

Cell Phone Antennas Coming Down

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By Jennifer Borrasso

It looks as if controversial cell phone antennas will be coming down from a Catholic elementary school.

Concerned citizens in Jessup came to a zoning board meeting Monday expecting another round in their battle with Sprint Nextel.

Instead, they learned that the company is backing down from the fight over cell phone antennas on top of Lasalle Academy. Sprint Nextel will be removing the antennas from the school in Jessup citing "business reasons."



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Cell phone antennas on Lasalle Academy in Jessup will be coming down.

"They are going to remove the telecommunications facility which the residents who have been informed have never been turned on," said Jessup zoning solicitor Kim Giombetti.

"They figured it's a small town, they are going to try and get away with it. But we kept fighting," said Jessup resident Joan Kutchmanich.

Michael Grab, an attorney for Sprint Nextel, said the decision to withdraw the appeal was unrelated to any controversy or opposition to the site or to the merits of the case.

About two years ago, Saint Michael's parish allowed Nextel to put up the antennas for a fee. But after parents started a community group and expressed worries about health concerns, the parish decided not to allow the antennas to be turned on.

"I did it for Lasalle Academy and the children of Jessup and I think it paid off," said Alison Bollard of Jessup.

Vera and Joe Kaszuba live across the street from the school.

"I don't care how low radiation, it's still radiation," said Vera Kaszuba.

Sprint Nextel has until August 15th to remove the antennas from Lasalle Academy in Jessup.

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