

Plans unveiled for proposed hospice care in Flossmoor

BY BILL JONES
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The owners of a prospective hospice care facility are asking the Village of Flossmoor for a voluntary annex of two pieces of property along Governors Highway.

At the March 7 village board meeting, former Flossmoor Mayor Paul Braun, serving as an attorney representing Oasis House of Refuge LLC, presented preliminary plans for the facility, which he called "a very exciting project."

"We want to give the board just a sneak peek of what we're trying to do here and gauge the temperature of everybody," Braun said.

It would be located on 2.24 acres on the southwest corner of 198th Street and Governors Highway that currently rests in unincorporated Cook County. Braun noted the spaces at 19810 and 19812 Governors Highway were an old chicken farm surrounded by Flossmoor properties.

The proposed 12,500-square-foot single story building would have a zoning of R7 for planned multi-family. The company plans a 14-bed facility.

"This is something we don't have in the community," Braun said. "I think it would be very beneficial to have an inpatient hospice here in the village."

Braun noted the owners, Hakeem and Sade Bello of Homewood, also would be seeking a Class 8 property tax incentive, as well as other incentives that may be available to them, if the plan moves forward. But Braun said the owners also are proposing a "make-whole" agreement for

the village share of the taxes otherwise abated through Class 8.

Sade Bello told the board of her history in hospice operations in the Chicago-area, starting with another company in 2005. She founded Oasis in 2014. And the Flossmoor facility, she said, would be "like a mini ICU," with services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid and insurance, giving people a place "to die with dignity and care."

Bello added that Oasis typically works with private ambulance companies for transportation, which should relieve any potential added burden on the Flossmoor Fire Department for service calls.

"I think it's a needed thing in our community, especially if we've had others that have moved out," Trustee Gary Daggett said.

The proposal would next go to the Plan Commission. If it gets through the process quickly, the plan is to break ground by late summer and be open by spring or summer of next year. Flossmoor Village Attorney Kathleen Orr noted several actions will be required for approval between the annexation and rezoning of the property.

Other board business

The board ratified a collective bargaining agreement with the Flossmoor Police Officers Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, effective May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2023. Among the terms of the agreement are wage increases of 2% effective May 1, 2020 (the contract includes some retroactive pay), 2.75% May 1, 2021, and 3.25% May 1, 2022.

Homewood Police arrest man with 3 guns, 2 bags of cannabis

BY CAROLE SHARWARKO
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A Dolton man remains in Cook County jail after Homewood Police officers found him sleeping in his car, allegedly alongside three handguns and two large bags of cannabis.

Esaias Frazier is being held on \$100,000 bond on charges of resisting a police officer, intent to deliver more than 500 grams of cannabis, and being an armed habitual criminal, which is a Class X felony charge.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, Homewood officers responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle in the 18600 block of Golfview Avenue, and found 32-year-old Frazier sleeping inside. According to information

released online, officers identified Frazier, who was on parole, and observed the grip of a handgun protruding from his coat pocket.

During their attempt to arrest him, Frazier failed to put his hands behind his back, police said. With help from more officers, police were able to take him into custody.

On the floor of the car's back seat, police said officers observed an unzipped duffel bag, and "a green leafy substance could be seen in plain view."

Police said inside the duffel bag, officers located sealed bags of cannabis and two more handguns.

Frazier's next court date is April 1 at The Circuit Court of Cook County's Markham Courthouse.

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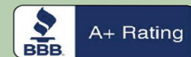
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