

Candidate for judge

Freedman cites need for juvenile probation

FARMINGTON HILLS—A night court for small claims cases and a new probation system for juveniles are two changes Gerald A. Freedman would like to see in the district court system.

Freedman is one of 12 candidates running in the August primary for a second seat created recently for the 47th district court.

A partner in Altman & Freedman, a law firm at 27650 Farmington Rd., he said his practice is "general law."

with a heavy emphasis on district court representation. "About three fourths of the litigation I am involved with is in district court," Freedman said.

He said he would like to see a youthful first offender probation program established in Farmington similar to one now operating in Royal Oak.

"Incarceration may not be the answer," he said, referring to youthful brushes with the law.

He feels the district court should be

able to exercise the widest discretionary powers in the handling of youthful offenders, particularly in the areas of alcohol and marijuana violations.

The "Royal Oak plan" is one where referrals are made to trained volunteers working in cooperation with the courts.

"I feel youth today has a very bad attitude towards the law and the courts," he said. "I would like to try to change that."

SMALL CLAIMS could be handled

in night court, according to Freedman. "The whole idea of courts is to release tension, not enhance it," he said.

"People come into small claims and they sit and wait for four or five hours while 20 cases are being handled that day."

He added many times the amount of money involved in small claims is less than the loss of a day's pay. He feels state financing of the court system would help keep the courts independent by reducing the financial influence of the local municipality. "This has not been a problem in Farmington, but it has come up in other cities," he said.

"I don't approve of using a bond as a means of punishment," he said. "Bonds have two purposes—to insure the appearance of a defendant and to use as a tool to prevent recurrence of a crime."

"I would really like to revamp the bonding system. It works in theory, but it puts a great financial burden on poor defendants."

"The problem with using discretion in bonding is that occasionally a judge will get his fingers burnt—after something goes wrong, the judge gets the blame."

FREEDMAN IS a 1956 graduate of the Wayne State law school, a member of the Michigan and the Oakland County bar associations; the association of American Trial Lawyers and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Assn. He organized the Forest Park Home Owners Assn., and has served on the Farmington Township Salary and Pension Committee.

He has worked with the South Farmington Little League as a coach, with the United Foundation and is a former commissioner of the Oakland County Commission on Economic Opportunity.

He is past president of Temple Kof Ami. He and his wife, Carol, have two children.



GERALD A. FREEDMAN

Candidate for judge

Mrs. Holtz is urging night, Saturday court

The district court is the one court in the judicial system which has the most direct effect on the lives of the people in any community, according to Judith Holtz, candidate for the 47th District Court Judgeship.

Mrs. Holtz said she thinks that it is important for people to realize the personal nature of the district court and the direct effect it has on them personally.

"I see this position as a very important job," she said. "Judges should put in at least a 40 hour work week."

"The district court is the first step in the judicial system, and a judge who does not take it seriously or who holds wholesale hearings on cases can have a very adverse and direct effect on the lives of the people in the community."

MRS. HOLTZ has some definite ideas for changing the administration of the court, including the inception of night and Saturday court sessions.

"The district court was designed to hear misdemeanors and minor offenses with a minimum of expense to the people involved. In many cases those people involved in the cases have to take a day or two off from work and lose any wages they may have earned on that day."

"A night or Saturday court would make the courts more accessible to the people which is the way it should be," she said.

She added that the notion may not be very popular with lawyers but said, "courts are for the people not for the lawyers."

She also said people entering a court should be treated on a first-come-first serve basis without any preferential treatment given to lawyers, and that court should begin promptly at 9 a.m.

SHE THINKS that state financing of the district court would be a good thing if it did not become too bogged down in red tape.

"It would certainly make the burden on the city easier," she said. "But if the courts were to run into

trouble with bureaucratic red tape every time they had to ask for money it would defeat the purpose."

She regards the right to a jury trial as an important part of the judicial system. She said that every citizen is entitled to a jury trial should he request it.

"People sometimes forget that judges are human, too," she said.

"A judge may have a bad day one day and throw the book at somebody appearing before him. A jury trial represents a variety of people with diverse opinions, all of whom must be convinced of the guilt of the defendant. I think that this is one thing that was designed to protect the innocent."

MRS. HOLTZ is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received her law degree at Wayne State University in 1968.

She is currently a member of the law firm of Perlman, Garber, and Holtz, which handles cases involving general civil litigation, appellate, advocacy, traffic, misdemeanor and felony defense.

She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Detroit Bar, the Oakland County Bar, the Women Lawyers Association of America and the American and Michigan Trial Lawyers Association.



JUDITH HOLTZ



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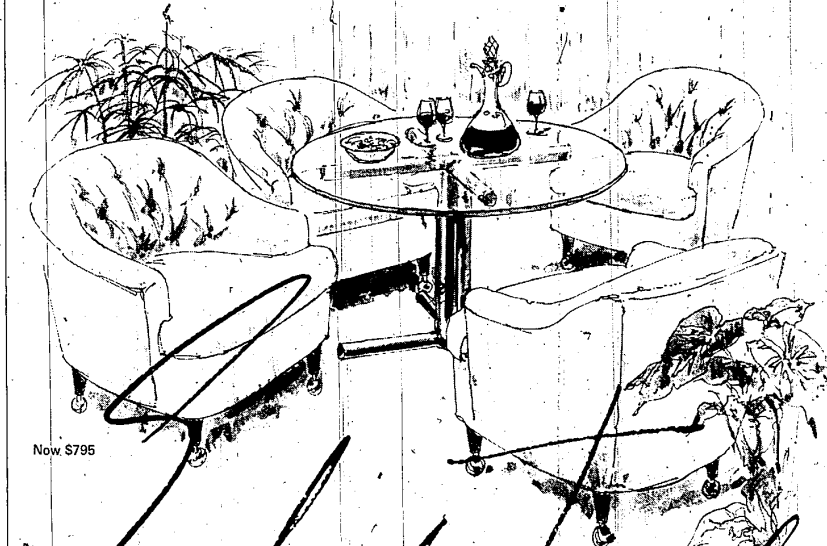
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Community Calendar

SERPICO

Monday, July 8: "Serpico," by Peter Maas is the topic for discussion in the book discussion series for teens sponsored by the Farmington District Library, in the library, 23333 Farmington Rd., 7:30 p.m. Discussions every other Monday evening through the summer. No charge.

PLANNING SESSION

Tuesday, July 9: The Women's Assn. of the Oakway Symphony invites all interested persons to a planning session for the booth the group will sponsor at the Farmington Founders Festival, in the home of Kitty Jones, 31775 Ridgside, Hunters Ridge, 7:30 p.m.

LOVE'S LABOR LOST

Wednesday, July 10: Bus leaves the Farmington Community Center at 8:30 a.m. for the Stratford Festival production of "Love's Labor Lost." Playgoers may bring a picnic lunch, or buy lunch to be eaten on the Avon riverbank. Dinner will be in Stratford's Victorian Inn. Package cost is \$28.

ANTIQUIC SHOW

Friday and Saturday, July 12-13: Antique Show, sponsored by the Farmington Community Center, with 22 dealers showing items from noon-9 p.m. each day, in the center. Refreshments available from a snack tent may be enjoyed on the terrace or under the trees. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, and \$1 for children.

ANTIQUIC VILLAGE

Wednesday, July 17: Bus leaves the Farmington Community Center at 9 p.m. for Keatinge Antique Village. Fee of \$3 covers transportation and admission to the antique shop. Reservations are necessary by calling the center.

FOUNDERS FESTIVAL

July 18-22: Farmington Founders Festival leads off with a pigeon race, sponsored by the city's Jaycees at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, July 18, from the corner of 12 Mile and Farmington Rds. Events continue through the 10-day festival. Full calendar will be published in the Thursday, July 18 issue of this newspaper.

RODEO

Friday and Saturday, July 19-20: Jaycee second annual championship rodeo on the corner of 12 Mile and Farmington Rd. at 8 p.m. Friday; at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday.

THE POWER OF IT ALL

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 19-21: "The Power Of It All," a musical comedy sponsored by the Farmington Community Center and produced by the Farmington Players in the Players Barn, 12 Mile Rd., between Orchard Lake and Farmington Rds. 8:30 p.m. Tickets at \$3 for adults, and \$1.50 for children. Seats are available now in the Farmington Community Center. Play continues July 26-28.

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