**Group moves on major Tysons project**

By William C. Flook

West Group, Tysons Corner’s largest landowner, has filed plans to build a mammoth redevelopment project envisioned for a new urban Tysons: 150-acre swath of offices, retail and living space closely tied to Metrorail.

If approved, the West Gate and West Park projects together would add millions of square feet of development to an unremarkable cluster of office parks, part of what West Group Senior Vice President Mark Lowham calls “the start of a long-term transformation in Tysons which is radically different from the one we know today.”

The developments sit close to the planned Tysons East Metro station, which will be built at the corner of Cindyshire Drive and Route 123 as part of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

The proximity to rail is integral to West Group’s hope of passing a rezoning application of such scope by — hopefully — encouraging people to walk or ride the train instead of choosing the area’s already congested roads.

The project’s timeline also is linked to West Group’s hope of passing a rezoning application of such scope by — hopefully — encouraging people to walk or ride the train instead of choosing the area’s already congested roads.

The project hinges on several factors, including construction start. The plan will provide about $2 million to the city’s libraries from savings in debt service.

The plan will hinge on the funding and construction start. The city’s libraries will open seven days a week.

**Heart of the City**

**Girl, 6, dead in apparent overdose of father’s antidepressants**

By Bill Myers

An apparent overdose of prescription antidepressants has taken the life of a little girl, and D.C.’s teetering child welfare agency is once again trying to explain how it missed warning signs she was in danger.

The girl, identified only by her initials, DHR, swallowed a handful of pills prescribed to her father. She began wheezing and was rushed to a hospital last week, interim Attorney General Peter Nickles told The Examiner. She later died.

Two weeks before she died, someone called the city’s child welfare hot line and reported the family was having “a housing issue,” Nickles said.

D.C. police and a part-time, weekday social worker walked into the family’s home in Northeast. No one was there, Nickles said.

The family’s file was transferred to a regular weekday social worker, who apparently shielded it, Nickles said.

“It’s not good,” Nickles told The Examiner. “The number one rule is — you’ve got to see the kid.”

The death is under investigation and no charges have filed. Child and Family Services, however, has removed DHR’s 3-year-old and 18-month-old siblings from the home.

The weekday social worker has been suspended and might be fired, Nickles said.

She isn’t the only casualty in D.C.’s bleeding child welfare bureaucracy. Mayor Adrian Fenty has fired a number of social workers since January, when the badly decomposing bodies of four girls were discovered in a Southeast squatters’ home. Child welfare bureaucrats ignored desperate calls for help for Banita Jacks’ four daughters.

Jacks has since been charged with the girls’ killings.

Since then, the child welfare agency has been overwhelmed with cases. Its backlog of open files jumped to nearly 2,000 in six months. The agency was already under a federal court monitor, and experts have warned the Fenty administration that the agency is at a tipping point.

Last month, after two babies died under the city’s eyes, Fenty demanded the resignation of Child and Family Services Agency Director Sharlynn Bobo. The person Fenty tasked to replace her, Rose Gerald, was sued in the late 1980s after he had sex with a suicidal patient.

As a D.C. councilman, Fenty was said to have social workers in the neighborhoods like cops on the beat. They need to be out in the community where people can get to know them and get to trust them. And their goal should be keeping children safe in their homes.

Got a tip on child welfare? Call Bill Myers at 202-459-4956 or send him an e-mail, bmyers@dceXaminer.com