

Wester plans senior-living complex

Written by CAROL POMEDAY
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Belgium entrepreneur Dean Wester and his partner Mike Krajewski, who make up Ski-ter Properties LLC, plan to develop an assisted-living complex on Lakeview Drive in Belgium.

The concept for the community-based residential facility (CBRF) was tentatively approved by the Plan Commission on June 28.

The facility would be built on nine acres on the east side of Lakeview Drive between the motel and Alliance Community Bible Church. It is the same location, Wester said, where he proposed a senior-living and child-care complex about 10 years ago.

Project architect Ed Fisher proposed a 20-unit structure initially, with future plans calling for adding two smaller buildings when needed east of the first one.

An eight-inch water line and other infrastructure are in place and sufficient to serve the complex, Fisher said.

An assisted-living facility is allowed in the commercial district, Village Clerk Kaity Olson said.

“We’re looking for conditional approval so we can come back with our design, site plans and floor plans next month,” Wester said. “We don’t want to go through the expense or trouble if you’re not going to approve it.”

Commission member Ron Weyker liked the concept.

“I think the addition of another CBRF would be a definite asset to the community,” he said.

The plans must be approved by the village and state before a license is approved and construction can begin, Fisher said. It will take about five months from ground-breaking to completion, he said.

Building Inspector Roger Kison questioned how runoff will be handled on the site. Fisher asked about parking requirements.

Weyker, a former trustee and member of the village’s ad hoc committee, said the developers should work out those details with the committee which will make a recommendation to the planning body.

Kison, Village President Richard Howells, Village Engineer Matt Greely, Fire Chief and Public Works Director Dan Birenbaum and a trustee would be members of the committee that is geared to fast-track commercial developments, Weyker said.