

City planners brace for school's appeal

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issues for the Farmington Hills-based firm of Nedelman and Pawlak, will join local attorney Don Samhat to present the church's case to the board.

Those words are what the nine appeals board members await, according to BZA chairperson Rolland Stapleton. An appeals veteran of 20-plus years, he said the process is all about bringing the facts to light.

"We need to hear the applications *de novo* (from the beginning) before we form our opinion," Stapleton said. "By and large, I think the board does a good job of that. We don't make up our minds until we hear their presentation."

Documentation of the planning commission proceedings will be another information source for the appeals board. Referring to criteria in the city's zoning ordinance,

the commissioners' resolution Tuesday encapsulated as support many of the comments made by neighboring property owners opposed to the project.

"I'm assuming we'll be looking at anything either side presents to us," Stapleton said. "It will be new to us, but part of our task will be to review what the Planning Commission did."

"There are certain statutory bases on which they can appeal things," he continued. "I don't know yet on what basis they are making an appeal."

Crowded hearings in January, February and March allowed public comment on the proposal for a 77,000-square-foot school, between Main and Thayer streets. While proponents described an overcrowded, outdated existing facility, opponents stated their fears about increased traffic congestion and negative impact on neighboring property values.

The appeals board in recent years has hosted a number of well-attended gatherings, covering discussions from rear-yard setbacks to facility expansions. City officials next week will be able to confirm the likely relocation of the May 5 meeting to the Hillside Middle School auditorium.

"We recognize that there are some strong feelings out there," Stapleton said. "Part of the process is making sure everyone gets heard and then the members of the board can make up their mind. I will expect the people to offer their views and not discuss personalities."

"It's about the application that's before us."

Maureen Johnston is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 or mjohnston@ht.homecomm.net.

OBITUARIES

Edna Mae Croteau

Edna Mae Croteau of Northville died March 28 in Westland Convalescent Center, Westland. She was 94. She was born on June 12, 1909 in Elba Township, Mich. to the late Elgin Hurshburger and Edna May Sharp Hurshburger.

Mrs. Croteau was a homemaker and a resident of Northville for many years. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church.

Survivors include one son, Gary (Sue) Croteau of South Lyon; twelve grandchildren; twenty-seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Bernard Croteau and one son, Gerald Croteau preceded her in death.

A funeral service was held April 7 at the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville with Father Paul Czarnota from Our Lady of Victory Church officiating. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery of Alpena.

Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

Arrangements were made by the Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home.

He was born and raised in Northville and graduated from the Indiana School of Mortuary Science. He was a licensed funeral director and owner of Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. in Northville and in South Lyon. Mr. Casterline was a member of Lakelands Golf and Country Club, Northville Kiwanis Club and the Huron Valley Hunting and Fishing Club. He was the President of the Northville Housing Commission. He was an avid golfer—he had a hole-in-one at Fox Hills Country Club—and he also enjoyed woodworking.

Survivors include his wife, Roxanne Casterline of Northville; four daughters, Courtney (Erich) Ross of South Lyon, Kelly (Patrick) Montgomery of Ferndale, Lindsey, (Brian) Dogonski of Northville and Whitney Casterline of Colorado; and two grandchildren, Gavin and Caden Ross.

A funeral service was held April 5 at Casterline Funeral Home with Rev. John Hice and Rev. Jennifer Bixby of the First United Methodist Church of Northville officiating. Interment will be at Rural Hill Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Northville City Fire Department, Utility Rescue Vehicle, 215 W. Main, Northville, Mich. 48167 or the Allen Terrace Trust Fund, Attn: Library Fund, 401 High Street, Northville, Mich. 48167.

Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home, Inc., Northville.

Luella Kehrl

Luella Kehrl of Northville and Salem Township died April 3. She was 96. Mrs. Kehrl was born May 27, 1907 in Rasin Township, Mich. to the late Elmer G. Miller and Effie Sampson.

She lived in the Northville and Salem Township area since 1927 before moving to Florida a few years ago. She graduated from Eastern Michigan Normal College with an Education Degree and was a teacher at Thayer School before becoming a homemaker. Mrs. Kehrl was a member of the First Baptist Church of Plymouth for over 50 years, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Survivors include her daughter, Dorothy (Thomas) Homrich of Florida; two grandchildren, Gregory (Pat) Homrich and Thomas (Pam) Homrich; and four great-grandchildren, Jonathan, Steven, Nathan and Matthew.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy R. Kehrl.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 9 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. A funeral service will be held Saturday, April 10 at 11 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc., Northville with Pastor Larry Mattis of Briarwood Baptist Church, Ann Arbor officiating. Interment will be at Thayer Cemetery, Northville Township.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the givers choice. Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

ERNE HARWELL

In baseball there is an old saying that if you get three hits out of 10 times at bat, you're a big league star. A guy who in his whole career makes seven mistakes out of 10 is considered a superstar.

I think we all have to remember that we all make mistakes. We just have to accept them, hitch up our britches, pull up our socks and go ahead and get to the next project.

A perfectionist really has a tough time in life, because we're all human and we're all going to fall short once in a while. If we just realize that,

we can save ourselves a lot of worry and stress that can affect our mental and physical health.

That doesn't mean we don't try to do our best. But if we accept that we can't always be perfect, we can keep our feet on the ground and our heads up. We won't always get a hit, but we can keep on swinging.

And please remember to take

care of your health before it's longgggg gone!



Ernie Harwell

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers," retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.

Ray J. "Butch" Casterline

Ray Casterline of Northville died March 31 at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor. He was 56. Mr. Casterline was born October 4, 1947 in Northville to the late Fred A. Casterline and Emily Saner.

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