

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Pulte, city reach affordable agreement on housing plan

PULTE HOMES, From A1
affordable apartments was also less than the average square footage of all the units in the development.

Pulte Homes agreed to upgrade the affordable apartments to meet the special permit quality standards. In addition, the developers are paying \$600,000 to the Housing Trust Fund because they did not designate any of the townhouse-style apartments as affordable, as was required by the special permit which said affordable units should be evenly distributed among

the different types of housing.

"We (the city) proposed they make this donation as somewhat of penalty for not including the townhouses," said Housing Director Janet Barry.

Barry said the money could be used toward any affordable housing project in the city.

The biggest part of the city's complaint had to do with pricing of the affordable units. The special permit was originally signed in 2003, at a time when the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) had a dif-

ferent standard for what qualified as "affordable."

Pulte set its affordable prices according to HUD HOME program standards at \$219,000 for a one-bedroom and \$279,000 for two-bedroom apartments. But DHCD now sets affordable prices by the Local Initiative Planning (LIP) guidelines which set a maximum of \$125,000 for one-bedroom units and \$150,000 for two bedrooms. These are the prices cities must set to qualify the housing as affordable under Chapter 40B.

The city wanted Pulte to adjust its prices to comply with the new guidelines and the developers maintained their prices suited the language of the special permit. For the agreement, Pulte compromised to set three of the 27 affordable units - in buildings still under construction - at the \$150,000 price. The other 24 units will remain at Pulte's original prices.

"It's just unfortunate," said Barry, about the difference in "affordable" standards. "It was no one's fault really, it was the wording of the special

permit."

Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy said she was pleased with the agreement overall, which sets a deed restriction to keep the affordable unit prices from rising any further. She also said any future special permit agreements will use the term "Chapter 40B eligible" to define affordable housing.

"I'm pleased with the settlement by Pulte and the city," McCarthy said. "It (the court judgement) provides a mechanism to resolve disputes among the parties in the fu-

ture."

Blute said the market-rate condominiums range in price - depending on style, view, and amenities offered - from \$347,900 up to \$424,900 for two bedrooms and \$314,900 to \$319,900 for one bedrooms.

Of the 268 units, 112 have been completed so far, Blute said. Pulte Homes plans to finish construction on the project by May 2009.

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'Earthquake McGoon' to be buried at Arlington

By Richard Fyle
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Fifty-three years after he was shot down on a desperate cargo-delivery flight over Vietnam, a legendary pilot and soldier-of-fortune known as "Earthquake McGoon" is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery today.

The burial plan was announced by the Pentagon on Wednesday.

The remains of "McGoon," whose real name was James B. McGovern Jr., were recovered from an unmarked grave in a remote northern Laos village in 2002 and identified last year by forensic experts at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

But plans for his burial were stalled by a family feud among relatives in New Jersey, even as former colleagues of McGoon in World War II and Indochina tried to arrange an Arlington interment to coincide with a planned "final reunion" of pilots who flew in China and French Indochina with Civil Air Transport, a postwar airline secretly owned by the CIA.

"McGoon," who weighed 260 pounds and was nicknamed after a hulking character in the hillbilly comic strip "Li'l Abner," was killed May 6, 1954, while air-dropping 29 artillery pieces to the

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