

Metal munching —
Vending America, 1D



Prep cage
results, 1C

Hors d'oeuvres
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Southfield Eccentric

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Developers will challenge city

Await own wetland study

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Owners of the mostly vacant 100-acre American Center property are preparing to challenge Southfield's determination that at least one fourth of the site the company hopes to develop is in protected wetlands.

The size of the wetlands on the property west of Franklin Road between I-696 and 11 Mile would be expected to affect the size and design of the proposed massive office/retail/residential development.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is investigating complaints from Southfield and some of city residents that the owners violated state law when they uprooted trees and plowed the soil while clearing the site this fall.

"We don't believe there was anything wrong

with what we did on the property, we didn't do anything until we discussed the plan with our attorney," an executive with the Texas-based Hall Financial Group said last week.

The two limited partnerships that own the property disagree with the city's wetlands designation and maps, and have hired their own consultant to survey the property for wetlands, Hall vice president Stan Forcino said.

Hall American Center Associates/American Center Properties have hired Johnson, Johnson & Roy of Ann Arbor for the job.

The landscape architectural design firm's survey will be turned over to the DNR, which is currently relying on wetlands designation

and maps recently done for Southfield by Dr. Eugene Jaworski of J & L Consulting Services of Ypsilanti.

"WE HOLD DR. JAWORSKI and his work in high regard," said DNR Investigator Rob Zbleciak, "but to be fair we want to consider all of the information the owners provide."

The partnerships have until Jan. 15 to provide the DNR with the results of the Johnson, Johnson & Roy report, Zbleciak said. But the full investigation may not be concluded until spring.

"We've already determined that there has been some work done on the site that is in vio-

lation of the Goemaere-Anderson Wetlands Protection Act of 1979," said Zbleciak. But the size of the wetlands is still the question.

Wetlands on that property are noted in general terms on the National Wetlands Inventory Map prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior in 1978, but the size is considerably less than that identified recently by Jaworski.

Until a final determination is made, the owners are being ordered by the DNR not to do anything else on the land that could disturb wetlands.

"There's no question — we are dealing with state regulated wetlands," Zbleciak said. "The question is how much is there."

THE OWNERS have indicated that they may plant some kind of grass to make the site

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cityscapes

JUDGE FOR yourself

There's an old evergreen tree on the south side of 10 Mile (across from Kentucky Fried Chicken) just west of Telegraph that looks to some "exactly like a giraffe," according to Judi Delgado of Southfield.

It's so interesting that she wrote to tell us about it. "My day care children pointed it out to me and now even my teenager points it out to her friends. We all enjoy going past it and thought other little children might like to see it too."

Delgado sent along a couple of pictures of the tree, and it certainly does look like a giraffe. Maybe you'd like to look for yourself.

"You'll recognize it the minute you drive down 10 Mile," said Delgado.

We passed the photos around the office and got some votes for the Statue of Liberty, one for a kangaroo and one for a reindeer. Guess we should drive by and look at the real thing.

POLITICAL aspirations and Southfield High graduates Debbie K. Schussel, now a candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives 24th District, go back a few years.

But if nominations were held for the most interesting holiday card to cross our desks at the Southfield Eccentric this year, the young Republican would be at the top of the list.

Southfield's holiday greeting features a photograph of her with President George Bush, sharing a handshake and banter in front of the White House. Inside the card, in scrawled "Read Our Lips . . . Happy Holidays! (Even if you're a liberal!)"

SOME Southfield schools staff members were in Lansing one evening earlier this month to be congratulated by the State Board of Education for Southfield-Lathrup High School's recent selection for the National Excellence in Special Education Award.

The school received \$2,000 in conjunction with the honor.

There to bear the good words were principal James Smyth and other staff members, Ann Delaney Kochanski, Marilyn Sabia, Geraldyn Jazewski and Judy Pazel.

The national award was presented in November in Louisville, Ky. for the school's outstanding program in preparing special education students for higher education.

JUDGE BRYAN Levy has been elevated by his co-judges to a two-year stint as chief judge of the 16th District Court, and Judge Stephen Cooper will serve as chief judge pro tem for the same period. Levy succeeds Judge Susan Moskew in the top spot.

Levy, a resident of Beverly Hills, has been on the district bench since March of 1987.

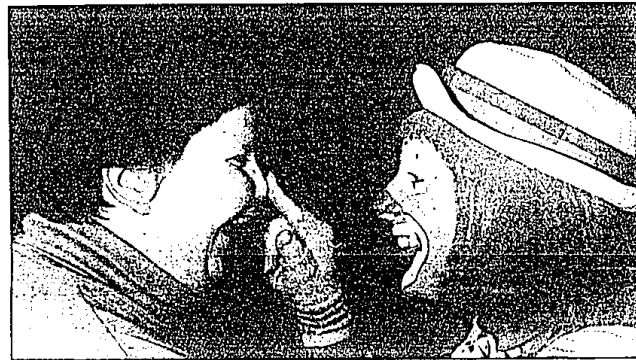
The three-judge 46th District Court serves Southfield, Lathrup Village and the Southfield Township villages of Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms.

THERE'S MORE help for smokers who want to — as the Cancer Information Service puts it — "kick butt."

The service has instituted a state-wide toll free number, 800-4-CANCER, with specialists trained to offer free help and advice on quitting smoking.

Apparently there are 31 tips for quitting.

The phone is operated 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



Nancy (left) — one of 156 who attended the festival for the mentally disabled at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion — enjoys the atten-

tions of Diddy the Clown, Prudence Pfeiffer of Livonia.

Holiday fete aids disabled

An annual holiday festival for the mentally disabled drew 156 people from surrounding neighborhoods to the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion last week.

The event, sponsored by the Northwest Therapeutic Recreation Committee, a subcommittee of the Northwest Parks and Recreation Committee — featured music, dancing, dinner and gifts from Santa.

There is a great need for events of this kind in the community, said Southfield recreation program coordinator Tori Campe.

"When you see some of these people from group homes, it's really striking. They don't get a chance to do much," Campe said.

"Their families are so happy they have a chance to get out and enjoy themselves."

The event drew mentally disabled from the severely retarded who are confined to group homes to the mildly ill who hold jobs.

The celebration was a "joint effort by parks and recreational professionals" from Southfield, Oak

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Matt, from Birmingham, boogies with Billie Fair, a volunteer from Pontiac, during the festival for the mentally disabled at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion.

Hotels change names

By Nechama Bakst
staff writer

The old Southfield Sheraton has changed its name again.

And to make matters even more confusing, the Michigan Inn just became the new Sheraton Southfield.

The former Sheraton recently became the Days Hotel and Conference Center.

"We are a little worried about the confusion," acknowledged the new Sheraton general manager Robert

Wilson. "It's obviously going to be a marketing challenge."

Wilson said the full-service 412 room hotel at 18400 J.L. Hudson Drive will stress to the public that it is the new Sheraton Southfield.

Equitable Insurance Co. opened the Michigan Inn in 1974 and still owns it as a Sheraton franchise. The company just completed a \$4.5 million renovation.

Wilson said the new affiliation

"We are a little worried about the confusion. It's obviously going to be a marketing challenge."

— Robert Wilson
Sheraton general manager

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Trash pickup will include recycling

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Trash day will soon be three times as busy for Southfield homeowners and rubbish collectors as the city moves to a new pickup plan that includes recycling.

To enable that to happen, the city council next month is expected to switch rubbish contractor, approving a five-year contract with Waste Management of Michigan, said Thomas Vukonich, city public works director. It's contract with Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc. will run out Feb. 4.

"Three trucks will come down the street on trash day" instead of one, Vukonich said at last week's council study session. They will stop to collect garbage, recyclables and yard waste (grass clippings, leaves) for composting purposes.

"Three trucks will come down the street on trash day."

— Thomas Vukonich
city public works director

Vukonich added that the successful transition of the program should be completed by early 1991. Approval of the contract would ensure continued services.

It will cost the city \$82,000 more annually — more than \$2.4 million — to contract with Waste Management instead of Laidlaw, both operating out of Southfield. The latter's

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Court orders dogs killed after attack

By A. Giralt Bedford
staff writer

Three dogs, one of which mauld an 18-month-old Southfield girl on Oct. 29, were destroyed by court order on Dec. 11.

Forty-sixth District Judge Susan Mussey issued the order after a hearing in which residents of the Shilwassee/Van Buren neighborhood in southwest Southfield volunteered their assistance in the prosecution of the case.

The dogs, all Retzweillers, were owned by Cedrick Griffin, who lives on Shilwassee. The injured child, Forum Shah, lived with her parents on nearby Van Buren.

The child was in her front yard when she was attacked by the dog. Her father, Samir Shah, said he

saw the dog coming toward her and went outside to help her. The dog bit the girl repeatedly and would not let go. He got the girl away from the dog, but it kept lunging at her.

A neighbor present at the scene hit the dog several times with a bat until it finally left. Forum was bitten in her legs, stomach and behind her ear.

WHEN ASSISTANT city attorney Frank Kohl investigated the case, he said he learned that there had been several cases involving Griffin's dogs.

Residents reported that the dogs had been running loose through the neighborhood attacking people and pets.

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