

Police initiative

Suit against city may echo statewide

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Southfield is involved in a precedent-setting labor relations controversy that could affect communities throughout Michigan.

Southfield is the first city to go all the way to Michigan Supreme Court for resolution of an unfair labor practices lawsuit filed by a police union.

The suit was filed in 1984 with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) by the Southfield Police Officers Association. It claims the city violated the State Public Employee's Relations Act by assigning to civilians work once performed by uniformed police officers in a different bargaining unit.

IF THE court agrees to hear Southfield's appeal, the Michigan Municipal League, through its legal defense fund, will provide the city with a private attorney who specializes in labor law.

The attorney will file a friend of the court brief in support of Southfield and on behalf of all cities in this precedent-setting case, said John Beras, Southfield city attorney.

The case stems from the city's decision in 1984 to transfer the work of two police officers in the crime prevention unit to two public safety technicians.

In the unfair labor practices suit, a MERC hearing officer ruled in favor of the city, Beras said. But the police union appealed.

"The hearing officer's test was whether the work formerly done was exclusively performed by uniformed police officers," Beras said. "Civilians had worked in crime prevention before, so that was a victory for the city."

"Police officers went to the Michigan Court of Appeals. The case was sent back to MERC, and another hearing officer decided the test was whether the transfer of employees had the effect of bargaining unit members losing work. We're appealing that ruling and asking that the exclusivity test apply."

THE REASON for the original transfer of employees was that the city council in 1984 adopted a plan to get more police officers on the road and to reassign uniformed officers' internal workload to civilians, Beras said.

"We don't believe civilians belong in police officer's jobs," said Officer John Cantwell, president of the SPOA.

"We're also filing our third unfair labor practices charge against the city for using police reservists without negotiating the impact of the reserve program on police officers' conditions of employment."

The reserve program was approved by voters in 1985. City administrator Robert Block has continually said that reservists don't replace police officers, but act as auxiliaries to the department.

According to Block, issues for negotiation include only hours, wages and conditions of employment. These don't relate to the reserve program, he said.

Cantwell disagrees. "Reservists are being used in other areas such as on public streets and in marked police cars," he said. "They're taking duties from civil defense and civil defense is becoming just another parade unit."

Blend a visit with Santa with a cable studio visit

A visit with Santa Claus and a chance to be on cable television is awaiting Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi youngsters aged 2-8.

In a cooperative venture between MetroVision of Oakland County and the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, Santa's visit will be taped 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, in MetroVision studios, 37635 Enterprise Court, Farmington Hills. Because of limited space, reservations are required. Parents may make reservations for their children by calling the SWOCC office at 473-7266.

The 2-2½-hour show will be relayed on community access Channel 12 on the following dates and times:

- Monday, Dec. 21, at 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 28, at 7:30 p.m.



Margaret Gregory of Franklin and Innkeeper John Anhut, with the crimson-sunset maple inn.

Commemorative

Tree planted in historian's memory

The Christmas spirit arrived early for Botsford Innkeeper John Anhut as he monitored the planting of a Crimson-Sunset Maple tree near the west end of the parking lot.

The tree is a gift presented by Margaret Gregory of Franklin, in memory of her husband, William, who enjoyed the inn and the study of history.

William Gregory was chief executive of the Detroit-based office equipment business, "Gregory and Leonard," prior to his death two years ago. "He was a history buff and he would have been very actively involved in the bicentennial celebrations of the U.S. Constitu-

tion if he were alive today," Mrs. Gregory said.

"He started as a teacher before joining his family in the business," she added. "And this background inspired him to become a noted and popular lecturer on the subject of the Constitution."

This led to his becoming president of the Detroit Players, a theater group, and president of the Fine Arts Society of Detroit. "The statesmen who composed and signed the Constitution were vividly brought to life — as though he were intimate friends with each one," Mrs. Gregory said.

Margaret Gregory said she con-

tinues to patronize and enjoy the 151-year-old inn with her family and friends. She joins frequently with two organizations that meet at the inn, the "Daughters of the American Revolution" and "Founders and Patriots."

On Grand River in Farmington Hills, the inn is a nationally registered historic site and Michigan's oldest food service and lodging facility. It was once owned by auto baron Henry Ford, who met his wife, Clara, at a dance in the 1890s. In 1951 the Anhut Hotel Corp. bought the inn and is responsible for 13 separate additions to the original architecture.

Senior Rx Alert
By Jack A. Kaufman, D.P.M.

Frostbite: 'Tis the Season
By Jack A. Kaufman, D.P.M.

This is the season to take extra precautions to protect feet from the cold weather. Since feet are farthest from the heart they are the most vulnerable area for frostbite.

The warning signs of frostbite include intense numbness, burning or pain, and/or skin that's pale, gray or mottled to blue-white from lack of blood.

Frostbite is present, warm the feet by soaking in tepid water. Warm water will gradually relax muscles, allowing the blood to flow again. Do not use hot water as this will allow too much blood flow all at once, causing excess strain on blood vessels.

To protect your feet from frostbite, wear warm, insulated boots. Boots should be roomy enough to allow movement and to allow air to circulate. Socks should be layered; cotton and wool are the best fibers to keep feet warm.

Alcohol dilates surface blood vessels and lets body heat escape faster than usual. Caffeine and tobacco constrict blood vessels. All should be avoided, especially just before going out into the cold.

Wetness (such as rain, wet clothes and perspiration) is also a factor. Since water is a better conductor of heat than air, it influences heat loss. Keep feet moving whenever forced to stand outside in the cold for awhile. Wiggle toes, rise up and down on balls of feet or switch weight from one foot to the other.

If color and sensation don't return to normal after 30 minutes of applying the treatments listed above, contact your doctor immediately.

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