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36 Pages

Fifty Cents

State bars 3rd judge for court

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

If you listened hard enough you could probably hear sighs of disappointment Thursday morning in the Farmington area — and as far away as Lansing — when a last-ditch effort to secure a third judge for the 47th District Court failed.

"We missed by one vote," said Democratic state Sen. Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills, who made the

amendment to add a judge to the two-judge system. "It's just really tragic."

As far as a disappointed 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer is concerned, the denial doesn't remove the need for expansion — or the need to pay for it with a voter-approved \$1.6 million bond proposal — at the court on 10 Mile between Power and Farmington roads.

"We believe there is still a need. We need room, regardless," she said. Faxon's amendment was to add a

third judge in 1995. Attempts to get one authorized for 1993 had already failed earlier, last week. Despite pleas from local politicians during the week, other legislators wouldn't support Faxon's bid for the third judge.

"The governor (John Engler) said if we put it (request for a third judge) in he would veto the bill. The Republicans just wouldn't do it," Faxon said.

Engler had made it clear to legislators that because of budget con-

straints, certain courts, such as the 47th, would not get additional judges.

FAXON'S DISAPPOINTMENT was matched by others in the Farmington area.

"That's really disappointing. The politics is at a level that's out of our control seemingly," said Farmington Mayor William Hartsock.

Farmington Hills Mayor Jonathan L. Grant agreed. "The local politicians did what they could. It was quite evident they (legislators) were

not going to send a bill the governor was going to veto."

It's too bad, Grant said, that legislators and the governor "can't see their way" to approving a third judge in light of the approximately \$500,000 revenues the court earned for the state in the last two years.

That's pretty much state Rep. Jan Dolan's appraisal of the situation. "I understand the financial condition of the state. But in this area — because of the caseload

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FARMINGTON-AREA residents will receive a new telephone area code early in 1994. The current 313 area code will become history for most Michigan Bell customers in north suburban Detroit, although 313 will still be used in most communities south of Eight Mile Road.

Residents can speak their minds on the change — which splits the Detroit-area into north and south regions — at two public hearings to be held close to home in the near future.

On Tuesday, April 7, a meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Livonia Public Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The next day, Wednesday, April 8, a hearing will be held in Conference Room C of the Novi Community Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi. Both begin at 7 p.m.

Telephone rates will not be changed by the change, phone company officials have said. Calls that are "local" today will remain so after the change occurs.

Michigan Bell formed a citizens committee to help develop the area code split because the existing area is quickly running out of telephone numbers.

IT'S JUST another of those chambers of commerce "mixers," but with a big difference. At this one, you can skip the Scotch and sip the carrot juice.

Boisford Hospital's Center for Health Improvement will host the mixer for members of the Farmington/Farmington Hills and Novi chambers and their guests from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the hospital's TRACC (Total Rehabilitation and Conditioning Center), 39750 Grand River, Novi.

Health screening in cholesterol, blood pressure, as well as "healthy" food will be provided.

Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. Reservations should be made by Friday, April 10. Call the chamber at 474-3440 for more information.

SMILE. SENIOR citizens of the Farmington area, an Oakland-Livingston Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap your photographs.

The photographer will be at the Farmington Hills Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Friday, April 17. Call 478-9147 for a reservation. Photographs of seniors will be used for identification cards needed for participation in the OLISA senior discount program. Call OLISA's toll-free number, 1-800-462-9150, for more information.

MEMORY LANE — From the April 10, 1992, edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Only emergency calls were being handled in Farmington's manually operated telephone exchange as the strike of about 60 operators continued, Michigan Bell officials said. The strike was called by the Communications Workers of America, which was seeking wage hikes for 51,000 operators in five states.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21808 Farmington Road, Farmington 48330, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Farmington Mayor William Hartsock takes his hat off after a fitting Thursday at The Farmington Players barn on 12 Mile Road.

Farmington officials step back in time

By Casey Hains
staff writer

The men will be dressed in top hats, bowlers and colorful ascots, the women in floor-length embroidered dresses with hoop skirts and hats.

Step into the Farmington City Council chambers the evening of May 4, and you may think you're visiting a town hall meeting of 125 years ago when Farmington first became a village.

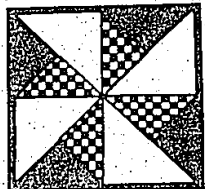
A few modern-day touches might give it away.

There will be two women sitting at the council table; there weren't any in 1867. There were likely no news reporters at the first village meetings because the first Farmington Enterprise newspaper wasn't published until Nov. 2, 1868.

But the costumes and atmosphere this May will be vintage-1860s thanks to The Farmington Players, the Farmington Hills-based community theater group, which is donating the use of period costumes for city officials as part of the 125th anniversary celebration.

DURING THE past few weeks, groups of city officials have had a little fun playing dress-up at The Farmington Players barn in 12 Mile Road. There, Emily McSweeney, coordinator for the theater group's costume closet, is helping to fit them into the clothing styles of 125 years ago, adding a tie pin

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here and a feather hat there to accessorize.

The times surrounding the year 1867 were colorful and dressy, especially for men, McSweeney said.

"They were dapper dandies," she said. "They took what they say about the male species being colorful to heart."

Women of that time had one good dress, usually a dark color, which they wore year-round to everything from "state occasions to barn raisings," she said.

McSweeney said the Farmington Players volunteers including costume designers Cynthia Tupper and Barbie Amman look to history books and old magazines to create costumes for each of their plays and musicals. "The great thing

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Area Jews make pilgrimage to honor 'Messiah'

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Early tomorrow morning, Rabbi Y. M. Kagan and colleagues associated with the Lubavitch Foundation in Farmington Hills, and soon to be in West Bloomfield, are scheduled to fly to Washington, D.C., for a birthday celebration at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The guest of honor is Menachem M. Schneerson, the Brooklyn-area orator heralded by Kagan and other Lubavitchers as possibly the Messiah awaited for centuries.

Schneerson, or "Rebbe" as his followers reverently call him, is turning 90, and his followers intend to commemorate the occasion in suitable fashion — even if the guest of honor won't be there in person.

"REBBE IS RECOVERING from a stroke," explained Kagan. "But he never attends these functions anyway."

Over the last 40 years Schneerson has seldom ventured from Lubavitch headquarters in Crown Heights, N.Y. He's never even visited Israel, despite urgings from his followers who

have all but begged him to come, and even duplicating Schneerson's quarters as an inducement.

Kagan rejects depictions of Schneerson as reclusive. "He spends a lot of time in prayer, he's very busy and he seldom travels. But he's accessible."

The importance of Schneerson's birthday celebration, even with him in absentia, is noted in resolution 410, approved in both houses of Congress, saying Schneerson "is universally revered by all faiths, (and) respected as a spiritual leader of world Jewry."

H.J. 410 also declares April 14 (Schneerson's actual birthday) as "Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A."

Such recognition may be the epitome of recognition in secular America. But it's hardly news to Kagan and the estimated 1,000 Lubavitchers in metro Detroit (and about 200,000 worldwide) who have followed Schneerson's career for decades.

Lubavitch is one of several sects within the Detroit area considered to be Orthodox. A common characteristic is strict adherence to the Torah and the body of Jewish law.

While about 10 percent of the area's Jews are considered Orthodox, the majority are considered to be Reform or Conservative. It is the Reform and Conservative groups that Lubavitch strives to bring back to Orthodoxy.

"WE DON'T LIKE terms like Orthodox and Reform," said Kagan. "They tend to divide. To us there are two kinds of Jews... those who strictly observe the law, and those who should be."

Lubavitchers don't seek converts.

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In dispute Hearing on spa set for today

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

A hearing to decide whether the license for a Farmington Hills health spa — closed by the city following a police raid in February — should be revoked will convene Monday night.

"Right now it's up in the air," said Farmington Hills city attorney John Donohue Friday afternoon. "We'll probably convene and formally adjourn if that's what's decided."

Five Korean women, including Kim Stokes, 38255 10 Mile, were arrested on prostitution-related charges in the Feb. 25 morning raid. Stokes also is licensed through the city to perform massages.

Stokes filed a civil lawsuit against the city March 27 and failed to get a preliminary injunction from Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert Wednesday to have the spa temporarily reopened.

Friday morning Taylor asked Donohue to adjourn the Monday license revocation hearing before the Farmington Hills City Council.

TAYLOR'S REQUEST stated that Stokes — because she faces criminal

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