



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] of Geneva St. Charles

August 11, 2007

Letter to Editor

For over four years, the non-profit Shelters for Healthy Environments, Inc. (SHE) worked on an accessible housing project which would have provided 47 units of affordable housing for people with special needs in the Geneva/St. Charles area. SHE Inc. has been dedicated to building this housing that would serve persons with special needs who meet criteria determined by the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which allows persons with special needs who have shown the ability to pay rent based on a sliding scale to live and work in the community. Canterbury Fields was to be built in St. Charles behind Meijer, located just off Randall Road, an ideal location close to grocery, shopping, transportation, employment as well as medical needs.

The League of Women Voters of Geneva-St. Charles has a position that supports governmental and community efforts to ensure affordable, safe, and decent housing for the citizens of our towns. It has worked diligently with coalitions to examine strategies for improving the supply of affordable housing in the Geneva/St. Charles area and has recommended appropriate action.

We were disappointed to learn recently that Canterbury Fields will not be going forward. Whether that parcel of land will have a similar affordable housing project is unknown.

The League applauds SHE Inc.'s effort to fulfill a void by targeting housing to those with the most need. And in the future the League will continue to support well-planned housing projects developed for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Respectfully,

Kimberley Haag, President
League of Women Voters of Geneva St. Charles