

# Board sends Rizzi request back to Plan Commission

By Louise Brass  
STAFF WRITER

Woodridge residents who protested the operations of E.C. Rizzi to the Bolingbrook Plan Commission recently will have their requests reconsidered after actions by the Village Board Sept. 27.

The residents say the firm, which has recycled construction and landscape waste at the site since the 1980s, has become a dumping ground that smells bad and violates environmental regulations.

Owner J.R. Rizzi said his request to the Plan Commission is only to grandfather in his usual operations now that the site is annexed into Bolingbrook and that there's no dumping.

Rizzi has requested a special use permit to allow the continuation of his business, which also handles steel, plastics and wood and then dyes and recycles the materials into landscaping materials.

The firm's request came before the Village Board for approval but was sent back to the Plan Commission for a closer look.

E.C. Rizzi is on 16 acres partly in Will County and partly in DuPage County, just southwest of Woodward Avenue near Murphy Road. The site is 500 feet from the Farmingdale Unit 24 Subdivision.

Robyn Denton of Woodridge said the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has cited Rizzi 91 times since 1998.

She said the citations include causing or allowing the open dumping of waste in a manner that results in litter; dumping of demolition debris; failure to submit an application for a permit to operate a landfill; and causing or allowing the development and/or operation of a solid waste management site without a permit issued by the agency.

Rizzi said his firm is recycling materials to benefit the environment and that he has no garbage and nothing that smells on the site.

Regulations require that landscape waste be transferred off the site within 24 hours of receipt, Denton said, and added that the piles of dirt the residents see every day indicates that is not happening.

Mayor Roger Claar held a meeting Sept. 26 with the concerned residents and took comments for two hours.

One resident said she is unable to entertain on her patio or let her children out to play in her home on Witham Lane in Woodridge because of the smell of decaying materials. She also fears asbestos or other crushed materials are entering the air and could be hazardous.

Residents asked that the Plan Commission consider and announce how drainage from the site is being monitored.

"How do you know there are no hazardous pollutants in the runoff?" one resident asked.

Woodridge resident Tom Freske asked why the Plan Commission had earlier recommended approval of the special use permit for a planned industrial development with variances, apparently without addressing the special use standards contained in the zoning ordinance.

If the Village Board approved the request it would be doing so for a site without a stormwater permit, Denton said.

Dennis Kowalczyk, director of community development in Bolingbrook, said no complaints have come to him from Bolingbrook residents or from the Will County Solid Waste board, but the village is looking into the issue.

Claar said he believes the business has not changed its operations since coming into the village several years ago, and because the business was in operation before the houses were built in the area, operations could possibly be grandfathered in.

However, the Plan Commission will reconsider the matter at a meeting to be announced, he said. The Village Board then will vote on the recommendation.

The Plan Commission, chaired by Robert Cawthon, meets the first and third Monday of the month, but a date to consider this issue has not been set, village officials said.

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