

Happy Valentine's Day

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Memo



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Neighbors keep developers at arm's length

Negotiators for the Madison South and Roseway neighborhoods have pulled back from direct negotiations with representatives of the SmartCentres Corporation of Canada, would-be builders of a big box project on a 26-acre former landfill on Northeast 82nd Avenue at Siskiyou Street, across from Madison High School. The company originally proposed to build a 190,000-square-foot retail building on the site, but later withdrew its application and expressed a willingness to work with neighbors.

According to Madison South's Dawn Tryon, neighbors have simply given SmartCentres a statement of their core values and asked the company to submit an alternative development plan that is consistent with the values. "These are experienced professional people," Tryon said at a neighborhood meeting last month. "We don't see the need to do their work for them."