

## City suing TUSD over Cherry Field

By Mark Turner  
The Arizona Daily Star

The city filed an eminent domain suit yesterday against the Tucson Unified School District over a piece of Tucson High School's Cherry Field, but the district will get a quick \$2.6 million as a result.

The suit stems from Tucson's plans to take about 5 1/2 acres of the athletic field for part of the northern leg of Kino Boulevard. The city and school district have been unable to agree on how much the district should be paid for the land, remaining about \$1.5 million apart.

In the formal condemnation proceeding kicked off by the suit, the city will pay its offer of \$2.6 million while the parties attempt to resolve the difference. The district's current demand is about \$4.1 million.

Tucson lawyer Janice A. Wezelman, who represents the district, characterized the case as "not a real adversarial situation." She said the suit actually is somewhat beneficial to negotiations, because under condemnation law, compensation that is not in dispute changes hands almost immediately.

She said the \$2.6 million might be transferred to the school district today.

Wezelman and Assistant City Attorney John J. Brady agreed that transfer of the property is not in dispute. Construction is expected to begin July 1, Brady said.

The city is taking the eastern end of the athletic facility, at South Campbell Avenue and East 13th Street.

The variance in the prices offered and asked stem from differences over where the displaced athletic facilities will be relocated.

The city's offer assumes that the new facilities, including a baseball diamond, will be built on the remainder of Cherry Field and adjacent property now owned by the city.

The district's figure is based on condemnation of some facilities on land adjacent to the Tucson High School campus, at North Euclid Avenue and East Sixth Street. The district already owns prop-

erty there and plans no condemnation proceedings of its own, Wezelman said.

John Kross, city real-estate administrator, said the district wants the city to reimburse it for the land near the high school that would be used for the new facilities. That accounts for about \$600,000 of the difference. Construction and engineering expenses required to relocate the facilities to the high school campus account for the rest, he said.

Cherry Field and Tucson High School are about 1 1/2 miles apart.

Both Wezelman and Brady said out-of-court negotiations would continue and expressed optimism that a settlement would be reached.

If the case goes to trial, a judge or jury will determine the compensation based on expert testimony of each of the parties, Brady said.



Dr. Virginia Eggert, at camera, and Fred McConnell, with card, teach a video class



Anderson points to where Highway Department had placed a stake locating new road

Photos by Bebie Sanders, The Arizona Daily Star

## Special high school bends to fit its students' needs

By John Rawinson  
The Arizona Daily Star

From the front, the house just south of Cherry Field off South Campbell Avenue looks as if it might have been plucked from an old "Our Gang" film.

Its broken windows are boarded shut, and the front door stays wide open. Young people, some with cigarettes dangling from their mouths, scurry in and out.

Welcome to the Senior High Accommodations Program School.

It's a high school program conducted for students society has labeled dropouts, non-conformists — a school for students who might otherwise be on the streets, according to Tom Anderson, a teacher there.

The program has been run since 1974 by the Tucson Unified School District, which owns the former home that sits by itself behind the Tucson High School baseball field at Cherry Field.

The house is directly in the path of the northern leg of Kino Boulevard — part of the property that the city of Tucson yesterday filed a condemnation lawsuit to obtain.

"I have no idea where we will move," Anderson said yesterday.

If the school district knows, its planning director wasn't saying. "I have not been made aware of the filing," Anna Jolyvet said yesterday. "I can't respond to your questions at this time."

Thirty-nine students currently participate in the program at Cherry Field, Anderson said. They come in at different times of the day and spend about four hours there.

"We look at the students, and we look at their whole lives. We use magazines a lot, have them read a lot of magazines. We also take a lot of field trips into town," Anderson said.

"We try to build the school program around the individual student," he said. "We have students map out their own goals. Sometimes we will spend a half-day with just one kid."

"These are kids that have had problems

with the authorities, with their parents, or are bothered by just being in a large school. The only way they will ever come around is by having them work with just one individual," Anderson said.

Anderson said he and his students are keenly aware of the dilapidated appearance of the building. "Some people are appalled at the condition of this building. They are distressed at the windows being broken."

**"We have students map out their own goals. Sometimes we will spend a half-day with just one kid."**

He is quick to point out that trants and nearby athletic activity — not the students — are responsible for the broken windows.

Anderson said he has asked the district to repair the windows. "But there are 99 other schools out there, and we aren't exactly high on the priority list."

Inside the six rooms and two bathrooms, things are neat and tidy. The students who smoke are careful to put their ashes and butts in empty coffee cans that lie about. But there's room for self-expression.

A student has printed, in neat letters, "Death To All That Enter" on the open door to Anderson's office. A wall is filled with neat and sometimes very articulate graffiti. Skulls and peace messages seem to prevail. "Ignorance Of Your Culture Is Not Cool," says one message.

Bill is 17, and so muscular he might have just stepped off the University of Arizona's football bus. He has been a student at Cherry Field for two years and loves it.

"I don't like regular high school. The teachers are unfair. They never help you with your homework," Bill said.

Paul, also 17, has what some might call a "punk rock" haircut. "The teachers won't help the loonhairs. All they are interested in is their images," he declared.

Anderson says one-half to three-quarters of the students at Cherry Field will graduate with high school diplomas.



Sophomore Chris O'Brien discusses possibility of school being razed