

# WJR's decision a temporary loss for Troy

By Doug Funke  
staff writer

A representative of a property management firm says he doesn't anticipate any difficulties leasing space in Troy's Wilshire Plaza now that WJR Radio won't be moving there.

"We'll have the space rented very quickly," said Richard Baker, a vice president with Schostak Bros. & Co. "Troy is extremely tight with first-class office space. It's an attractive building."

The 182,000-square-foot office building was almost entirely rented before

WJR exercised an escape clause in its lease agreement, Baker said.

WJR had an option on 22,000 square feet on the top floor of the five-story structure. WJR was the first tenant to commit to the building.

"There's always good news and bad news with everything," Baker said. "The bad news is everyone would have liked to see JR in the building. (But) we'll have the space leased very quickly."

Baker said he set appointments with a pair of would-be renters last week on the day after WJR notified KIRKO Development, the owner of Wilshire Plaza,

that the move to Troy was off.

RONALD PANCRATZ, president and general manager of WJR, said station management reconsidered its decision to relocate from the Fisher Building in the New Center area when prompted by Detroit government and business leaders.

"We really underestimated how important we are to the city," Pancratz said. "So much concern has been demonstrated . . . we chose to rethink all that (moving to the suburbs)."

"I originally thought of Detroit as a whole contiguous area," he added. "I guess I was wrong."

The Federal Communications Commission had ruled against the planned move from Detroit to Troy. Pancratz attributed the denial to station management's failure to provide complete information to the FCC in its transfer application.

Pancratz said he's confident the decision could have been reversed on appeal and that the preliminary FCC denial wasn't a major factor in the decision not to leave Detroit.

Pancratz announced the rumored move to Troy last March and confirmed the relocation as recently as last month.

THE DECISION to move was made so that operations currently scattered over four floors in the Fisher Building could be consolidated to one horizontal working area, Pancratz said.

"We don't have a contingency plan," he said. "We have to start looking

around. We've had all kinds of offers for assistance."

Pancratz said those offers came from Mayor Coleman Young and executives from General Motors, Stroh's and Detroit Edison.

## Kelly returns to life . . . one day at a time

Continued from Page 14

At Einstein Kelly is in a classroom with nine severely, multiply handicapped children, ranging in age from 8 to 19 years. Her education, therapy and social activities are supervised by special education teacher Kim Kaplan, herself multiply handicapped, who is assisted by adult and student volunteers. There is a ratio of one adult to every three students.

"The biggest focus here," says Kaplan, "is on communication and to get some social interaction between the students. Kelly is on the academic route and works 3 1/2 hours each day here at school."

Kelly's socialization and education are enhanced, adds Kaplan, by spending 30 minutes of the day in fifth-grade teacher Fran Windham's social studies class. The center, Kaplan said, was integrated in Einstein Elementary School because it gives the handicapped children an opportunity to socialize and develop peer models among students their own age.

"The volunteer students who work with Kelly are

her own age," says Kaplan. "A real bond of friendship develops between them. They have invited her to their birthday parties, which she loves."

KELLY HAS also developed friendships with her classmates, Sarah and Tammy, with whom she shares reading lessons and other academic lessons. Sometimes the girls are taken on a shopping trip together, adds Kaplan.

Sue Morrison smiles when she talks about Kelly's developing tastes, opinions and independence. "One of the good things that has happened," she explains, "is the variance of the personalities of the volunteers who have worked with Kelly. She's really opinionated. She has her favorites. Some people she tolerates. Some she gets attached to."

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