

Yaphank housing plan criticized

■ Residents say bid to build 1,836 affordable units raises questions; proposals for other amenities welcomed

BY BRANDON BAIN
brandon.bain@newsday.com

Some Yaphank residents say two new proposals to bring as many as 1,836 units of affordable housing to the area might be too much for their taste.

But they wouldn't mind some of the projects' amenities — such as an ice hockey arena, restaurants and entertainment venues.

"I don't mind so much the ice hockey, but not the low-income housing," said Ken Auld, 56, a machinist who has lived in Yaphank for 25 years.

Residents reacted to a Newsday report yesterday detailing aspects of two proposals from nationally known developers for a portion of the 880-acre Yaphank county center, a coveted site county officials hope becomes a hub for next-generation housing. Legacy Village — a venture by



KEN AULD: "I don't mind so much the ice hockey, but not the low-income housing."

Benjamin Katter Development Co. Inc. and Hudson Companies Inc. — includes 2,336 housing units, 1,836 of which would be designated affordable; a 4,500-seat hockey arena; a 50,000-square-foot sports center, a hotel and office space.

The other contender — The Village at Carmans River, by AvalonBay Communities and Damianos Realty Group — includes 2,000 housing units, 600 of them affordable; a 4,000-seat



EDDIE POL: "Out here there is so much open space that you get used to it."

hockey arena, a soccer/lacrosse complex; office space and a performing arts center.

Each proposal is estimated to cost in excess of \$500 million, according to people close to the process.

"As a young person buying, it would be a positive, as long as there are jobs that pay well to go with it," said Russell Lewis, 23, of the proposed affordable housing. Lewis, a soccer coach from Ridge, added, "If it allows



RUSSELL LEWIS: "As a young person buying, it would be a positive..."

kids to play soccer here, then it's definitely a positive."

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy called for 1,000 below-market housing units on the site in his 2005 state of the county message. But the proposals, Levy said, went "overboard" by proposing more than 2,000 total housing units.

Lisa Tyson, director for the Long Island Progressive Coalition, said 1,000 affordable units was logical for the site,

which abuts the county jail.

"There is definitely a need for affordable housing on Long Island," she said. But, she added, "The numbers should be scaled down."

Residents said the plans are sure to transform the neighborhood, both by the number of residents, and outsiders who flock toward new entertainment.

"Out here there is so much open space that you get used to it," said Eddie Pol, 50, a cable splicer from Yaphank. "Nowadays they put a house on every square foot... available."

Pol supports affordable housing for young Long Islanders but said it "should be spread out a little more instead of plopping it into one spot."

Cathy Traynor, 45, a homemaker from Yaphank, is torn over the proposals. Her son favors ice hockey, but she is worried about traffic.

"I'm never against housing, but in this sort of situation it brings a mass of people into the area and it looks like it's going to be quite big," Traynor said. "Twenty-three hundred houses? Wow, that's a lot."

Glen Cove crime scene tape in court

BY ANN GIVENS
ann.givens@newsday.com

The crime scene video begins in Denise Fox's front entryway, where blood covered the hardwood floor, and was spattered on the white walls.

The video continues down the stairs to the basement, where



Evan Marshall

prosecutors believe Evan Marshall entered Fox's Glen Cove home by throwing a garden statue through her sliding glass door. Next, the camera follows two long drag marks, showing where police believe Marshall dragged trash cans containing Fox's dismembered body from her home to his. And it ends in Marshall's basement, where police found the trash cans near numerous mannequins, sex toys, and violent and pornographic videos.

The tape was shown yesterday at a pretrial hearing to determine whether there was sufficient cause to arrest Marshall, who is charged with killing Fox in August. The hearing, before Nassau County Court Judge Richard LaPera, is expected to continue tomorrow. While the tape was playing, Marshall, hunched and wearing reading glasses, looked up at the screen periodically, then appeared to take co-

pious notes on a legal pad.

Marshall, 32, was arrested with Fox's severed head in his car trunk the morning after she was reported missing. But his lawyer, William Keahon of Islip, is fighting to have that and other evidence suppressed, arguing that police did not have enough evidence against Marshall when they arrested him and searched his car. Over the last few days in court, Keahon has pointed out that Marshall's most recent address was upstate

and that there is no evidence that he was living at his mother's house at the time of the murder.

Keahon also raised the issue of male DNA found on Fox's chin. The DNA did not match Marshall or Fox's husband, but an unknown man, Keahon said. "Ask them about the two guys in New York City who they've interviewed who won't give their DNA," he said in court. Prosecutors would not comment.

Keahon asked Det. Derek Partee, who led the investigation,

whether police found Marshall's blood, hair or other DNA in Fox's home, on the trash cans, or in a pile of bloody clothes found near the body. Partee said no.

Partee said detectives found video rental cards belonging to Marshall, including one to an adult video store, in a desk in Marshall's mother's basement. But when Keahon asked him to bring those cards to court Thursday, Partee said officers did not take them from the crime scene.

Partee told prosecutor Mitch Benson that he heard an answering machine in Marshall's house while he was gathering evidence there the night Fox was reported missing. Partee said the machine invited callers to leave messages for Evan Marshall and Jacqueline, his mother, evidence Marshall did live there. But Keahon suggested Partee was wrong. "Are you aware that there is no answering machine in the house?" he asked Partee, who continued to insist he heard it.



Road warriors

Bradley Pezzuto, 4, rides his tricycle as Dee Snider and his daughter Cheyenne, 10, arrive on a Harley-Davidson owned by Billy Joel yesterday at Stony Brook University Medical Center to promote Snider's May 20 Bikers for Babies Ride to benefit the March of Dimes. Snider is the lead singer of the rock group Twisted Sister.

NEWSDAY PHOTO/MICHAEL L. ACH