

Protect housing options

May 15, 2008

By MARGARET FEIT CLARKE Guest Essay

Thank you for your May 1 story, "Affordable Housing Count Ordered." We're grateful that Glenview recognizes the need to appoint a task force with the goal of inventorying Glenview's affordable housing stock.

Over the last decade, Glenview has suffered a loss of many affordable dwellings due to condo conversions and tear-downs. Pricy new homes in developments like The Glen have boosted the overall total housing units -- and lowered the percentage of affordable opportunities.

Housing advocacy groups have been concerned that Glenview has lost some of its ability to offer a variety of housing opportunities to individuals and families.

One style of housing -- manufactured/mobile homes -- that elsewhere provides a reasonably priced opportunity for families falls short of the mark in Glenview. While many Sunset Village residents who work in the local service industries get to live close to work and have access to good schools, living at Sunset Village is unlikely to be an affordable option for very many, given the state defines affordable as not more than 36 percent of one's income.

Everyone's best interest is served in seeing that this unique community is preserved and managed well. We applaud Glenview Trustees for identifying the need to study these issues, and hope the task force can identify needed solutions, as well.

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