

News of record/2
State/3
Comics/4

Local

SECTION
B

Monday, August 28, 2006

◆ Fort Collins Coloradoan ◆

City editor: Pat Ferrier, 224-7742

E-mail: CityNews@coloradoan.com

City opens door to homeless-center talk

By SARA REED

SaraReed@coloradoan.com

Residents will have one more chance tonight to weigh in on a day-services center for the homeless and near-homeless proposed for northeast Fort Collins.

The United Way of Larimer County wants to build a 10,000-square-foot facility on the northwest corner of Conifer Road and

United Way of Larimer County proposes facility near Conifer-Blue Spruce

Blue Spruce Drive that would act as a central point for social services, but residents worry that it would lead to an increase in crime and a decrease in property values.

The city of Fort Collins is hosting a neighborhood informational meeting

about the proposed center from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Church, 1201 N. College Ave.

Gordan Thibedeau, executive director of the United Way of Larimer County, said it's been a while since residents in the area have been updated on

the project and he wants to use the meeting to let them know of some of the changes that have occurred in the plan.

Most notably, Thibedeau said, is that there is a tentative agreement that Catholic Charities Northern would open a day shel-

ter in the area for people who do not want to use the services at the center but need a place to go during the day, Thibedeau said.

There are concerns from residents, he said, that people will just hang around the area after they learn it's not a day shelter.

"That does, I believe, answer the major concerns from residents," Thibedeau said.

Thibedeau said he hopes to submit to the city a formal application to build by the middle of September and to have the center open by Thanksgiving 2007.

Want to go?

The neighborhood meeting on the United Way Housing Services Day Center is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Church, 1201 N. College Ave. Contact Steve Oit, city planner, at 221-6750 for more information.