

Bethany Housing proposed at Bethany site

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SCOTTS VALLEY — San Francisco Bay Area developers Barry Swenson and John Nicholson are proposing a 186-unit housing development and "town center" for the 109-acre Bethany Bible College site.

The developers, whose purchase of the site is contingent upon the city approving their plan, will meet with the City Council, Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission at 6 p.m. Nov. 24 at City Hall.

The north Scotts Valley campus of 550 students and faculty combined has been for sale since 1990, when the Assembly of God church announced it would move the college to the Sacramento area. Students have been told that if the developers decide to buy the site, the campus will be moved by next fall, according to freshman Jennifer Hoskins.

"I really didn't expect it so soon, but I feel if it is God's will for us to move, he will find us the money and a place to build a new college," said Hoskins, who came to the Scotts Valley college from Portland, Ore.

This is the third major housing development being considered for the city in the last year. If it is approved along with the 148 homes possible at Skypark and the 277 homes proposed for Glenwood Acres, Scotts Valley could add a

total of 611 homes.

With an average of 2.5 people per house here, that could mean a population increase of 1,527 in the city of 9,000.

Swenson and Nicholson would like to develop a variety of housing types on the hillsides surrounding the campus and on land off Sawyer Court, which parallels Highway 17. They also want to retain some of the college buildings and build some new buildings for a "town center" to serve the residents.

They are proposing six "estate" lots, 15 lots for large homes, 51 lots for more typically sized single-family homes, 17 townhouses, 12 apartment units, 72 affordable apartment units, and 13 cluster homes.

In addition, they would like to build a swimming pool, a 5,000-square-foot general store, and either tennis courts or a 10,000-square-foot office building.

Some 27,513 square feet of college buildings are proposed to be retained in the "town center" for unspecified purposes, as well as the day-care center now run by Bethany.

"The use of the facilities is still under negotiation," said Russell Gross, the Soquel real estate agent who has listed the property for the Assembly of God church, along with Blickman Turkus real estate company. "The public meeting (Nov. 24) will determine that use."

Bethany land use plan

