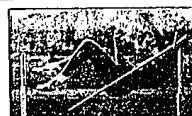


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Tighter surrogate limits sought

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

**'I don't see how you
can make a person a
felon for being
infertile.'**

— Sen. Jack Faxon

State Sen. Jack Faxon wants the state to keep its nose out of surrogate parenting.

"I don't think the state has any business getting in the middle of a private contract," said the Farmington Hills Democrat.

Faxon is opposed to legislation proposed last week by Sen. Connie

Binsfield, R-Maple City, that would make surrogate parenting for profit a felony.

"I want to let the world know babies are not for sale in Michigan," Binsfield said. "I feel great sympathy for childless couples, but surrogate arrangements for profit are not the answer."

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, said he thinks Binsfield "is on the right track. I think the ap-

proach that you can't do this for profit seems to make some sense. It removes it from something approaching the sale of babies."

Still, Brotherton doesn't hold out much hope for the proposed legislation. "Frankly, I feel the bill has little chance of passage," Brotherton said, in light of the Democratic-controlled state House.

BUT THE veteran representative

said Binsfield's bill provides the impetus for much-needed discussion. "We have a responsibility to discuss it. We should see if the state should take a position. Is there a role for the state?" Brotherton said.

Binsfield wants the state to outlaw commercial surrogacy arrangements. Her bill would make arranging surrogate contracts a felony with

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Wellness

That's theme of Y's planned new center

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Promoting the spirit, mind and body grabbed the spotlight as the Farmington Area YMCA broke ground for a Wellness Center Thursday. Opening is targeted for Oct. 1.

Calling the 2,200-square-foot center the result of "a community out-

reach," the Rev. Richard Porrott of the Church of the Nazarene in Farmington Hills, said: "If there's no place to exercise, there's not going to be a place to build strong muscles and strong souls to survive."

The Wellness Center will be more than just a weightlifting room with the newest in equipment.

"It is intended to be a lifestyle center emphasizing not only the physical development of the individual, but also encourage the balance between mental well-being as well as the practice of one's chosen faith," said Kevin Bush, Y executive director.

The Wellness Center staff will provide members with a personal wellness plan that will be supervised by trained professionals, said Jan Lockman, senior physical education director. Cross-training will be emphasized to discourage boredom.

THE EASTERN addition will complement the Y's 38,000-square-foot main building, on Farmington Road at New Market. That building opened in 1980.

Thursday's groundbreaking is "a strong indication of the dedication of the Farmington Y to the community," said Robert Densmore, Farmington Area YMCA Board of Directors chairman. He said there was "strong support in community dollars to build this center."

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Mama duck wasn't about to turn her back on her fuzzy dozen. With bread in bill, the mother thought the swimming pool at Beech-



Pat Kubiak of the Michigan Humane Society's Westland branch fends off the mother duck's angry jump when a net was placed near the ducklings in an effort to help them from the swimming pool.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Gaggle of ducks rescued

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

CECIL AARON of Beechwood Condominiums in Farmington Hills had been looking for the ducklings for several days. He knew the mother had a nest somewhere nearby.

Then, lo and behold, he found the fuzzy dozen, accompanied by their mother, swimming in the rain-filled tray covering the condominium's swimming pool. "I walk by

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Pastor and congregation are partners

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Rev. John Maki pauses for a moment inside Salem United Church of Christ on Oakland and Grand River in Farmington. Maki is the church's new pastor.

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

There are a few differences between ministering to a church six blocks from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and leading Farmington's 112-year-old Salem United Church of Christ.

"We could never hold church services on the Sunday of the 500 (Indy 500) because all of the traffic went to the track," said the Rev. John Maki, Salem United's new pastor. It wasn't one Sunday of discomfort a year that edged him out of his old post. Instead, he discovered he was becoming too comfortable for his own liking. Maki served the church in Speedway, Ill., a suburb of Indianapolis, for 13 years before he felt compelled to make a change.

"The issue was how can I best serve my calling. I felt it would be best for the church and for me to make a move. I was comfortable there. I was about to lose that sandpaper. Sometimes, you find yourself unwilling and unable to act as an abrasive and work for change. I could have begun to let new programming slip by. I thought, 'I'm comfortable and that's bad.'"

Instead, he has thrust himself into a situation in which he's forced to sit back, listen and learn. Maki and his wife of 17 years, Sally, arrived in town March 17 with their daughters, Cristina, 10 and Sarah, 6.

"AT THIS point, I want to be listening to the congregation, learning its history and its desire and needs. I want to develop a long-term vision. Basically I'm listening to whatever they think they ought to be doing," Maki said.

"I'm not their hired Christian. I'm

people

not their employee. I'm their partner. We're struggling to find an individual and congregational ministry."

So far, in his listening and watching, he says he has been happy to discover the congregation devotes a good deal of time and energy to supporting domestic and foreign mission programs. In addition to participating in the annual CROP Walk for Hunger, they support Gleaners, the Detroit food program aimed at poor people in the metropolitan area.

"They're informed about it, too," Maki said. "It's refreshing, too, when a pastor doesn't have to prod and push."

Maki doesn't see his job as that of a spiritual policeman. "Ministers should be team players willing to share," he said.

Pastors ought to be straightforward about their strengths, their weaknesses. "That's what I try to be. What you see is what you get."

"I accept people for what they are. I don't need them to be in agreement or conforming with me. To me, that's the core of the gospel."

Maki has been in the ministry for 16 years. Fresh out of the University of Minnesota, he enrolled in theological seminary. "I felt called to do this. There was no revelatory experience. This was the direction in which God was leading me," he said.

"You have to test this and seminary is the testing ground. You can ask yourself, 'Is this really true?'"

12 Mile stretch closed

As of today, 12 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, will be closed to traffic.

The Oakland County Road Commission closed the one-mile stretch early this morning for the planned reconstruction of Pebble Creek Bridge. The road will remain closed through much of the summer.

Motorists can detour to 11 Mile or 13 Mile at Middlebelt or Inkster while the county road is closed. New left-turn lights will be at Middlebelt at both 11 Mile and 13 Mile to accommodate expected increases in traffic there, City Mana-

ger William Costick said. A police officer will be stationed in the detour areas to assist motorists.

The deteriorated bridge — west of Inkster, between Herndonwood and Inkster — will be rebuilt and widened from two lanes to five lanes. The one-mile stretch will be resurfaced, and the shoulders will be paved.

Bridge reconstruction was to begin in mid-June with the summer closing of the schools. The change in plans is due to the contractor's decision to begin earlier, Costick said.