

Voice in the community

Board 3 area on South Shore fastest growing in the state

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plant was designed to discharge 250,000 gallons of effluent each day into nearby Lemon Creek. The creek, as well as the surrounding wetlands, are protected by state regulations, and the state Department of Environmental Conservation had denied other applications before the Treetop proposal to build along Lemon Creek.

In addition to reading long and highly technical reports on the environmental impact of such a project, board members heard Woodrow residents say they strongly opposed the plan because the addition of 1,600 people into their sparsely populated community would strain existing services such as fire, police and sanitation.

In April, the board voted to oppose the development because it would threaten the environment. Two weeks later the state Department of Environmental Conservation approved the proposal, provided the developer make adjustments in the treated sewage to be released in the creek.

Richard McGivney, board chairman, said the board considers each proposal on its merits and does not, like some area residents, oppose large developments in general.

"We are for properly planned and well-engineered development," said McGivney, who also stressed the need for the board's objectivity in reaching decisions.

"This board is very serious about our responsibilities, and members do a great amount of research and read reams and reams of highly technical reports," McGivney said.

Although he admits that development proposals take up much of the board's time, McGivney said the board has worked hard in providing work and recreational programs for teen-agers and opportunities for the handicapped.

"The board was one of three community boards in the city to receive the Mayor's Spotlight Award for developing



The Lemon Creek area was one hotly debated item within the Community Board 3 area.

S.I. Advance Photo

youth programs for our area," McGivney said.

It is unlikely the board will run short of problems, but since Margolis predicts the construction boom on the South Shore will continue for 10 years, board members no doubt will become experts on large-scale developments and their environmental effect.

Last in a series.

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