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YELLOW MAGENTA CYAN BLACK

GREENVILLE

GALSA 2005 budget not yet ready

Greenville Area Leisure Services Association board did not have a 2005 budget to review Monday night.

Erik S. Bielata, GALSA executive director, said he and other board members still need to review some budget items such as the swimming pool at River-

side Park, Greenville.

Bielata said he hopes the budget will be ready for presentation and adoption by January. He plans to meet with the finance committee and make changes if needed. He expects the 2005 budget to be slightly less than 2004's \$513,525.

Pets

Cemetery, crematory for pets proposed

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pet cemetery and crematory. They own the half-acre lot, which is next to Hillcrest. Thomas Flynn said 25 acres in the 71-acre memorial park are undeveloped. That extra space would give the pet cemetery room to expand to 8 acres, he said.

The cemetery would include an on-site crematory strictly for animals, Thomas Flynn said. Pet owners could choose between taking home the ashes of their pet or burying them. Cremation of a pet, including a plot and headstone, would cost about \$500, he said. There's potential for about 3,200 plots per acre.

"I believe this is something

that has a great appeal to the community," Flynn said.

He said the proposed Hillcrest Pet Cemetery and Crematory will offer pet owners many personal options. Owners could even be buried next to their pets if they wish. Thomas Flynn said he would use a separate part of the cemetery for those burials.

Flynn said the land is ready for development and the cemetery could be operational by May. He said numerous community members have approached him about a local pet cemetery. The closest one, Shenango Valley Pet Cemetery, is in Greene Township.

In other business, the zoning board approved a request from Wallace & Panther Inc., an environmental consulting firm, to convert a house at 1085 S. Hermitage Road into an office.

PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP

Fay Terrace improvements more costly than authority expected

Bids for modernization at Frank Fay Terrace in Pymatuning Township came in more than \$177,000 over budget, and Mercer County Housing Authority officials will be trying to decide what to do next.

L. Dewitt Boesel, authority executive director, said the bids were opened late last month. When alternative bid deductions were subtracted from the base bids, the project funds still came up \$177,917 short.

Boesel said more time is needed for authority officials to "digest what has happened" and go over their options.

Boesel said among the options are:

- going with the bids as submitted and taking \$177,917 out of the budget

- seeing if anything else can be removed from the project, which would require rebidding.

- reducing the number of units, which would require approval from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Holly Nogay, occupancy manager, said six to eight of the 76 apartments are always vacant.

Part of the reason the project is so costly is that some units are being converted to walk-up apartments.

Fay Terrace apartments have

two stories with staircases.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development recently required housing authorities to make 5 percent of units in every housing complex accessible to handicapped tenants, so the authority is making separate upstairs and downstairs apartments.

The downstairs apartments will be handicap-accessible, Boesel said, while the upstairs units will be accessible by stairs.

Boesel said possible cuts to the plans — should the board decide to trim spending — include exterior and interior improvements to the community

building; scrapping plans for a central laundry room and plans for two parking lots; building a straight roof without cupolas and dormers; and getting rid of plans for mound barriers.

"We've pretty much identified everything we can take out," Boesel said.

He warned that the authority will have to deal with the same situation at all its apartment complexes.

Boesel said the authority is hoping to get started on the project by spring.

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