

Arena manager gets his job back

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Richard Sanders, who was dismissed as manager of the Beech Woods Arena in October 1977, has been reinstated to his position by the Southfield Administrative Civil Service Commission. Sanders was dismissed by the department of parks and recreation with allegations that he had mismanaged the facility. According to his attorneys, Kathy Ganger and Robert Finkel, the decision was reversed because the city did not give Sanders advance notice of the charges nor time to improve his performance. Sanders was reinstated with pay retroactive to Jan. 9. Sanders worked for the city for more than six years before his discharge. "Mr. Sanders was advised of his dismissal by a letter from Laurence Schenke, director of the department of parks and recreation of the City of Southfield," attorney Ganger said. "The letter was dated Sept. 28 and the dismissal was effective Oct. 7, 1977." "The Commission concluded that he had not been warned that his job was in jeopardy." Asst. City Atty. Milton Spokojni, who represented the city, described the

commission's finding as a "decision that the punishment was too harsh for the crime."

Spokojni said that Sanders had been notified orally during staff meetings of the allegations, but the commission found that the charges had not been put in writing before the actual dismissal letter.

According to both attorneys, the charges of mismanagement included failure to maintain a clean facility and responsibility for the fact that the public health department closed the swimming pool twice during the summer of 1977, once for two hours and once for two days.

Other allegations included not following city purchasing policy, failure to respond to department requests to correct safety violations, failure on one occasion to open the arena at the proper time and mismanagement of the snack bar.

Sanders attorney said that the commission found Sanders ultimately responsible for the operation of the arena, even when problems may have been caused by other employees.

Sanders attorneys have asked the city to advise him when he is to return to work.

Police union loses in promotion battle

By JACKIE KLEIN

The Southfield Police Command Officers Association (SPOCA) has lost a court battle to restrict the city from allowing any member of the police department with at least five years of service, regardless of rank, to be eligible for promotion to sergeant. The police union's lawsuit, filed in Oakland County Circuit Court against Southfield Police and Fire Civil Service Commission, claims vacancies for sergeants should be filled by competitive examinations among corporals, the next lower rank.

Intervening in the lawsuit were City of Southfield, Southfield Police Officers Association and Police Officers Association of Michigan.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews ruled that since there are four positions for sergeants to be filled and only three corporals in the department, all three would be promoted if they passed the exam. There would, in effect, be no competition, according to Andrews.

"Because there are more vacancies than persons in the next lower rank," Andrews said, "persons in the second lower rank may compete for the vacancy."

THE POLICE and fire civil service commission May 5, 1977, said there would be an examination for the rank of sergeant in order to create an eligibility list to fill vacancies, according to the lawsuit.

The commission, the suit states, announced that the sergeant's examination would be open to any member of the police department with at least five years of service.

State law, according to the police union, provides that vacancies should be filled by promotions from among the next lower rank.

Exceptions, union members contend, are when there are more vacancies than there are persons with five years of service, when there's only one person in the next lower rank, or when no individual has completed two years of service in the next lower rank.

Civil service commissioners maintained that since there are more vacancies than persons in the next lower rank, it means there's only one for each vacancy and persons in the second lower rank may compete.

"The intent of the legislature," said Andrews, "appears to be to provide for some competition when none can be found within the next lower rank."

Symphony plays third concert

The Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra will perform its third concert of the 1977-78 season at Southfield-Lathrup High School auditorium at 8:20 p.m. Saturday. The program will consist of the works of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and Concerto for Violin and Orchestra conducted by Valter Poole. The guest

soloist will be concertmaster Mischa Mischoff.

There will be an after-glow following the concert in the cafeteria. Those attending will be able to meet the guest artists and symphony players.

For ticket information, call Einar Laire, 943-7487.

Church holds organ recital

The R. Merrill Jensen Recital series will present organist Mark Brampton Smith in concert at 5 p.m., Feb. 26, at the First Baptist Church of Detroit, 2120 Southfield Road.

Smith is organist-director at Augsburg Lutheran Church, Redford, and is currently working for a master of music degree at the University of Michigan.

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