Local News

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Residents Raise Day Care Concerns

By DWIGHT ESAU

Journal Reporter

Another zoning request, another big controversy in Park Ridge.

This time, it involves a church, a well-known local day care organization, and a parking lot.

It was standing-room only at city hall Monday night (Nov. 26) when a request for a special use permit by Carousel of Learning, a day care center, came up at a public hearing of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Carousel needs the permit because day care centers are permitted in residential areas only as special uses.

The location is the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent, at the corner of Delphia Street. It is located one block east of Lincoln Middle School, which in turn is located next to Washington Elementary School.

A large group of area residents showed up at the hearing Monday with two objections: some of them said they weren't notified of the special use need for the center when it moved into the church last July, and they fear the 80 children the center now has on its roster will generate even more traffic than they already get in the neighborhood from the two public schools.

The hearing was continued by the commission to Jan. 14.

Some of the parents reportedly said that city officials did not communicate effectively with the church or nearby residents about this matter.

The center wants to use a portion of the church's parking lot as a play area for the children. The center was formerly located for more than 20 years in St. Mary's Episcopal Church. That church recently asked them to leave because they wanted to use the center's space for other things.