

Public smoking limitations established

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ered by trustees sometime after Jan. 1, according to information from the district.

"I've waited 42 years for this. People who smoke make me sick. I don't mean that figuratively. I mean that literally," Loosli told the Hills council Dec. 15.

In addition to banning smoking in council chambers, the Hills council designated the lobby outside chambers where smoking will be permitted after 4:30 p.m. Employees who wish to smoke must request a designated smoking area within their department.

EARLIER THIS month, the Farmington City Council agreed to allow smoking in employee lounges and the general assembly room in the Department of Public Safety. Smoking will be permitted in lobby areas of the two municipal buildings — city hall and the Department of Public Services.

Smoking will be prohibited in Farmington council meeting rooms and in all general office areas.

"We can't move people to windows and start moving people around to accommodate this," City Manager Robert Deadman said. "Most of our employees began to realize a few

months ago . . . and have limited their smoking to out-of-doors and lounges."

Signs will be posted effective Jan. 1 advising the public of the new policy in Farmington, Deadman said.

BEFORE VOTING Dec. 15, the Farmington Hills City Council was offered two options to bring the city into compliance with the new state law.

The first option would have reserved at least half the council chambers as a no-smoking area.

Smoking areas may be designated in single rooms, if certain conditions are met, according to information from the two cities and school district. It has been interpreted to mean at least one-half of the room will have to be reserved and posted as a "no smoking" area, officials said.

THE SECOND Hills option — recommended by Hills administrators and accepted by the council — would totally prohibit smoking in council chambers.

"This recommendation is made with the belief that there exists a strong perception by the public that the new law totally prohibits smoking in facilities similar to the chambers (such as public auditoriums). We believe that the public expects smoking to be prohibited in the council chambers," Hills Personnel Director Dana Whinery said in a report to council.

Loosli urged council to "take the maximum course" and prohibit smoking in the entire chamber.

"You cannot divide the room in half," he said. "There is nothing in Public Act 198 for smoking to be accommodated."

"It doesn't say in the law that you

have the option of dividing a room in half. I'm not trying to take away your opportunity to smoke. . . I ask you, I plead with you, to take the law for what it is intended — to provide everyone with a smoke-free environment," Loosli said.

THOUGH SOME Hills council members — five of the seven smoke — acknowledged the difficulty of sitting through their usual long meetings without smoking, they agreed the new state law will serve everyone's best interest.

"Of course, we are going to respect the law," Hills Mayor Fre Tempore Ben Marks said. "But we are also going to respect those who

smoke, within the confines of the law."

School districts must also comply with the state law, and Clarenceville set its policy this month. Beginning next month, smokers will have to look for signs before they light up in Clarenceville district buildings.

A policy, suggested by superintendent Michael Shibley and approved by the Clarenceville Board of Education this month, prohibits smoking in Clarenceville buildings, except in areas identified by "smoking permitted" signs. The policy takes effect Jan. 1.

The Clarenceville district includes part of southeast Farmington Hills. In Clarenceville, smoking already

is prohibited for district students and anyone under the age of 18.

THE POLICY restricts smoking in Clarenceville High School, Clarenceville Junior High School, Grandview and Botsford elementary schools and the Maintenance/Custodial/Transportation Central Building, allowing it only in teachers' or employees' lounges, cafeterias during evening meetings and adult education study breaks only and individual offices when the primary occupant smokes.

Another designated smoking area is the career resource center at the high school. Smoking will be allowed during evening meetings only.

Passive smoke 'health hazard'

A spokesman for area health groups lauded the recently released 1986 Surgeon General's report calling secondhand cigarette smoke a health hazard.

The report comes as Michigan governmental units prepare to restrict smoking in public buildings as part of the Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act of 1986.

"We applaud the Surgeon General's report . . . as the most comprehensive collection of scientific evidence that supports the need to protect non-smokers from the health hazards of secondhand smoke," said Kenneth Warner, spokesman for the American Cancer Society, Michigan

Division Inc., the American Heart Association of Michigan and the American Lung Association of Michigan and Southeast Michigan.

"It's the most credible testimony yet in favor of the Michigan Clean Indoor Air law, which takes effect on Jan. 1."

U. S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's report condemns secondhand smoke — smoke exhaled by a smoker and smoke coming from the tip of a burning cigarette — as a serious health hazard.

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