

# WB teachers: District blowing smoke with ban

By TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

A contract's a contract.

That is why, according to Joe Lupi of the West Bloomfield Education Association, an independent arbitrator will rule by the end of October in favor of the teachers union — which during 1991-92 filed a grievance against the school district for ignoring contract language to provide employees with a lounge to smoke and for subsequently implementing a smoking ban except for designated outdoor areas.

Meanwhile, Joseph Koeningknecht, assistant superintendent of human resources/labor relations for the West Bloomfield School District, said he is hopeful the smoking ban will be upheld by arbitrator David Grissom because it protects the "safety and well being" of students and employees.

The reason Grissom is being called upon to decide the issue is the fact that both sides are far apart as ever over the contract-vs.-health issue, as reflected by Lupi's and Koeningknecht's comments during telephone interviews Tuesday.

"In August 1991, we sat down (with the district) and negotiated a contract," Lupi said. "We settled the contract and then they turned around and by board action passed a policy that effectively (as of March 2) eliminated part of the contract."

"Our position is clear. You do that by collective bargaining, not an arbitrary board policy," Lupi said. The arbitrator heard both sides of the case Aug. 24 and should present a decision within 30 days after receiving post-hearing briefs from representatives for the union and school district.

Both Lupi and Koeningknecht said those documents were in the process of being prepared, so that they could be submitted by the end of September. Grissom then will have another 30 days to decide the case.

"In effect, our buildings have been smoke-free since March. If he rules against us we'll have no choice but to allow our buildings to become smoke filled," said Koeningknecht — who pointed out the school board's policy has successfully eliminated dangerous secondary smoke from the learning environment. He estimated only about 25 teachers districtwide smoke.

But according to Lupi, health considerations aren't

## ARBITRATION

the real issue. He said if Grissom decided in favor of the district, a "serious precedent" might be established where the contents of a labor agreement could be whittled away "at the whim of an independent third party who doesn't have to live with the consequences" of his decision.

Koenigknecht, however, disputed the notion that the district would arbitrarily disregard contracts in making management decisions. In fact, he claimed the school board and administration only opted for implementing a smoking ban after efforts to reach an agreement with the union were unsuccessful.

"I think we have a great deal of respect for the contracts we have with our employee groups. But we also have a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for students," he said.

When asked why the district agreed to the three-year contract with the teacher's association (which expires after the 1993-94 school year) even with the smoking issue unresolved, the school official said it was because of continuing reports from health officials "that the dangers of secondary smoke are real. To place students and employees in jeopardy isn't appropriate."

Meanwhile, the two sides also will be waiting for a decision from an administrative law judge, who proceeded over an Aug. 21 hearing at the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

Lupi said the judge will decide whether the West Bloomfield School District violated state regulations with regards to employee contracts.

However, while the case is pending, teachers and other employees who happen to smoke will continue to comply with a school board policy adopted in December 1991 requiring they do so only in designated outdoor areas, Lupi emphasized.

"Until it's decided, we've told our members to comply with the district's (no-smoking) policy," he said. "We don't want anyone being insubordinate or subject to discipline."

Koenigknecht said the district's teachers so far have complied with the board policy to prohibit smoking inside the school buildings. "No one has violated the policy so there's been no need for discipline."



Piano woman: Donna Hain uses the Suzuki Method to teach piano to Sherrin DeLizid, 5, of Troy, and her 7-year-old brother, Matthew. Their mother, Marega, is standing in the background.

## Teaching to play by ear is high note for pianist

By SUKAN STEINMUELLER  
STAFF WRITER

Donna Hain's piano students walk away from their first lesson knowing how to play a tune.

For Hain, that's always a high note.

The Troy piano teacher teaches her students through a method of training called the Suzuki method, which enables them to play tunes before learning to read notes.

"The goal is to play," said Hain. "When they learn the notes is just a question of timing."

Hain, who has a degree in music from the University of Tampa, has taught piano since 1972. Nine years after teaching piano the traditional way, she was introduced to the Suzuki method and began to teach it.

Most recently, she taught in

Rome, Ga. Her husband, Larry, was transferred to Troy two months ago, and now she continues to teach using the Suzuki method from her home studio.

The method is one developed in the 1940s by Japanese educator, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, Hain said. It was brought to the United States in the 1960s.

"He had the premise that music is a language," said Hain.

Suzuki noted that children all over the world learn to speak by listening to and imitating their parents and caregivers, with the process facilitated by positive encouragement, she said.

Suzuki formulated his method based on the same principles. Regular, daily practice sessions and performances in front of peers are elements of the Suzuki method,

she said.

But because of the importance of positive feedback, the involvement of parents is a cornerstone of the Suzuki method, Hain said.

Parents are encouraged to attend while Hain gives weekly half hour lessons at the black grand piano in her home studio. They are also asked to facilitate private practice.

"The secret to having the best students is having the best parents," she said.

Hain said she can teach any student piano by the Suzuki method, even if they have had traditional training first.

"I start where you are at today. My goal is to move you up to the next level, from where ever you are."

Students can begin lessons as young as three, she said.

## POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

### ASSAULT INVESTIGATED

An incident in which a 12-year-old girl reported a man entered her apartment at Farmington Oaks Aug. 31 is being investigated by Farmington Department of Public Safety officials.

The girl said she was getting out of the shower when she heard a noise then left the bathroom and saw a man in the living room. The man reportedly told her he wouldn't hurt her, then put his arms around her. The victim pulled a medical alarm, which caused the man to flee. The girl was alone in the apartment.

The incident occurred shortly after 10 p.m.

### SAFE TAKEN

Manners at the Koney Island Inn, 37125 Grand River, reported the store's safe stolen on Aug. 31.

The 200-pound safe was removed sometime overnight. It contained \$3,500.

### LARCENY BY TRICK

Incidents of larceny by trick cost two downtown Farmington businesses last week.

Incidents were reported at Dagwood's Deli, 33179 Grand River, and Damman Hardware, 23314 Farmington Road. In both cases, a person tricked a cashier into giving him more change than he had coming. The deli reported losing \$10 and the hardware store \$50.

### GARBAGE FIRES

Two plastic garbage cans were melted in related fires in the Farmington Meadows subdivision Sept. 1.

Farmington Department of Public Safety reports show the department was called at about 3 a.m., reporting the garbage fires. No one was injured in the incidents, which occurred on Robinwood and Laurelwood.

### THEFTS REPORTED

A telephone and battery pack valued at \$555 were reported stolen from a 1984 Mercury on Barbados, Aug. 28-29.

A television, video game set, coat and fur coat valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a house on Tulane, Sept. 2.

Approximately \$100 cash was reported stolen from the office at Denny's restaurant, 24250 Sinclair Court, Sept. 2.

### DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$950 when someone punctured the tires on a 1989 Ford and scratched the exterior paint. The car was parked at Conoba Apartments on 12 Mile, Sept. 1-2.

## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

### PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 1992  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

ITEM: Special Approval 82-6-83

The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to an application for Special Approval (SA 82-6-83), which requests approval of an approved use to operate an outdoor theater in an RA-1A, One-Family Residential District. The property involved has an address of 34705 Farmington Road, between Ten and Eleven Mile Roads in Section 21 of the City of Farmington Hills No. 20-21-401-003.

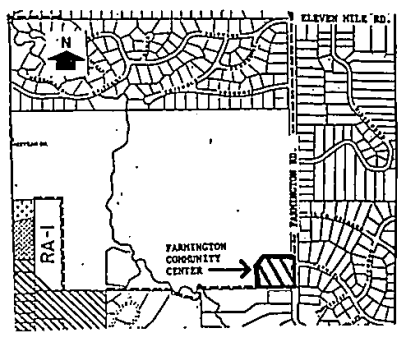
The applicant in this matter is Rosalie DeGregorio, Executive Director who seeks this approval for the Community Center of Farmington/Farmington Hills in order to use the property for live outdoor musical and theatrical performances.

Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the Special Approval request. The application for Special Approval and the Zoning Text and Map may be observed at the Farmington Hills Planning Department on any business day between 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.

DALE A. COUNTAGAN, Director  
Planning & Community Development  
City of Farmington Hills

Item: SA 82-6-88  
Phone: 473-9543

Published September 7, 1992



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## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 1992  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

ITEM: Special Approval 80-8-92

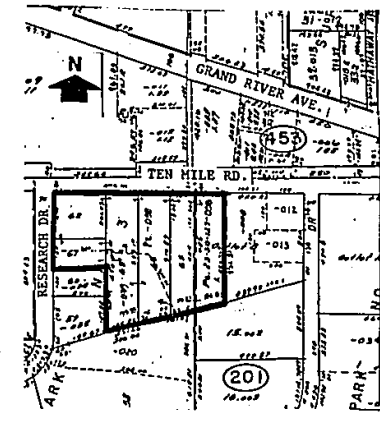
The City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to an application for Special Approval (SA 80-8-92) which requests approval to lease space for the use of a Restaurant/Sports Bar and Billiard Club in an E-3, General Business District classification. The applicant in this matter is Robert Doruch for RJR Enterprises, Inc. The property involved having addresses of 38503 and 38507 W. Ten Mile Road, south side of Ten Mile Road, east of Research Drive in Section 30 of the City of Farmington Hills. Sidelw No. 20-30-127-038 & 039.

Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the Special Approval request. The application for Special Approval and the Zoning Text and Map may be observed at the Farmington Hills Planning Office on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTAGAN, Director  
Planning & Community Development  
City of Farmington Hills

Item: SA 80-8-92  
Phone: 473-9543

Published September 7, 1992



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**TAKING CARE WHILE YOU ARE GIVING IT**  
You may be caring for someone with crippling arthritis. If so, include in your list of responsibilities, the duties you owe to yourself.

The first personal need is to possess knowledge of the arthritis that affects the person. Read up on the type of arthritis involved. When possible, accompany that person to doctor appointments. The physician is obligated to inform you on the patient's status; you will carry out the therapy that follows from the medical examination. You should also give your opinion of the person's changing health and response to the present regimen as no one has a better understanding of this matter.

You should seek out others rendering similar care. You can learn from their experience and likely realize that frustrations for you are similar to what others giving care have felt.

Schedule time off. If you are a spouse and otherwise living day and night with the person to whom you are rendering help, you should have such personal time on a daily basis. Only by getting away can you see the humor in bowel accidents and hopelessly tangled schedules.

Rendering personal assistance brings you unique gain. You become thankful for your own ability to move. You develop profound appreciation for this fragile, fleeting and god-given freedom.