

Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

Legal battle brews

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

Bootlegger Restaurant will take on the city of Farmington and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (LCC) in Ingham County Circuit Court on Friday.

The scheduled hearing is to determine if an injunction should be continued to prevent the LCC from refusing to renew the bar liquor license. Farmington City Council in March recommended to the LCC that renewal of a Class C liquor license granted to Pal Joey's Inc. for the operation of Bootlegger's Bar should be denied.

Less than a month later, bar owner Joe Ascone obtained an injunction in Ingham County Circuit Court to prevent the LCC from refusing to renew the license. The injunction has allowed Ascone to keep the bar at 32305 Grand River open.

In obtaining the injunction, Ascone claimed the action of the city council and LCC was "improper," said City Manager Robert Deadman.

"It's a hearing to determine whether or not the action taken by the city was proper," Deadman said, referring to Friday's scheduled hearing.

If it is determined that the city and the LCC acted improperly, the injunction will be continued, Deadman said. If it is determined both acted properly, the injunction will be dropped and the bar closed, he said.

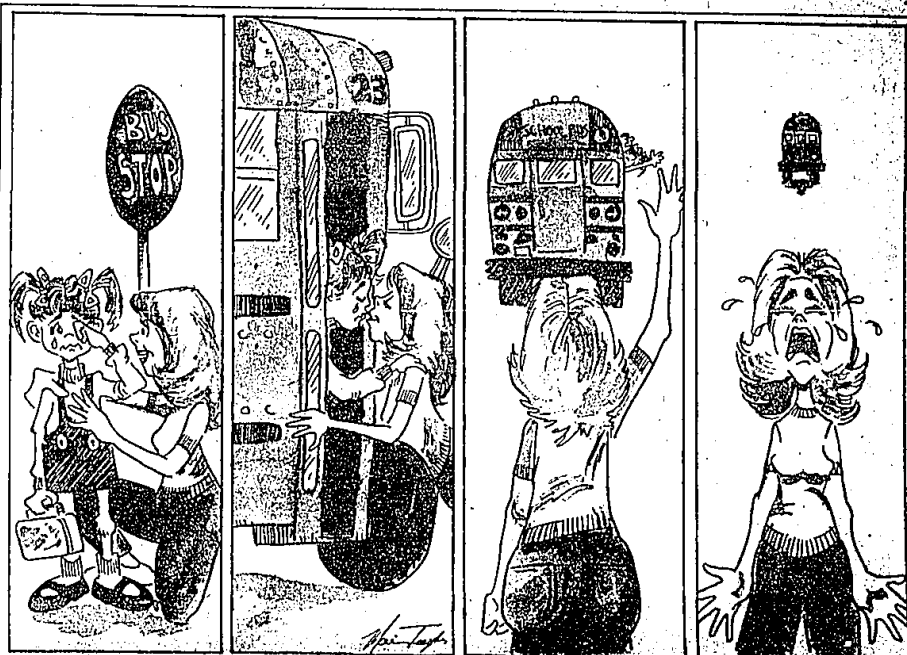
But Ascone's attorney, Norman Farhat, said, "If (the hearing) is really just an oral argument."

The judge most likely will not make a decision but take the issue under advisement, Farhat said.

COUNCIL ACTION against Bootleggers came after years of controversy between the city and Ascone, and two public hearings at which city officials and homeowners testified to a host of incidents involving the bar. Among the complaints were alleged incidents of fights, urinating in the parking lot, trespassing, patrons shouting obscenities, squealing tires and honking horns.

Farmington police statistics also indicated that approximately 100 police-related incidents occurred at Bootlegger's in one year. During the first session of an extended public hearing, Deadman and Public Safety Director Robert Siefert Jr. cited rowdy conduct and a list of other violations — more than 265 in 11 months.

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Fewer students will grace halls as Farmington launches new year

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

Students returning to Farmington Schools District's middle and high schools next week will find more room in hallways and classes due to an estimated 300-350 decline in enrollment for the 1984-85 school year.

"The decline is a natural progression from the past elementary school decline which occurred in the 1970s," says Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent in charge of elementary curriculum for the district.

"That decline was due partly to people leaving the area and lower birth rates, Freedman says. "Enrollment in the elementary schools leveled off last year, and the

decline is now showing up in secondary schools," Freedman explains.

One bright spot in the enrollment figures shows an increase of about 80 pupils in kindergarten to fifth grade, Freedman says, going from 3,783 last year to 3,863 for the 1984-85 school year.

Acting Superintendent Graham says the quality of education will not be compromised as a result of declining enrollment.

"There is a great variety in the manner in which subjects are taught to different groups of students, from limited access students to the very intelligent," Lewis says.

"We must make sure every child receives the education he or she is warranted."

Besides the normal reduction of staff as a result of the enrollment decline, the district will continue its existing programs, says Lewis.

And the district will inaugurate a cable television program this school year, which will give students "hands on" experience programming and producing television shows.

Plans for the cable TV project include televising drama and athletic events, musicals, forensic debates, and school board meetings.

The project includes hiring a part-time telecommunications coordinator who would organize all TV and media production classes and all cable TV programming, oversee all production activities and act as a liaison between the district and the cable commission.

The cost of the program to the district is estimated at about \$18,000 for the first year, including the \$13,000 salary of the part-time coordinator, says Freedman, who is also chairman of the school district's cable committee.

Equipment will be supplied and maintained by MetroVision under the auspices of the cable commission, thus eliminating a large portion of the expense.

"There's excitement, there's interest in this," says Freedman.

"We're looking for a long-term program here — we see a limitless potential. I would suspect that as long as the equipment is available to us we will continue to use it," Freedman explains.

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Rate hike looms

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

MetroVision cable firm is requesting a rate increase.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) will hear residents' comments and questions about the proposed increase at a public hearing scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, in the Farmington city council chambers, 23600 Liberty Street.

MetroVision wants to increase rates beginning Nov. 1, 1984. The proposed increase would affect residents who subscribe for the Tier III level of service.

Subscribers currently pay \$7.25 a month for Tier III (channels 3-113) service. MetroVision wants to increase the monthly rate to \$9.95. The installation charge would remain the same.

The proposed rate increase would not affect residents who are subscribing to three or more pay services, such as HBO, Cinema or Showtime. Monthly rates and installation charges for Tiers I and II would remain the same.

THE CABLE firm is also requesting an increase from \$3.50 a month to \$4.50 for each additional outlet (without remote control).

Reasons for the requested rate increase are:

- to finance MetroVision's additional upfront costs for building the system;
- to offset the firm's increase in costs for providing the entertainment channels;

- and the general financial condition of the entire cable industry.

Following the public hearing, SWOCC members are expected to make a recommendation to MetroVision's request. The Novi, Farmington and Farmingdale Hills city councils then have 60 days to consider the recommendation, Barnocoff said.

MetroVision's request for a rate increase is typical of requests by cable systems around the country, according to Larry Barnocoff, SWOCC executive director, which acts as the public's representative to the privately owned cable firm.

"Rate increases are being requested around the country," he said.

Many of the country's cable firms have either declared bankruptcy or merged with other cable firms.

Cable firms at first thought they could count on revenue from services such as banking and security. But cable

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Clarenceville vows to enforce ban on smoking

By Teri Bana
staff writer

The Clarenceville Board of Education Thursday reaffirmed its ban on smoking on school grounds beginning this week.

In doing so, trustees and school officials vowed to return to policing lavatories and school grounds in an attempt

to eradicate the practice among teenagers at school.

The action was taken in an overall review of the district's policies governing student conduct. The district includes students from Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township.

But it didn't come without some skepticism over whether enforcement is possible in what school Superintend-

ent Michael Shibler has called a "continual cat and mouse" game with students.

"I have to tell you, it will be difficult, and I really don't think you'll eliminate smoking, but maybe you'll reduce it," said Clarenceville High School principal DeWayne Nutter, who supported Shibler's request before the board.

"I agree it will be extremely difficult to enforce," said Trustee Sam Prik, "but I think we should try."

TRUSTEES and administrators pointed to state law as one reason for the crackdown. Under the law, cigarette smoking is illegal for people under the age of 18. The issue was approved 6-0. Trustee Michael Manore was absent.

The school penalty for a student found smoking includes up to a two-day suspension and/or suspension for the balance of the school day. Either way, the parents are notified. For a repeat

offender, the suspension is up to 10 days. The severity of the penalty depends on the building principal's discretion.

Trustees and school officials admit the ban will be difficult to enforce at first, particularly after years of not enforcing it. But they're counting on consistent application of the penalties to convince students that they're serious.

"I imagine we'll experience some problems in the beginning," Shibler told the board Thursday night. "I feel if we have a smoking policy, we should be consistent in enforcing it."

The decision to begin enforcing the smoking ban again came at the request of the new superintendent who took over in July. It also had some paying-off, especially in the findings of a community survey that listed 84 percent of the respondents as calling for more discipline.

Trustee Richard Wood added that many parents who responded to the survey also encouraged school officials to be consistent in applying the discipline.

SHIBLER said high school teachers would be asked to police lavatories while patrolling the rest of the school parking lot would be left to the district's parking attendant.

Enforcement also will be strict at one of the most traditional smoking spots on the school campus — the block-off "wall" located along the back side of the school parking lot at High. According to Nutter, the area has developed over the years into an informal place-

ing place for students, usually averaging 25-30 at one time. Nutter said he and assistant school principal Tony Marrs would enforce this area of the property.

"If you move them off the wall they're just going to go into the lobby," said trustee Daniel Morrison. "It's going to be a fairly effective management to make it work."

Nutter said students will be apprised of the plan when they return to school this week via announcements, discussions with classroom teachers and notices in the first newsletter school issues.

"I think the majority will support it while heartily," he said.

He said he's hoping the plan will help reduce a by-product of the smoking that concerns educators — classroom tardiness caused by students going outside to smoke.

This year, the high school principal is expecting an enrollment of 612 students.

CLARENCEVILLE said tentative action crackdown on smoking in the past, resulting in particularly an increase in the '80s when a "buddy-buddy" was covered by cigarettes and prohibited from re-trying smoking. According to Nutter, students who were smoking in the child room threw a cigarette on a pile of class papers, starting a fire which caused minor fire damage in the building.

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oral quarrel

How do you feel about Metro cable increase?

The MetroVision cable firm has requested a rate increase, effective Nov. 1.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) will make a recommendation on the cable firm's request following a public hearing scheduled for Sept. 11.

SWOCC's cable consultant, Harold Horn, said MetroVision is justified in their request for a rate increase. The increase will help offset additional costs of building the cable system in the tri-city franchise area.

service would remain the same. An increase is also proposed for each additional outlet without remote control. The change is \$4.50 a month. The proposed rate is \$9.95 a month. Residents subscribing to three or more pay services would be unaffected by the proposed increase.

Today's Oral Quarrel Question is: How do you feel about MetroVision's proposed rate increase?

You have until 1 p.m. Friday to answer by calling 477-8418. You will have 30 seconds to answer. To see how your neighbors feel about this question, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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