

City supports legal academy

It represents the interests of state and local government before the U.S. Supreme Court.

And Farmington city leaders think it's worth supporting.

So the Academy for State and Local Government can claim Farmington among its members. The city council Monday approved a one-time fee of \$250 to join the Academy, which operates state and local legal centers.

The National League of Cities, in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the International City Managers Association, has endorsed supporting the Academy.

"They state that for more than a decade, decisions from this court have seriously eroded the authority and fiscal integrity of the local government," city manager Robert Deadman wrote in a report to the Farmington City Council.

"The court exposed cities to anti-trust liability and questioned many of our land-use and zoning policies. Interference with local labor practices and policies have expanded liabilities in many other areas and

functions. Each term of the court brings more challenges to the local government power and authority."

DURING 1985, the Supreme Court heard 65 civil cases directly affecting state and local governments.

During the court's last term, the Academy submitted 22 amicus briefs on behalf of state and local governments. It also assisted state and local attorneys preparing for oral arguments and other cases.

"The center has won major rulings before the Supreme Court reducing the exposure of cities to anti-trust challenge, narrowing local zoning regulations to limit the location of adult movie theaters, protecting voluntary affirmative action plans of the cities and restoring the ability of state regulatory agencies to limit telephone rate increases," Deadman wrote.

The Academy has been funded through a startup grant from the Pew Memorial Trust. State and local governmental organizations have agreed to assume future financial support.

The National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors and International City Managers Association plan to raise \$1.5 million. Farmington's contribution was calculated to be \$250.

"We believe it is essential that the local governmental interests be represented in front of the Supreme Court whenever a community is challenged on an issue," Deadman wrote.

City council opposes Senate firearm bill

Farmington City Council opposes a Senate bill that would pre-empt local governments from making firearm ordinances.

Senate Bill 179 bill would prevent enacting ordinances, such as one passed in Detroit, to provide mandatory jail sentences for violators of state concealed weapons laws.

"It also would invalidate good-sense laws, such as East Lansing's and Madison Heights', where guns safety training was mandated," Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman wrote in a report to the city council.

The Michigan Municipal League opposes the bill "because it believes that local governments should have the right to make responsible local regulations to protect the public safety," Deadman wrote.

Opposition came at the request of Detroit City Council members Maryann Mahaffey and John Peoples.

Farmington council members directed Deadman to inform state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, and Gov. Blanchard of their position.

Death ruled homicide

Continued from Page 1

Breck, so the additional medical testimony could be given.

Further preliminary examination testimony began Tuesday before Schaeffer. It is expected to continue Wednesday, May 27.

Some of Spitz' findings concur with previous testimony of two other forensic pathology witnesses; none could determine the exact cause of death.

Oakland County Medical Examiner Bill Brooks originally determined Marlene Edwards died of a heart attack, due to blockage in her arteries, but later changed the cause of death to "unknown." He testified in court in March of 1986 he was unsure of the cause.

Deputy medical examiner for Washtenaw County, Robert Hendrix, said in earlier testimony that heat from a "flash fire" caused her death.

HENDRIX ALSO noticed a blockage in Marlene Edwards' heart valves, as did Spitz.

"There was evidence of hardening of the arteries, but it was deemed to be the natural process of aging," Spitz concluded Tuesday.

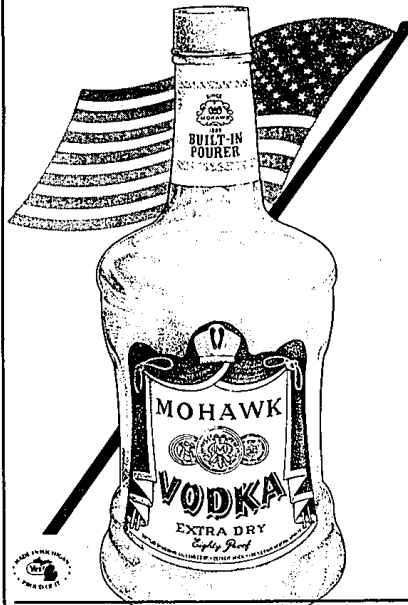
Firefighters discovered 50-year-old Marlene Edwards, following the Oct. 14, 1985 fire at the two-story frame house in Meadowbrook Hills, near Eight Mile and Halsted. She was found in the family room, where fire officials say the majority of damage occurred. The fire caused about \$200,000 in damage.

Officials believe the fire started shortly before 5 p.m. and took about 35 minutes to extinguish upon arrival.

At his district court arraignment Jan. 31, 1986 before Schaeffer, James Edwards was charged with two murder counts in his wife's death. He pleaded not guilty. An additional count of arson was added when the case was bound over to Circuit Court.

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