

Municipality rejects offer to inherit house

By Doug Funke
staff writer

While Troy city officials appreciated the offer, they reluctantly have declined to accept a gift of a house and an acre of property from the estate of long-time resident Eva Haus.

Mrs. Haus, who died Jan. 16 at the age of 85, willed the property to the city with the stipulation that it be used for park purposes.

However, it was the consensus of city department heads, who carefully studied the proposal, that the site isn't conducive to park activities.

Additionally, it was determined that the city doesn't have the funds to make the modifications necessary to develop the property into a functional park and provide for its upkeep.

The will requires that the house and grounds continue to exist in their current condition. However, no provisions were made in the will to help pay for the maintenance of the site.

The property, on Dequindre between Big Beaver and Maple, contains a two-story home of approximately 2,200 square feet.

Several varieties of fruit trees and two garages are on the one-acre parcel.

ROGER KOWALSKI, parks and recreation director, cited lack of access to the site, projected staffing costs and projected remodeling costs to make the house suitable for recreational purposes in recommending against accepting the gift.

Joseph Howey, library and museum director, reported that the Haus site

didn't fit into the plans of the city library or museum.

"The museum would not be interested in making any commitments for operational funds to support it," Howey wrote.

Laurence Keisling, planning direc-

tor, also recommended against accepting the property.

"Considering the size and location of the property, the nature of the existing buildings and the existing and potential recreation sites and facilities in the area, the subject property . . . should

not be accepted," he wrote.

The Haus property is surrounded by single-family residential property to the north, west and south and a senior citizen apartment complex to the east.

THE PROPERTY will now revert back to Mrs. Haus' estate, said City At-

torney Peter Leitzmann.

"Her husband and she (Mrs. Haus) had, I think, a farm which was purchased in the past in places by developers and subdivided," recalled City Manager Frank Gerstenecker.

"By the late 1930s, I think, most of the farm site and lands were bought off

by people in the business of subdividing and plating," Gerstenecker continued.

"She kept the original site and property for her own gardening purposes," he said. "She was a very nice person, a kind of salt-of-the-earth type. She gardened and took great pride in the house."



St. John shows his students how to shuffle a deck of cards and the secrets of knowing where the key is

Magic is his beat, kids are his fans

A BRACADABRA — pool of things have been disappearing around Athens High School these days and it's not due to thieves. On Saturday mornings, youngsters report for their weekly lesson in magic, imparted by magician Mark St. John.

They learn everything from card tricks to public speaking and in advance classes even learn how to build a stage platform for disappearing acts. While St. John has had students as old as a 93-year-old man who wanted to learn tricks to mystify his grandchild-

ren, the Troy classes are for youngsters as young as seven.

After 21 years in magic, St. John is adept at teaching his young students everything from how to dress for the stage to how to work off a table. Many graduates go on to stage little shows to impress their elementary-school friends.

The fall class wound to a magical end with a show staged by his students on Nov. 20, but another Saturday Sensation class will be held in the winter. Watch for details in the parks and recreation department bulletin — that is, unless St. John disappears before then!

Coleman at cooks' show

Tom Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Coleman of Kestwood Lane, Farmington Hills, represented Johnson and Wales College at the 114th Salon of

Culinary Arts in conjunction with the 67th International Hotel/Motel and Restaurant Show held at the New York Coliseum.

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