

Student leaders

Special day: Tuesday was Student Government Day in Farmington and Farmington Hills. These participants had the chance to tour Costick Center and learn more about the Youth and Family Services Program. At right, Alice Toroyan, assistant to the director, answers questions from students Lauren Louinger of North Farmington High School, Megan Donagrandi, Loreal Burns and Shelly Reinstein of Farmington Harrison. Dave Boyer and Eric Wurmlinger of Special Services conducted the tour for this group.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DRESLER

Lawsuit from page A1

He had two similar federal lawsuits dismissed, including one in which the judge imposed an injunction from him filing similar motions against the Hills law firm without permission. Margiotta appealed and the matter is pending before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We just view it as a real nuisance and we have filed a motion before the judge and expect the case to be dismissed," said William Hampton, an attorney with Hills-based Kohl, Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Clark and Hampton. The firm represents the city of Farmington Hills.

"It doesn't cost him anything

because he doesn't hire a lawyer. He does it all on his own. So it's whatever is the filing fee."

The plaintiff remains determined.

"This is not frivolous," Margiotta said. "This is damn serious business."

The cover up extends from police to judges, Margiotta said.

Civil suit

The ordeal stems from a civil lawsuit Margiotta filed against a former partner over the two pieces of real estate.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge David Breck refused to grant a bench trial, ordering the civil matter be settled by binding arbitration. Hampton was appointed arbitrator.

Margiotta refused to have the Hills attorney as the arbitrator, claiming Hampton was a long-time friend of the defendant in the civil suit. Margiotta also maintains someone falsified an affidavit that gave his consent.

He refused to file a claim and, according to Margiotta, the arbitrator went ahead and awarded \$1.23 million in a "bogus" default judgment against him. He was also assessed \$1,445 in court costs, which he refused to pay at first.

As a result, Margiotta said he was subject of two "bogus" arrests on contempt of court charges.

His attorney at the time asked that one charge be withdrawn, saying Margiotta didn't have an opportunity to have legal representation.

Margiotta's grievance with Farmington Hills police started in 1991 when he filed a perjury complaint stemming from the arbitration hearing.

In his lawsuit, Margiotta asserts Hills police detectives repeatedly stonewalled him when he tried to see transcripts from the hearing, which were included as evidence.

According to the suit, he was told by a detective at one point to "get the f--- out of hear (sic)."

Margiotta contends the police inaction was part of the overall conspiracy with the arbitrator's legal firm.

"It was total breakdown of the judicial system in southeastern Michigan," he said.

Chief's denial

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer - who is also named in the suit - denied the allegations.

Dwyer said Margiotta's complaints about his department were turned over to the state attorney general's Public Corruption Unit. The state's attorney took no action and none of Margiotta's charges have ever been substantiated, Dwyer added. Margiotta intends to resubmit his claim to newly elected Attorney General Jennifer Granholm.

In a written statement, Dwyer further said he believed the charges are in response to "Mr. Margiotta's anger and frustration from all the judgments, contempt of court, and lawsuits that have gone against him during the past eight years."

Margiotta also filed complaints with the Southfield and Birmingham police and Wayne County sheriff, a Michigan State Police investigator said.

Margiotta's also asked to speak in front of Farmington Hills City Council.

City officials and council members said they will not respond directly to Margiotta's allegations since it's a pending legal matter.

"We're taking this seriously," said City Manager Steve Brock. "We take all lawsuits seriously."

AARP to meet

The local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 in the Wexford Room of the William Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster.

Re-elected state Rep. Andrew Raczowski will speak and answer questions. The public is invited to attend.

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