

"It is difficult for children . . . to concentrate and learn when they are hungry."

– Susan Goodell

"Last year, we delivered 1,700 snacks per week," Owens said. "Next school year, we will be delivering 2,000 snacks at 20 library locations throughout the city."

Owens said the program "is just people connecting the dots."

The way the program works is that during the summer, children who participate in library programs get meals such as lunch.

Merritt said that during the school year, many of these children get meals at school, so when the school year starts, the program transitions from one that provides lunch during the day to one that provides afterschool snacks.

"This helps kids build their bodies and their minds," Owens said.

He noted that the program is helpful because sometimes that afterschool snack will be the last thing kids in the program will have to eat for the day.

Glowiak said what he likes about the food program is that it's connected to educational programs at the library.

"It's not like kids are just grabbing the food and running," Glowiak said. "They stay and participate in the reading programs."

AH Chamber Will Hold Mixer-Type Meeting Sept. 26

The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce's September auto.tech connect meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Parkway Grille, which is located inside the Auburn Hills Marriott Hotel at Centerpoint.

The event is sponsored by dBusiness Magazine, Oakland University and Cornerstone Community Financial Federal Credit Union.

Denise Asker, executive director of the chamber, said the event offers members and others the opportunity to network with people from the automotive, manufacturing, technology and supplier communities.

The mixer begins at 4:30 p.m. and goes until 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$10, which includes a beer tasting and snacks.

For more information about the September auto.tech.connect, call the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce at 248-853-7862 or email info@auburnhillschamber.com.



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