

State rules against 3rd judgeship for court

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the judges are overworked — and they generate a lot of funds (for the state).

She, like others, also believes the cuts should have been made across the board. Not all district courts lost their planned additional judges. Walled Lake, Ypsilanti and Waterford were among those that were given additional judges.

Despite the disappointment, Schaeffer and fellow Judge Fred Harris aren't giving up. "Our case-load is going up. We're not done. We'll keep knocking on doors. We still have the need for a third judge. We hope the legislature will see the light."

Faxon said there is nothing to prevent him, other legislators, or local officials from again asking for the third judge next year. There's no need to wait until after 1995, he said.

MEANWHILE, LOCAL politicians have some figuring to do in light of the fact that the judges say an expansion is necessary, as is a bond proposal to pay for the construction. Space problems, Schaeffer said, continue to plague the 13,883-square-foot courthouse. Probation officers have to use attorney conference rooms and jurors use the employee lounge.

Even without a judge for 1993 or 1995, Schaeffer said, any expansion would probably include room for a third judge — an additional position that is inevitable.

In 1991, the court had 39,300 case filings. The court caseload grew from 23,399 in 1983 to 37,340 in 1990. According to state statistics, the 47th District Court — with its case-load — should have 3.5 judges now. In addition to Schaeffer and Harris, the court has three part-time magistrates.

Judge Harris also suggested getting a visiting judge if a third judge wasn't approved. "We would ask the state court administrator to assign us one," Schaeffer said, adding she wouldn't anticipate a problem if the request was made because the 47th is the third largest court in Oakland County.

BUT THE TWO mayors are uncertain that voters would be willing to approve a bond proposal for a court expansion when a third judge has been denied and particularly

during the tough economic times.

"In my opinion, they have a space problem with or without a third judge. But we went to the voters 10 months ago and they turned it down," Grant said. "Without new information — a new judge being new information — I don't know how I can justify going back to the voters."

Hartscock offered similar concerns. "I think it's going to be difficult to sell or present the idea to voters that conceptually we are going to have a third judge sometime in the

future). I think we will have to revisit the whole question and go from there."

"But this year if (third judge) is out, it could be back in next year," Hartscock said.

Consider, Hartscock said, that in the slowed construction industry, the cost of expansion may be less now. But the request for additional dollars from taxpayers coincides with a slowed economy when families are having a hard time making ends meet.

Grant also believes that voters

would have approved the \$1.8 million bond proposal request in November 1991 if "it had been marketed properly." A campaign to push for the bond proposal started late in the political season.

A third judge was authorized in 1990 for 1991, but the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils, the control unit for the court, did not act. Though Farmington voters approved the bond proposal, Farmington Hills voters did not. Both cities were needed to pass the issue.

Spa license hearing is scheduled for today

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charges — would be forced to plead the 5th Amendment against self-incrimination or she would have to waive these rights to protect her property interests, Donohue said.

"She (Stokes) is caught in the middle," Taylor said. "She's been placed in the position that if the (pending criminal hearing and administrative proceedings) are based on the same facts."

As of Friday afternoon, city officials had not yet made a final decision. Donohue sent Taylor a letter

saying the city would be willing to adjourn the hearing if Stokes agrees to certain conditions.

Primary among those conditions is that Stokes and Taylor don't use the adjournment as a means to pursue damages against the city. For example, Stokes could not return and say that because of the adjournment — and the continued closure of her business — she lost a certain amount of money per day and sue the city for damages, Donohue said.

Stokes' civil suit alleges the city does not have the authority — de-

spite its massage ordinance — to suspend Stokes' license prior to a hearing. Farmington Hills City Clerk Kathy Dorman suspended Stokes' spa license about a week after the February raid.

The administrative hearing scheduled for Monday would allow the presentation of evidence to determine whether the spa license should be revoked. The city council would also determine whether to revoke Stokes' massage license as well as the massage licenses held by three of the four other Korean women arrest-

ed during the raid.

THE OTHER four women pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges at a pre-trial conference March 30 in 47th District Court. Stokes maintained her plea of not guilty at the conference. Three of the women will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m., May 6. The plea of a fourth woman, who apparently worked as a janitor at the spa, was taken under advisement and she was fined \$155.

"They (massage licenses) aren't automatically revoked," Donohue said, adding the women, who are ap-

parently out of the state, have been notified of the hearing. "We would still have to go through the hearing. The council can take their failure to appear as a lack of interest."

But with guilty pleas from the three women, "we have all the evidence necessary to go ahead and revoke them (massage licenses)," Donohue added.

The raid resulted in the removal of \$30,000 worth of furnishings. An insignificant amount of cash was seized from the spa.

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YMCA highlights

These YMCA highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 553-1020.

● GOLF CLINIC

The YMCA and Boisford Hospi-

tal's TRACC will host a golf clinic

Thursday, April 23. Two sessions

will be offered, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Space is limited to the first 100 people

who register in advance each session. For information call the Y

at 553-1020.

● **4 for \$10**

The 4 for \$10 program is a special

offer for members of the YMCA. It

allows members to purchase 4 items

for the price of 3. Items include: 1

adult, 1 child, 1 senior, and 1 youth.

Items must be purchased at the same

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