

Marriott liquor license delayed

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Developers of a proposed \$10 million hotel in Farmington Hills must wait for a decision about their liquor license, after stringent questioning and postponement of the matter by the city council last week.

Councilman Paul Sowerby accused the Marriott hotel group of misrepresenting itself at an earlier zoning board meeting in order to get a parking variance for the courtyard-type facility planned for the 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road area.

Representatives of Marriott denied the charges.

"I'll be very candid. My concern is that the petitioners have not been candid with this council or other city boards," said Sowerby, who headed the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, before being named to the council in March. "I'm offended by it."

Sowerby referred to zoning board minutes, which stated the facility would not have any meeting rooms, as do other hotels. The liquor license application states there will be two meeting rooms in the new facility.

THE MARRIOTT Corp. is requesting a Class B Hotel license, which would be included as part of the city's quota for Class C licenses, which allow liquor to be served. The city has four open Class C permits, which are calculated according to population by the state Liquor Control Commission.

Councilman Aldo Vagnotzi agreed with Sowerby, adding "A liquor license is a privilege granted by a city. It does bother me that before another board of the city, some remarks were made that were not factual."

Representatives of Marriott de-

'We don't do business that way. The minutes are misstated. We obtained a variance based on traffic . . . and parking studies.'

— Robert Fowler
Marriott regional director

nied any wrongdoing or misrepresentation at an April 17 council meeting.

"We don't do business that way," said Marriott regional director Robert Fowler. "The minutes are misstated. We obtained a variance based on traffic . . . and parking studies."

"You're entitled to an apology" (if you feel you were misled), said Southfield attorney Marty Burnstein, who represents the hotel giant. "I want to set it right tonight."

The 149-room Marriott Courtyard Hotel, which will include 12 suites, is proposed for the Orchard Corporate Center office park south of 12 Mile and east of Orchard Lake Road with frontage on I-696. The project is slated for completion this summer.

According to a letter that accompanied the liquor license application, the facility will also have an exercise room, an indoor pool, a lounge and restaurant, two meeting rooms and an exterior gazebo. "It's not intended to be a hustle-bustle type of action hotel," Burnstein said.

In addition to Sowerby's concerns, the council also requested information about Marriott's record with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission in relation to violations. Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer approved the license ap-

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Eddie Vosganian, 15, delivers the Farmington Observer in the Wedgewood Commons subdivision in Farmington Hills. He has delivered the paper since June 1986.

The North Farmington High School ninth grader's favorite subjects are history and biology. His hobbies are drawing and playing sports. He plans to go to college.

Meeting new people is what he likes most about his route.

Organizational skills and how to deal with the public are some of the things he has learned on his route.

Eddie is the son of Diana and Edward Vosganian. He has three sisters, Kathie, 21, Nicole, 18, and Valerie, 13.



Eddie Vosganian

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No tax hike foreseen for Hills

Continued from Page 1

to collect 9.2 percent more than they did the previous year to help finance a \$24 million budget. Assessments last year increased an average 12 percent with some as high as 20 percent.

It is our goal this year to avoid any roll-up resulting in the need for a Truth-In-Taxation hearing," Costick said.

Though attempts will be made to tow the line on tax increases, city administrators are acknowledging that the rapid rate of growth has imposed demands for increased services, particularly for police and fire protection. Other costs also have increased, particularly in solid waste disposal.

Library on wheels at Fairview

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Peggy Schmidt, media resources director for the Farmington district, said the portable library has launched a more permanent program for kindergartners, being developed this school year at both centers.

"The rolling cart was a wonderful idea to meet the needs of the kids early on," she said.

She also stressed the important role parents play in developing libraries for younger children. "Parent volunteers have been the backbone of our elementary program for years. Parents and teachers have been working as partners."

AT FAIRVIEW, a permanent library/media center will be part of the school's Discovery Center room; at Alameda an entire classroom has been devoted to a permanent center, Schmidt said.

This year, the district has budgeted money for resources at both early childhood centers, and has ordered books and audio-visual supplies, Schmidt said.

The Fairview parent group also raised money this year especially for new books, Yash said.

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