

Vandals' Parents Liable for \$500 in School Damages

Suburban parents of children who vandalize public property were reminded by Livonia police and public school officials that Michigan law makes them liable to \$500 damages.

The "get tough with juvenile law breakers" policy initiated this month is a cooperative effort on the part of police and school officials has won enthusiastic approval of many suburban taxpayers and parents.

Andy Donatelli of 30457 Jeanine, Livonia, whose infant son is still four years away from kindergarten said: "The firm policy on the part of teachers and policemen should keep our suburbs a fine place in which to live. I'm especially in favor of

having parents of thoughtless kids pay for their thoughtless acts. There's no reason why taxpayers should pay to clean up after vandals."

School Board Trustee Lonnie H. Brashear, who is chairman of the Board Finance Committee, pointed out that State law sets the cost of paying for damages caused by children under 18 years of age, squarely on the parents.

"This section of the law reads: 'Any municipal corporation, county, township, village, school district, department of the State or Michigan, person, partnership, corporation, association, or any incorporated or unincorporated religious organization may recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$500 in a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against the parents of any minor under 18 years of age living with his parents, who has maliciously or willfully destroyed real, personal or mixed property which belongs to the municipal corporation, county, township, village, school district, department of the State of Michigan, person, partnership, corporation, association, or any incorporated or unincorporated religious organization or who has maliciously or willfully caused bodily harm or injury to any person.'

"In addition to the \$500 the parents of a proven vandal will have to pay court costs," Brashear went on, "and any parent who is unfortunate enough to have two children involved in a malicious felony on a school or church, is probably vulnerable for \$500 in damages done by each child, for a total of \$1,000."

Last week, fourteen parents of children found guilty of breaking and entering and despoiling the interior and exterior of the Jefferson elementary school at 9501 Henry Ruff Road in Livonia who had been summoned to the Board of Education offices paid varying amounts for the damages done to the school.

Board of Education Business Manager, Mr. Upton, said that the parents had agreed to pay for repairs on replacement of school properties broken or damaged by their offspring.

"We assessed the parents of these misbehaving children only the basic cost of the damaged items," Upton said. "If we had added the nuisance costs and the time and extra effort it has taken principals, administrators, and custodians, the bill could have been a shocker for the Livonia parents who are now paying for the misdeeds of their youngsters."

Upton praised the highly efficient police work which led to the apprehension and arrest of the juvenile delinquents. He especially praised the painstaking efforts of Patrolman Kenneth Kirkwood, who rounded up the boys who had damaged the

Ford Makes 3 Shifts in Top Posts

Marvin L. Katke, has been appointed vice president—Manufacturing, Ford Motor Company, Henry Ford II, chairman of the board, announced.

Ford said the appointment was made in view of the company's current worldwide expansion program. The position of vice-president—Manufacturing was held last by John Dystra from 1958 until he was elected company president in 1961.

Katke will report to Charles H. Patterson, executive vice-president, and he will continue as a member of the Operating Policy Committee and the Finance Committee.

The company's Board of Directors elected Robert Stevenson a vice-president, succeeding Katke as vice-president—Engineering, Transmission and Glass Group. He was appointed a member of the Operating Policy and Finance Committees.

Clinton D. Yeak was appointed general manager of the Transmission and Chassis Division, succeeding Stevenson. He had been general manufacturing manager for the division.

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damage done to Livonia schools each year, Upton pointed out.

"We in Livonia probably suffer less vandalism than most communities in the metropolitan area," Upton said. "This is due to many reasons. The large percentage of good parents, the influence of Livonia's churches and agencies interested in our young people."

"Another thing," Upton went on, "we are not to tempt those who would break and enter by seeing to it that no money is left overnight in school offices. Even the proceeds from athletic and cultural events are deposited in bank drop boxes in the evening of the affair."

The fact that our school buildings are used by the community so many evenings helps to discourage vandals. Our buildings are well lighted all

night which discourages breaking and entering."

Upton also praised the custodial workers for being alert and watchful.

"We want to use tax dollars to build new buildings and buy new equipment," Upton concluded, "not to replace, repair, or clean up vandalized items. And this comes to pass."

when police or custodians catch kids damaging school property, we intend to have their parents pay the bills. The police, the Board of Education, and the taxpayers of Livonia intend to stop vandalism in our schools, public buildings, and parks. By working together, we will make this come to pass."

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