SPORT

BENTLEIGH EAST

Mega project up for vote

Troels Sommerville

THE largest high-density development complex ever to be built in Glen Eira hangs on a crucial rezoning vote at the council later this

Councillors will decide on July 21 whether to rezone Bentleigh East's Virginia Park Estate, allowing for developers Gillon Group to build a shopping mall and an estimated 4000-plus dwellings there.

OPPOSITION SIMMERS AS DEVELOPMENT CRUNCH TIME LOOMS

Outraged residents have voiced their concerns and al-most 100 turned out to a meeting last week to listen to councillors and the develop

Those opposed said that with the only public trans-port near the development a single bus line - both the nearest train station at Or mond and nearest tram in Carnegie were more than

2km away - the influx of people would increase traffic.

A Facebook group op-

posed to the development. had 430 members at the time of writing.

"There are a whole raft of issues that this development will cause and many of them just haven't been dressed," said nearby resi-dent Rodney Andonopoulos.

"They're really setting

this place up to become a

David (last name not given) said the park would

e "a city within a city". Gillon Group wants Virginia Park rezoned from a mix of Commercial 1 and Commercial 2 zones to just Commercial 1.

Member for Bentleigh Nick Staikos said council-lors now had "a very big de-

cision" to make and urged them to "to take seriously the complaints and con-cerns of residents".

"This decision isn't only about the borders of Virginia Park, it's about East Bentleigh and the whole of Glen

Mayor Jim Magee said he had taken more than 30 calls from residents, all in oppo-

- Councillors will vote on July 21 on the rezone.
- They have two options.
 Councillors can abandon the rezone proposal.
 They can send the issue to an independent panel.
- Because of public objection they can't send the matter to the Minister for approval.
 Commercial 1 allows for a mix of housing and business
- mix of housing and business without a need for a planning

HAMPTON EAST

Welcome support for charity

A CHARITY helping struggling families with the cost of school outings has been given a boost with community grants.

The Bayside Community Information and Support Services was one of 200 recipients of a Commonwealth Bank Community Grants.

Its Education Support Program, which helps send children of struggling households away on school excursions, will get a share of \$2 million of funding.

Anne Coughlin, the charity's executive officer, pictured below, said it relied totally on donations to run the program and this was a big help. She said it helped about 6000 families a year

"It's our belief that those kids who can't afford to go away on these trips are the ones who need it the most, Ms Coughlin said.

Also awarded a Common wealth Bank grant was the MonashLink Community Health Service, Clayton.



HIGHETT



Kids' coat drive requires acts of warmth

BRIONY Coccaro is asking people to dig through their closets for old coats and sweaters to help keep children in need warm over the colder months.

With temperatures diving and everyone in need of a few extra layers, the Highett mum has been working with not-for-profit group St Kilda Mums for their Coats for

Together they have been looking for donations of new and old clothes for kids from newborns and up.
So far, the Highett mum

had a great reaction from local schools which have en-couraged students and their parents to look through vardrobes.

Mrs Coccaro had hoped

more would help.
"It's just such a great

cause and we just want as many people to get behind it as we can find," she said.

The group is looking for good secondhand coats, free of marks and stains, with working zips and hoods. St Kilda Mums chief Jess-

ica Macpherson estimated they would be delivering coats to about 2000 babies and children across the city

"Now that the weather is getting chilly, there are many families not able to keep their children warm, or allow them to play outside,'

Ms Macpherson said.
She encouraged schools, kinders, childcare centres and workplaces to hold coat drives, with the appeal to run until July 31.

Go to stkildamums.org for

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

People praised for generosity

THE quantity and variety of food donated by generous Melburnians to the Food for Families Appeal made it one of Wesley Mission's most successful campaigns.

More than 45 tonnes of non-perishable food and toi-

letries were given to the charity to help people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness

Wesley Mission Victoria's acting manager of Crisis and Homelessness Services
Maidie Graham said the
donations in the lead-up to last Christmas not only increased in quantity, but

also in variety.

"We stock our pantry from the food collected through Food for Families and over the past six months it's been a pleasure to make that selection each day," she

"Our clients are telling us that they're so happy with the choices on offer – they can find many of the elements of a nutritious meal on our shelves.

The annual appeal collects food for Wesley's crisis and homelessness services in Melbourne's outer east and inner west.

Wesley Mission Victoria relies on the support of 1,500 volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer visit







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MOORABBIN KINGSTON LEADER, Wednesday, July 1, 2015