

Gov. Engler, partisan politics on menu at Democrats dinner

Nearly 140 Democrats packed the historic Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills April 21 for the 11th District Democratic Committee's third annual Roosevelt Dinner.

Local Democrats presented an address to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Patricia J. Boyle. Boyle served as a federal district judge from 1978-1983 and gave up that lifetime appointment to become a Michigan Supreme Court Justice in 1983.

Justice Boyle warned against the intended infusion of large amounts of political party money in Michigan Supreme Court races this year. This kind of partisanship could "destroy the credibility of the Supreme Court, one of the last credible institutions" of government.

The dinner's keynote speaker, State Sen. Gary Peters warned that partisan gamesmanship undermines Governor Engler's current budget proposal. "The proposed budget includes \$500 million in federal block grant outlays that

the President vetoed and which the Governor and everyone knows we won't receive."

Peters predicted that when the assumed revenues don't materialize, the Governor will start complaining about "hard choices" imposed on Michigan by the President — even though he knew the funds would not be forthcoming and failed to plan accordingly. "The Governor should be planning a realistic budget now, not playing partisan games later," Peters said.

Peters also urged Republican legislators to debate the tuition tax credit bill, on which he and Sen. Alma Smith had repeatedly attempted to get a vote.

"This is a true middle class tax cut, which would help finance education," he criticized Republican state Sen. Dan DeGrady's decision to refer the bill back to committee because, according to Sen. Peters, "they don't have the courage to vote no."

Peters contrasted the proposed tuition tax credit with last year's billion dollar estate tax cut. According to Peters, the 1995 cuts

were "narrowly targeted to the very wealthy. One thousand people were given tax cuts averaging \$30,000 per year, while the rest of us got just \$13."

Eleventh District Chair Vicki Barnett, a Farmington Hills City Council member, declared the dinner an enormous artistic and financial success. She credited dinner chairs Deborah Goldberg of Farmington Hills and Livonia's Alan Helmkamp with the dinner's success.

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnoli, referring to his and Barnett's successful 1995 local campaigns, quipped, "This year I'm proud to say that the city council welcomes area Democrats to the city of Farmington Hills by a vote of two to five, not one to six."

The 11th congressional district includes Redford Township and much of Livonia in Wayne County, plus Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Novi, Commerce, Wixom, Milford, South Lyon, Birmingham and other municipalities in Oakland County.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
City Hall, 474-5500
8 p.m. Monday, May 6

Agenda items include:

- Request for sign variance: First Federal of Michigan, 23220 Farmington Road.
- Request for sign variance: First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River.
- Letter from Judy Downey, Downtown Development Authority Director re: Annual Farmer's Market.
- Letter from Theodore Taggart, Salem United Church of Christ re: use of Memorial Park for Ice Cream Social.
- Letter Janine Uheleski and Katherine Matson re: Meadowlark Street block party.
- Requests for proclamations:

National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive May 11; and Al Lanigan Day May 23.

- Approval of public hearing notice for proposed 1996-97 budget and property tax rate.
- Consider scheduling a public hearing to reprogram CDBG funds.
- Consider proposal for Internet web site home page.
- Consider change order No. 1 to Historical Museum Grounds Project.

Farmington Downtown Development Authority
Farmington City Hall, 473-7276

8 a.m. Tuesday, May 7

- Agenda items include:
- Business recruitment report.
- Communication from Robert Fitzpatrick.
- 1996-97 Financial Incentive Program.
- Approval of additional wood planter boxes.

■ Executive director's report.

■ Parking to Improvement assessment balance.

Study session meeting
Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman Building,
489-3800

8 p.m. Tuesday, May 7

Agenda items include:

- Recognition: Brendan Fay, academic all start honors; Andy Halberg, Earthwatch Scholarship; Amy Finkel and Christine Khoury, academic All American honors in swimming and outstanding partner of the year and notable.
- Status report from YMCA (Kevin Bush/Gary Jonne).
- Budget review.
- Harrison High School Proposal: Success in Academics and in Life (SAIL).
- Discussion on "Stand for Children" — June 1.
- Review of bids.

Restaurant levelled to make room for store

"The next time someone says, 'Let's do Chinese,' it won't be at the Wing Hong restaurant in Farmington Hills.

After obtaining approval from the Hills Planning Commission in November of 1995, Shear Development, which owns the surrounding Hunters Square shopping center on 14 Mile and Orchard Lake, decided to use the space for retail.

The restaurant, which had been cited for some health code violations, was sold to Shear last year. The building was torn down last week.

Shear representatives could not be reached for comment Friday.

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