

Restaurateur fights township hall

By LINDA TAYLOR
West Bloomfield Editor

West Bloomfield attorney and restaurant owner Lawrence Stockler said Monday he plans to file a civil suit against the township for "arbitrarily, capriciously and unrealistically trying to extort property from me."

Stockler's charge is in response to the township's request that he grant footage for a service drive in front of his "Fiddler on the Rye" delicatessen on Orchard Lake Road south of Maple.

Stockler leases space for the deli and an adjacent take-out pizza operation, The Galley. Owner of both and an adjacent dry cleaning shop is Farmington osteopath Dr. A.J. Scar-chilli.

Stockler charges that the township, in requesting footage for a service drive before granting an occupancy permit, is committing "a pure criminal act of extortion. It's a shake-down."

In defense, Stockler said, "Scar-chilli" can't give away what I've leased from him or what the cleaners has leased. And I can't give away property I don't own."

Stockler has been issued two tickets since the Fiddler's Dec. 28 opening in defiance of township planning commission's refusal to grant site plan revision approval.

Arrangement on charges of operating without a building permit and certificate of operation was scheduled for Tuesday in 48th District Court but has been postponed until Feb. 2.

According to the wording of township ordinance 56, if the owner (Scar-chilli) or anyone acting in his behalf (Stockler) is found guilty of the charges, he will be subject to up to \$100 fine and/or 90 days in the county jail.

Each day the violation continues constitutes a separate offense and sentencing does not exempt the offender from any compliance with the ordinance.

According to Stockler, Scar-chilli has told him to proceed as he wishes.

STOCKLER'S PROBLEMS began in mid-December when the planning commission denied approval of his petition for site plan revision on grounds that a service road is needed since the facility's operation would increase traffic, its sign is nonconforming and there is a trash receptacle problem.

In addition to his statements Monday against the service drive, Stockler has previously said such a drive "would benefit Jax Car Wash. I can't see paying rent and taxes (on it)."

Jax Car Wash plans to locate north of the deli.

Stockler has also pointed out that the Bloomfield Canopy restaurant to the north was not required to install a service drive.

The Canopy, however, was built be-

fore the township plan for service drives was initiated.

The planning department has until now been successful in persuading new businesses in the area to dedicate footage for service drives to help alleviate traffic congestion.

CONCERNING THE non-conforming sign charge, Stockler said, "The sign can stay there. The other (businesses') signs have been non-conforming for years."

Twp. Atty. Paul Bibeau was not available Tuesday to comment on the signs or Stockler's other statements.

Stockler said he has written the township about trash disposal at the deli. He added that the Oakland County Health Department has given its approval for the disposal methods.

He said an associate in his law firm may represent him at the Feb. 2 arraignment.

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Bob Patek, Farmington Hills, was one of the University of Michigan Wolverine grid-ders who saw action in this season's Rose Bowl classic. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Camping offered

The Fresh Air Society, with headquarters at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield, is offering a Purim-Shabbat Family Camping Weekend Feb. 25-27 at the Butzel Conference Center at Camp Tamarack, Ortonville.

The program is open to families with children age 10 or younger. Each family will have its own room with a private bath in one of three guest houses. Complete child care services will be provided.

The program includes winter sports, nature and craft activities for the family. A guest speaker will lead evening discussions for the adults.

The purpose of the weekend, according to program director Benjamin Ben-Baruch, is to provide an intimate, informal atmosphere for families to celebrate the Shabbat and Purim together. "It is an opportunity for families to explore new ways of celebrating these holidays with their children and an opportunity to meet personally meaningful Jewish experiences along with other families similarly committed to Jewish values," he said.

This is the fifth in a series of family camping weekends sponsored by the Fresh Air Society under a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation.

To apply and for further information, contact Ben-Baruch at 551-7733. Applications will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis.

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Eternal smiles his emptiness betray, As shallow streams Run dimpling all the way.

—Alexander Pope

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