

Complaints hit snake 'kennel'

By ELSPEETH BEIER
FRANKLIN — Zoological history was made Monday when the village council declared that snakes are animals.

Since snakes are not vegetable or mineral, the trustees reasoned, snakes must be animals, subject to control under ordinance number 103.

Following complaints that "ferocious things are skinning around" a Franklin home, the council decided to authorize a violation for harboring, breeding or commercialization of "snake-animals" in a kennel situation.

John Graham, 26030 Romany Way, will be issued a violation for "kennelizing" snakes.

Graham, a specialist on snakes and survival training, admitted that he has two box constrictors and about six other non-venomous and non-dangerous snakes in his home.

"Only a person with a great deal of ignorance would classify these snakes as dangerous, let alone as animals," said Graham. He emphasized that snakes are classified zoologically as reptiles, not animals.

Graham said he would fight the violation in court. "I have studied ordinance 103, and if anyone can show me how my small collection

can be called a kennel of animals, I'll talk to them then," he added.

TRUSTEE Virginia DeBentham, who received complaints from villagers against the snakes, asked the council to consider action.

All four trustees present, as well as village president Ward Thomas, agreed police could issue a citation since no one in the village is allowed to operate a "kennel."

A kennel by ordinance definition constitutes three or more animals, including offspring older than 60 days.

Although there is no official name for a collection of snakes, according to Baldwin Public Library reference librarian Milene Cassidy, the council referred to the reptiles as a "kennel of snakes."

"THE SNAKES I do have are pets. They are under lock and key, and they constitute an educational hobby for me and my family," Graham said.

Occasionally Graham takes a snake or two with him when he talks to elementary school groups, but that is the only time his snakes do any traveling.

As for breeding, Graham said he has no control over that.

Oakland council to publicize arts

A new county arts council is being planned—an umbrella organization to serve all culturally-oriented groups, businesses and individuals in Oakland County.

A representative advisory committee agreed to form the council and seek official recognition from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"We'll serve primarily as a communications medium," said Southfield Arts Council President Ronald Sevold, who is spearheading formation of the new council.

If the new council receives approval from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, its first major project will be promotion of local cultural activities during the bicentennial celebration in 1976.

MEETING recently to plan the new agency were Mario Balingier, president of the Farmington Arts Council; Ivaell Harlan, president of the Arts Council Triangle of Birmingham, Bloomfield and Troy.

Also, Darrick Wernher, director of Pontiac Creative Arts Center; Dr. Donald O'Dowd, president of Oakland University; Dr. Vaughn Whitted, assistant to the president of Oakland Community College.

Also, Kenneth Gross, executive director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association; Judge Norman Feder, 48th District Court; Clifford Scherer, superintendent of Huron Valley Schools.

Larry Goldsmith, deputy director of Parks and Recreation for Southfield; Dennis Frazho, Arts Council Triangle; County Commissioner Lawrence Pernick and Sevold.

"THE COUNTY council would not originate events," explained Sevold, "but function as a communications medium."

Ideas discussed at the meeting included the council's setting up a county-wide artists' registry, determining what facilities are available for events and the actual listings of all events taking place.

Supervisor re-elected

SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP — Incumbent Supervisor Theodore J. Sura was re-elected recently with a total of 965 votes. He ran unopposed.

In other township elections, Eleanor A. McGee was elected clerk with 998 votes. Ellen M. Reed, also unopposed, was elected treasurer with 1,001 votes.

Elected to the post of trustee are Martha S. Nichols, 769 votes, and Leon Lytle, 484 votes. Competitor Donnell P. O'Callaghan received 459 votes.

The office of constable was not filled due to insufficient write-in votes.

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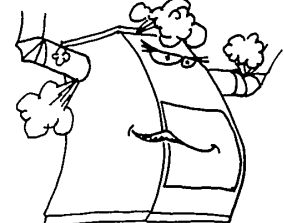
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