

New penalties weighed for liquor law violations

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, and state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, will work together for legislation requiring mandatory minimum penalties for liquor licensees selling to minors.

"We should change the law to tighten the requirements," Faxon said Monday. "I think it's something Jan (Dolan) and I could work together on."

The Farmington Hills City Council met with Faxon, a longtime state senator, and Dolan, a former city councilwoman elected to the state House in November, to discuss concerns over issues ranging from liquor law enforcement to home day care to gas and oil drilling.

Dolan is vice chair of the House liquor control committee, which has not yet met in the new legislative session.

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT of state and local liquor laws is one of Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever's goals for 1989. Sever asked the legislators to take Gov. James Blanchard's message seriously and to fill vacancies on the Michigan Liquor Control Commission by appointing "who will be stronger in passing out penalties, particularly to those licensees passing out liquor to minors."

The governor "does not solicit from anyone in the Senate — even his own party — for names," Faxon said. Sever suggested that licensees violating liquor laws should have licenses suspended for a period of time on the second offense, for example.

"It would take the arbitrary discretion away from the LCC and set a minimum sentence for a repeat violator, specifically dealing with those licensees selling consistently to minors," Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

THE LCC has the discretion to levy penalties depending on each individual case. The commissioners do not have hardfast penalties to follow. Generally, fines for the first offense of selling to minors range from \$100 to \$500 though commissioners have the option of levying

penalties up to \$1,000, Dwyer said.

"I've never seen that happen," he said.

For the second offense, penalties range from \$200 to \$500 and for the third offense, \$300 to \$600. When a licensee has chucked up three violations within a two-year period, he is required to appear before a LCC appeals board of two commissioners and an administrative law judge. The commissioners are mandated to suspend the license for at least one day and may revoke the license, Dwyer said.

"We feel the commissioners are too soft. We feel they should have stricter, stronger penalties," Dwyer said.

FARMINGTON HILLS licensees cited for liquor law violations are charged under city ordinance and reported to the LCC. Approximately 97 percent of the violators the Farmington Hills police report to LCC pleaded guilty through the mail, Dwyer said.

Aiming for a goal of zero violations of liquor control laws among licensed establishments in the city, Sever announced in January that letters would be mailed to the 83 licensees and the LCC.

"We will not tolerate excuses from responsible operators of licensed establishments who are unable to guarantee that minors will not be sold liquor or other spirits," according to Sever's letter.

Letters also were expected to be sent to Patricia Knox, LCC chairwoman, and other commissioners urging maximum penalties for violators.

"We call on you to support our effort and revoke licenses from chronic violators to the maximum extent permitted by law."

Since October 1988, the police department conducted four undercover liquor law operations. Of 64 establishments checked in the first operation in October 1988, 76 percent, or 49, were cited for violations. Of 34 checked in June 1987, 12, or 35 percent, were cited.

The best showing was in May 1988 when 34 establishments were investigated and five, or 15 percent, were cited. In the last undercover operation in November 1988, 20 or 58 percent of the 36 establishments checked were cited.

Arboretum child center honored

Arboretum Properties was named winner of the 1988 Honorable Mention Award by the Detroit Chapter of the American Association of Women in Communications, Inc. for its planned on-site child care center at the Arboretum Office Park, Farmington Hills.

The award was presented as part of the fifth annual WICI Dogs & Dinosaurs Awards ceremony Jan. 26 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Southfield.

The purpose of the awards is to recognize individuals or organizations who have helped or hindered the progress of working women during the past year. Larry Goss, executive vice president of Burton-Katzman Development Co., accepted the

award on behalf of Arboretum Properties.

"In deciding on award winners, we look for things that contribute to positive change for working women," said Sara Snyder, awards chairwoman. "We feel the child care center at the Arboretum addresses an important issue facing working women in an excellent way."

Arboretum Properties announced late in 1988 plans to include a child care center at the 52-acre office park complex on 12 Mile. It will be the first time in Michigan that a developer has incorporated a child care facility into the actual design of an office building as opposed to using existing space.

The center will be 5,000 square feet with provisions for expansion, will cost about \$750,000 to develop, and will service a maximum of 76 children ranging from infant age to 5-years-old. Use of the center will be restricted to Arboretum tenants only. Groundbreaking is expected some time in 1989 or early 1990.

Arboretum Properties is a joint venture between Peter Burton and Robert Katzman — partners in Burton-Katzman Development Co., and Robert Hughes, president of Hughes Development, Inc.

Upon completion, the Arboretum will be Michigan's largest full-service office park complex totaling one million square feet.

chamber perspectives

These YMCA highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call 553-4020.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration for the YMCA Winter II classes will begin with full privilege member registration on Monday, Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. Program members will be allowed to register starting on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 9 a.m. Registration for both full privilege

and program members will run through Saturday, March 4. Call 553-4020 for more information.

ADULT SWIM INSTRUCTION

The Farmington Area YMCA offers a wide variety of aquatic classes to area adults. Classes range in skill level from terrified of water to advanced swim lessons. The Y also offers a water fitness class for those who like to participate in a water aerobics class. New classes begin

March 6. Call Jean Warren at 553-4020 for more information.

VIP GUIDED TOURS

Anyone interested in learning more about the Farmington YMCA and its many community services is invited to stop in for a VIP Facility Tour, any weekday between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Y is located on Farmington Road north of 12 Mile. Call Greg Voss, the YMCA's Membership Director for membership information, 553-4020.

YMCA highlights

This column is prepared by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce to inform the public about chamber events. Call 474-3440 for more information about chamber programs, activities and services.

CITY REPORT

The chamber's annual State of the Cities Breakfast will be Friday, March 17, Farmington Mayor Dick Tupper and Farmington Hills Mayor Terry Sever, along with city managers Bob Deadman and Bill Costick, will report on events and plans for the coming year that may have an

effect on local business. Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America again is hosting the breakfast. Reservations are required for the 8 a.m. meeting for members only.

SHINNENKAI A SUCCESS

This social/business gathering held in the beginning of the year for Japanese firms in the area was hosted by six area chambers. Attendance was more than 200 and the event will be planned again for next year.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE

Several members of the chamber board of directors and area firms

are taking a Japanese culture course to better understand our new Japanese business neighbors.

BE KIND TO AMBASSADORS

Businesses around town can expect to hear from one of our ambassadors who have pledged to help the chamber maintain contact with members and other businesses. In addition, our new membership director, Wendy Werpetski, has been calling on new and old businesses around town to make sure they are aware of the chamber and the benefits available with membership.

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