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City wants bar license; owner says no

By Diane Gale staff writer

Joe Asclone, owner of Bootleggers, "wants out of the city," according to his attorney, Norman Farhat. Farhat made the announcement Thursday during a break in the public hearing to determine if the Farmington City Council will renew the bar's license.

The council will decide at its regular meeting March 19 whether to renew the bar's Class C liquor license. "From the facts there's no justification to take his license away, and if they do I'll tip my hat to them for their guts," Farhat said. "They have insufficient evidence."

"He (Asclone) wants out of the city, and if they don't renew the license he won't have anything to sell," Farhat said. He added that a city ordinance regulating bar operations is unreasonable.

The attorney said if the council denies Asclone's request to renew the license for the location at 32305 Grand River, he will opt for a hearing by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission

and subsequently take the case to circuit court.

Thursday's 3 1/2-hour public hearing was a sequel to a five-hour hearing Monday night. On both occasions the council chambers resembled a court room complete with legal jargon, court reporter and the attorneys objecting to "witnesses'" statements.

ON THE LATER date, Ronald Aho, the attorney representing the city, called residents and city officials to testify.

"People come out of the bar and party in the parking lot, make boopie and hollering noises and shout obscene language," according to Geraldine Homaszyn, who lives in a home on Brookdale. Her property abuts the bar's parking lot.

"One time I looked out my window and seven men were urinating at the same time (in public)," Homaszyn said. "One morning last summer I lifted my shades and there was a girl dressing in the car."

Homaszyn, who bought an air conditioner to draw out the noise in the Bootlegger's parking lot, cited many



All parties in the dispute over Bootlegger's agree that the Farmington bar will be closed soon. But will the present owner keep his state Class C liquor license?

disturbances caused by what she said were bar patrons.

Her complaints included drinking in the parking lot, which is littered with empty bottles; fighting, trespassing, exploding fire crackers, loitering and "patrons" making rowdy noises during early morning hours.

Darlene Thompson, a Brookdale resident near the bar, also cited inconveniences created by people she described as being Bootlegger patrons. Thompson said she is no longer able to maintain shrubbery and a garden because of trespassers trampling the greenery.

VEHICLES OWNED by family members have repeatedly been hit,

robbed and vandalized since Bootlegger's began business in March, 1981, she said.

Before the bar opened the "neighborhood was pleasant," Thompson said. "These things didn't happen prior to them (Bootlegger's) being there."

Thompson related a story about her cat causing a loud noise, and her assumption "that our picture window was knocked out. At that point I realized I was becoming paranoid in my own home."

Homaszyn also said the residents on Brookdale are still experiencing parking problems despite a city ordinance that mandates permit parking only during specific hours.

"We've observed the use of drugs in the parking lot and in front of my home," Homaszyn said. "I've seen them burning things, sniffing something and I've found syringes in the parking lot."

In response to Farhat's cross examination Homaszyn said she hadn't actually seen anyone use syringes. "I don't believe it's a suitable place for us (she, her husband and two teenage children) to sit on the front porch, and it goes on constantly," Homaszyn said.

POLICE SHIFT Commander Gary Goss cited a "rapid increase" in calls to the location since Bootlegger's opened.

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Cable scams loom

By Diane Gale staff writer

Illegally plugging into cable television services while avoiding a user's fee is a widespread and costly national problem which local cable franchisers are hoping to sidestep.

"It's a problem everywhere, but we haven't experienced the problem to an exorbitant extent (in Farmington and Farmington Hills)," said Bob McCann, general manager of MetroVision.

Nationwide the pirating is costing cable television companies approximately \$10 million, according to John Liskey, executive director of the Michigan Cable Television Association, one chapter of a national cable television organization.

"We estimate that the numbers of illegal hookups is between 5 and 10 percent of all cable users," Liskey said.

The MetroVision cable system in Farmington and Farmington Hills is "addressable," which means the service is turned on via a computer at their main office, according to Bob McCann, Metrovision general manager.

THIS LIMITS pirating, McCann said.

"It's a problem everywhere," McCann said. "It's industrywide, but because of the electronics here (Farmington and Farmington Hills) we're not anticipating a major problem." MetroVision, a national company, does auditing of their systems in the various cities they're located in. McCann estimates that the company loses one quarter of a million dollars annually by people illegally hooking into their system.

"People who would never think about walking into Hudson's and stealing a shirt wouldn't think twice about stealing cable services," McCann said. "We prosecute all pirates. We had a service problem in our Texas system, and we sent many people to jail, because we wanted to use them as examples to others."

A Michigan law, Public Act 287, mandates prosecution for cable pirates. It became effective in October 1982.

The law allows for a fine of not more than \$500, one year in jail or both.

GENERALLY, COMPANIES will notify the public that if they turn in their decoder box there won't be criminal charges, Liskey said. "Then hopefully they'll sign them up."

"I've had only one pirating call in the year I've been here," said Lark Samouellen, executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

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Legislator heats up smoking debate

By Diane Gale staff writer

Smokers across the nation are taking heat over recent legislative pushes, like a bill presented by Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, to restrict when and where smokers may light up.

Senate Bill 22 was reintroduced in February 1983 to "give non-smokers a choice," Faxon said.

Faxon reintroduced his Clean Indoor Air Act, to amend the public health code by prohibiting smoking in public places and during meetings with public bodies.

"Non-smokers will retain their rights while those wanting to smoke will be able to continue to do so," said the senator, who has strongly advocated health bills for more than 20 years.

Constituents complaining about "serious health problems" caused from inhaling smoke prompted the bill, Faxon said. Justice Barris, D-Westland, sponsored a similar piece of legislation, House Bill 52-10. There isn't a timetable on when either bill will be voted on.

The House bill proposes making violations of the law a civil infraction with a fine of not more than \$25.

Restaurants with a seating capacity of 50 or more are already required to provide non-smoking areas, according to the Michigan Public Health Code.

A recent surge in awareness about health hazards that non-smokers say they're subjected to in smoke-filled rooms is becoming a hot subject in cities across the nation where new laws are being enacted.

Residents in San Francisco passed the strictest law regulating smoking in the workplace. The law that went into effect Thursday requires employers to present a written policy protecting

'Non-smokers will retain their rights while those who smoke will be able to continue to do so.'

— Sen. Jack Faxon

non-smokers in their offices. There are 22 cities and counties in California that in some way govern the smoking habits of employees in the workplace.

"THE TOBACCO industry is consistently coming up with dramatic presentations testifying that there is no documented evidence linking smoking with health hazards," Faxon said.

"They fight any action by governments to make changes, and they've been a very effective group," Faxon said.

He said non-smokers often suffer from eye and throat irritations, headaches and nausea from the smoke they inhale.

"Pregnant women who are around smokers are inhaling bad air for their unborn children," he added.

Slate Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, doesn't "totally" support restrictive smoking legislation.

"I'd rather see some kind of step down the road that would permit someone with a health problem to make a request to management that they would want to work in an office where the people wouldn't be able to smoke," Brotherton said.

"It seems that this legislation might be going too far," he said. "There are a lot of people with the habit, and there will be an awful lot of good people having a tough time performing their

jobs," said Brotherton, a non-smoker.

Two-thirds of the adult population nationwide and three quarters of the whole are non-smoking, according to Mary Ellen Mumy, public affairs coordinator for the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan.

"A non-smoker in a smoke-filled room inhales higher compounds of noxious compounds, Mumy said. "Studies show there is twice as much tar and nicotine, five times as much carbon monoxide and 50 times as much ammonia."

After 30 minutes in a smoke-filled room, a non-smoker's blood shows an increased carbon monoxide level, as well as an elevated heart rate and blood pressure, she added.

A GALLUP POLL completed last fall showed 82 percent of the non-smokers interviewed and 55 percent of the smokers questioned agreed that smokers shouldn't light-up when around smokers. The poll also found that two-thirds of the smokers think involuntary smoking is hazardous to their non-smoking friends.

The American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan is planning a seminar from 9 a.m. to noon March 15 at the Michigan Inn of Southfield on "Survival in the Workplace." The free conference will present a panel of professionals who will discuss non-smokers' rights.



Suspects charged in auto thefts

By Diane Gale staff writer

Three men were charged in the theft of three cars in Farmington Hills following a high speed police chase Feb. 25.

Wayne Mullins, 18, Anthony Tyler, 19, and Adrian Reid, 19, waived their right to a preliminary exam Friday before Judge Margaret Schaefer in the 47th District Court.

They are suspects in a theft that involved five men and three stolen cars. Mullins and Reid are Detroit residents. Tyler is from Oak Park.

Mullins' and Tyler's trials will begin in Oakland County Circuit Court March

19. Reid is slated for a trial on March 20.

Tyler and Mullins have been charged with unlawfully driving an automobile and possession of stolen property worth more than \$100. Reid is charged with three counts of possession of a stolen automobile.

A 1981 black Grand Prix and a 1979 cream color Pontiac Grand Prix were reported stolen at approximately 3:45 a.m. Feb. 25 from the Green Hill apartment complex parking lot at 22225 Green Hill. The owners of both cars are residents at the apartment complex at Eight Mile and Ontario.

The automobiles were reportedly stolen by five persons in a green Chev-

rolet station wagon. Two persons escaped police pursuit.

Police report that those in the two stolen cars and the Chevrolet proceeded east on Nine Hills to the Timberidge apartment complex on Truck Road north of Eight Mile where a red-1978 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen.

"It's unusual for them to take that many cars that are all Grand Prix, which is not a relatively hot item for car thefts," according to Detective Darrel Krause.

The drivers of the four cars followed each other east on Grand River. The driver of the cream car left the vehicle and began running on foot. He was apprehended by police.

Police stake-outs and a high speed chase lasted more than 1 1/2 hours. During the pursuit, the driver of the black car struck a parked vehicle near St. Francis and Eighth Mile in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills officers and plain clothes surveillance were assisted by one Farmington police officer.

Police retrieved the black and cream cars. However, the men in the red automobile escaped.

At their arraignment on Feb. 25, Schaefer originally set bond at 10 percent of \$250 for the Mullins and Tyler and 10 percent of \$350 for Reid. At the preliminary hearing she agreed to lower Reid's bond to 10 percent of \$250.

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Classifieds divided into 2 sections

Beginning with today's editions, the Monday classified advertising section will be packaged in two sections. Check Sections C and D of this newspaper for the classifieds. The info in Section C will give a complete guide to all the classifieds in the newspaper.

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