

# Potty parity

## House OKs more restroom stalls for women

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

There won't be long lines outside the ladies' room of either a new or renovated Tiger Stadium if Rep. Jan Dolan's bill becomes law.

"Women like baseball as well as men," Dolan said Tuesday. "With Tiger Stadium coming up, I'm concerned."

Dolan's bill requiring more restroom stalls for women reached second base Monday when the House of Representatives approved it 89-4.

Third base would be Senate passage. Home plate would be Gov. John Engler's signature.

ALL AREA lawmakers voted yes on House Bill 4319.

Opposed were four conservative Republicans who, said Dolan, "don't think we should require anyone to do anything."

The state plumbing code currently sets some standards for toilets, but Dolan noted that local governments are able to choose between five national codes. "This says to every community, 'this will be part of the code.'"

"This says to every community, 'this will be part of the code.'"

—Rep. Jan Dolan  
R-Farmington Hills



"I've not had anyone work against it. The time has come," she said. "Dolan worked three years on it. She had no luck last session when the bill was referred to a committee headed by Rep. Edith Terrell, D-Highland Park. Absent half the time, Terrell never called a committee

meeting and was defeated in 1990.

"I USED A lot of your writer's material," said Dolan, referring to former Observer & Eccentric freelance Penny Wright Steele. Steele started the project in 1984 with an observation that only women's restrooms in public places had long waiting lines.

Women readers responded to her series by nominating the most user-unfriendly theaters, stadiums and shopping areas. At the top were sports stadiums. Department stores in suburban malls received bad marks for hiding their restrooms.

Steele also found the all-male state Plumbing Board and mostly male architecture students were unaware of a problem. She located a University of Michigan study linking female bladder infections and cancer with "holding it" for long periods of time.

UNDER DOLAN'S bill, theaters, sports arenas and stadiums would be required to have three female water closets for every one male water closet and urinal for the first 50 attendees.

For 51-100 people, the facility would be required to have four female water closets for two male; for 101-150 attendees, five female water closets for three male; and so on.

Virginia has passed a law requiring a 2-1 ratio.

## Camp Oakland sets summer camp programs

Day camp and wilderness survival programs are among the activities to be offered this summer by Camp Oakland Youth Programs, Oxford.

Programs also include Venture Out, a backpacking experience for teens and Camp Discovery for children with learning disabilities.

Day camp is conducted on Camp

Oakland's 320-acres of rolling, wooded hills. Camp is designed for children 5-9.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, June 22 through Aug. 14.

The \$50 weekly fee includes lunch. Venture Out offers 10-day backpacking trips for youngsters 14-16. Backpackers can hike the trails of

Michigan's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore or Canada's Lake Superior Provincial Park coast.

Camp Discovery is for children 8-18 with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders or Down's Syndrome.

Four one-week sessions begin July 6. Fee is \$200 per session. Three-day

weekend sessions begin July 17. Fee is \$150 per session.

Additional information is available by calling Camp Oakland Adventure Center director Susan Meyer, 628-5211, Ext. 241. Information can also be obtained by writing Camp Oakland Adventure Center, P.O. Box 9, Oxford, 48371.

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