



An artsy view

Harrison High School freshmen Reragan Myera (left) and Holly Kiah look at some of the art exhibits at the first "Showcase: The Arts" event held at the Farmington Hills school over the weekend. The event offered

the public a look at districtwide talent in the visual and performing arts. Students and faculty from the art, drama, music and theater departments participated.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Hills plans to charge booze license hopefuls

By Sue Buck and Joanne Maliszewski staff writers

Getting a liquor license in Farmington Hills won't be cheap with the advent of hefty application fees.

Despite complaints in the past few weeks from resident Torkild Nielsen and a review of other cities' license application fees, the Farmington Hills City Council Monday adopted a schedule of fees -- the first ever for the city.

"We reviewed that (Nielsen's concerns) and we are still recommending the rates," City Manager William Costick said.

THE NEW fees were prompted by the amount of time and consequently money spent when police and other city departments conduct investigations of liquor license applicants.

Police spend a minimum of 20 hours on each on-premise (such as a bar or restaurant) investigation performing background investigations, inspection and fingerprinting, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

"It is hypocritical that a citizen of Farmington Hills must pay for a dog license or bicycle license, but the persons who derive monetary profit from operating a business with licenses to sell or serve alcohol do not have to pay a licensing fee to the city," Dwyer said.

But the hefty fees concern Howard Road resident Nielsen.

"I feel with the limited number of new liquor licenses and transfer ap-

plications in this city in any given year, application fees are not going to be the answer to revenue generation concerns and especially not at the expense of prospective businesses," Nielsen wrote in a letter to the council.

TO APPLY for an on-premise liquor license, the applicant will pay a non-refundable \$1,000 fee. That covers new or transferred on-premise licenses such as for class A hotel, class B hotel, and class C, which is beer, wine and spirits.

A one-time, non-refundable \$500 fee will be charged for off-premise licenses, which would be given to stores that sell beer and wine, or beer, wine and liquor.

The city also will charge \$300 for adding or deleting a stockholder. A \$250 permit fee for each permit requested will also be charged. Permit examples include: Sunday sales, dance, entertainment, outdoor service, living quarters, concourse, bowling, building site transfer, add space, drop space and additional bar. Applicants simultaneously requesting more than one type of permit may only be required to pay one permit fee at Dwyer's discretion, who would consider the related nature of the permits and the length of investigation.

NO FEE WILL be charged to bona fide non-profit organizations who qualify in accordance with the Michigan Liquor License Commission. An example would be a 24-hour special license for a non-profit organization. "Any fees considered in Farmington

ton Hills should be high enough to help recover the tax dollars spent during the extensive application review and investigative process," Dwyer said.

In 1990, Hills police investigated 13 new licenses, 14 transferred licenses and 10 permits, said Miri Spencer, deputy chief. This amounts to 426.5 man hours and 53.3 business days, Spencer said.

Compared to other cities such as Dearborn Heights and Westland, which charge a \$100 on-premise fee, Sterling Heights and West Bloomfield, \$500, Farmington Hills' \$1,000 fee is high. But St. Clair Shores charges a \$2,500 fee.

CHARGING A set fee will discourage less serious applicants, Dwyer said. But as in any business problems with licenses and loans -- that would force a license applicant to withdraw his application -- "does not mean it was a non-serious applicant," Nielsen said.

Farmington Hills already receives about \$20,000 from the state for liquor license permits. But "these monies theoretically are utilized for enforcement purposes," city officials said. The money is put into the city's general fund, Costick said.

Nielsen also suggested an annual fee from existing licensees to relieve the individual financial burden. But the city council dismissed that idea. Businesses in the city already pay an annual \$15 general business license fee. Those who have a liquor license pay an additional \$50, city clerk Kathy Dornan said.

Temple Israel celebrates

By Greg Kowalski staff writer

The term Reform Judaism is not a noun, it is an active verb. At least that's the way it is at Temple Israel.

"We retain our precepts, but put them into a context of modern-day language," said Temple Israel's executive director Eva Shapiro. Reform Judaism does not see itself as better than the orthodox or conservative forms of Judaism, but "it reserves for itself the right to change," said Rabbi M. Robert Syme. That means to adapt to meet more closely the needs of its congregations.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF sensitivity to the community has been a hallmark of Temple Israel, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month.

The temple, at 5725 Walnut Lake Road, has the largest congregation of any temple in Michigan, with about 2,300 families drawn from across the metro area. In fact, it has one of the largest congregations in Michigan.

Despite its size, Temple Israel maintains a close atmosphere. Rabbi Paul Yedwab recalled when his father, also a rabbi from a moderate-size congregation, visited Temple Israel and remarked, "This is the largest small congregation in the country."

The temple uses its size to foster ties to the community.

Temple Israel offers a range of services that make it more than a religious center -- it is a community institution.

There are outreach groups for families coping with the death of a loved one, cancer patients, families with Alzheimer's sufferers; and to help mentally disabled youths develop social skills.

The temple offers a range of educational programs that spans the age of its congregation members. It operates a preschool and kindergarten program as well as a religious school for nearly 400 students. There is also an adult education program. Teachers are drawn from the staff, experts in the community and instructors from the University of Michigan.

It has a staff of about 100 teachers using 12 classrooms.

There's more. The temple hosts Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meetings and sponsors a series of concerts. It also has a social program for singles.

"We deal with the human needs of our congregation and any Jewish person," said program director Nancy Gad-Hart.

Temple Israel's outreach extends beyond the Jewish community. During the Persian Gulf War, in 10 days the congregation organized a donation program that collected enough goods to send 400 packages to the troops.

FAAC schedules open house

The Farmington Area Advisory Council will celebrate its 21st anniversary on 2-6 p.m. Thursday, April 18, with an open house at the FAAC facility 23450 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

FAAC consulting psychologist,

Jane Skorina, will speak at 4 p.m. Refreshments, educational materials, program information and tour of the facility will be available.

FAAC began as a teen rapine in 1970, has grown to provide full service outpatient substance abuse pro-

grams for both teens and adults. FAAC offers evaluations, individual, family and group counseling; education and support groups.

For more information, contact the office at 477-6767.

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