

Planners OK project

Mentor commission unanimously approves plans for facility at Newell Creek Preserve

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Preliminary plans for a major development project in Mentor's Newell Creek Preserve were unanimously approved Thursday evening by the city's planning commission.

The 116-unit, 54,000-square-foot assisted living and memory care resi-

dence is on track to be built just south of Route 84 between Garfield Road and Center Street.

The facility is a companion development neighboring to Parker Place Retirement Residence, built in 2009.

The planning commission had few questions for project architect Greg Elmore.

The most pressing issue was making sure the structure will have an

ample buffer to separate it from the numerous single-family lots located to the north of the building.

Newell Creek Homeowners Association Chairman Harry Hopes had similar concerns, though he made clear he's in support of the plan.

"Headlights on a vehicle are between 32 and 36-inches, so a 3-foot mound will keep those lights from shining into people's homes," he said.

Elmore said his company will work to accommodate the request.

"We've got limited access, limited space on the north and west side," he said. "We will try to work a mound into that if we can."

If mounding is not possible, Elmore said fencing would be constructed, though commission members strongly urged him to strive for the mounds.

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The facility, planned by Lenity Architecture for property owner Mentor Assisted Living LLC., will have 71 assisted-living units, 25 memory care units for people with Alzheimer's, dementia and related memory issues, and seven enhanced-care units.

It will serve seniors who do not require the specialized services of a nursing home, but who are in need of some type of assistance with their daily routine.

The plan represents an about-face for Property owner Rick Osborne Jr. who recently said the market wouldn't support an assisted living facility at a nearby 9-acre parcel southwest of the Bellflower Road-Route

615 intersection.

Expected services at the facility include three daily meals and housekeeping, laundry service and private bus transportation.

Additional services will

be offered as requested by residents, including assistance with medications, bathing, grooming and dressing.

Final plans are subject to city approval.