

upstairs of a two-story town house in the 8600 block of Terrace Garden Way in Bethesda, fire department spokesman Peter Piringer said. A car was left running in the garage.

The man was pronounced dead on the scene, and the semiconscious woman was rushed to a hospital.  
- Bill Myers

## Public hearing scheduled to discuss power line

Virginia's State Corporation Commission has scheduled a public hearing in Prince William County to receive comment on two applications from power companies to build a 500-kilovolt transmission line to serve Northern Virginia.

The hearing will be held Aug. 9 and Aug. 10 in Bristow's Marsteller Middle School. The hearings begin at 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 9 and 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 10.

The proposed 93-mile transmission line would run from the Virginia-West Virginia border in Frederick County to a substation in Loudoun County.  
- Joe Rogalsky

# Planning Board trying to dissuade attorney general investigation

By Dena Levitz  
Examiner Staff Writer

The chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board is urging the attorney general not to investigate wrongdoing in Park and Planning — including accusations of an unlicensed engineer signed off on major projects — because he says his department has concluded there are no problems.

The investigation Royce Hanson is citing, though, was done internally, which has a number of citizens and lawmakers doubting its veracity.

Del. Herman Taylor and Montgomery County Council Member Marc Elrich sent a letter earlier this month to Attorney General Doug Gansler asking him to step in because they said Park and Planning of-

ficials were not aggressive enough in their inquiries into several resident issues — from whether illegal clearing was glossed over to whether Lee Sutherland has practiced as an engineer without a professional license.

The accusations chiefly relate to Ashton resident Steve Kanstoroom, who told officials that land-cleaning near his property violated the Forest Conservation Law.

The subsequent May 30 letter Hanson sent to Gansler states that "the complaints alleged ... were thoroughly investigated by staff."

"We believe these cases are closed as they have been thoroughly examined," Hanson's letter states. "... after repeated reviews, we believe the decisions were appropriate and transparent."

His letter also makes mention of an August internal investigation by Park and Planning that partially

looked into the unlicensed engineer, Sutherland.

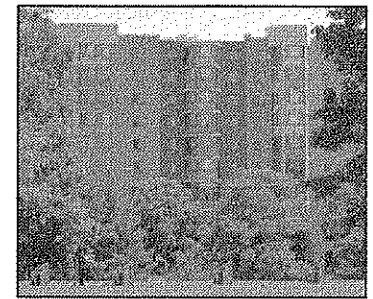
That investigation painted doubts about some inconsistencies in the permitting process, but overall was not highly critical.

The auditors, however, said they confirmed allegations that Sutherland had forged documents with signatures of engineers who are licensed.

"It appears evident that the signature of the professional engineer was, in fact, cut and pasted on certain documents," the investigation summary states.

Such an astounding finding is precisely why community activists Harriet Kuhn and Sue Ghosh-Stricklett say the attorney general does need to become involved.

"I really believe that if they have nothing to hide they would welcome an external investigation by either



Leisure World in Silver Spring is seen from the golf course near the buildings. Lee Sutherland was involved in the building of LeisureWorld - Greg Whitesell/Examiner

the Montgomery County Inspector General or the AG," Kuhn said.

Calls to Gansler's office about whether the attorney general will investigate were unreturned Monday.  
dlevitz@dexaminer.com



TODAY AT 4PM **OPRAH**

**MICHAEL MOORE & HIS NEW CONTROVERSIAL FILM**  
The movie that has everyone buzzing. See how he's taking on a trillion dollar industry that affects all of us.



THEN AT 5PM

**ABC7 NEWS AT 5**

Join ABC 7's Leon Harris, Doug Hill and Tim Brant for all of the day's news, weather and sports, at 5.