

Ex-bridal salon workers testify at examination

By HELEN NIEMIEC
STAFF WRITER

More than 16 hours of testimony about wedding gowns and the operation of bridal salons laid the foundation for a protracted end to a preliminary examination that will include both written and verbal statements from attorneys involved.

The case before 48th District Court Judge Gus Cifelli involves The Boulevard Group as a corporation plus its owners Gary and Donna Gottschling, with more than 30 counts of criminal fraud.

The Boulevard Group includes Birmingham's Boulevard Bridal, Today's Bride and Sue Gordon, plus Boulevard Bridal in Berkley and Kitty Kelly's in Troy and Dearborn.

Thomas Cranmer, representing the Gottschlings, said the case "is far too complicated" for simple oral arguments, though assistant county prosecutor Steven Cabadas wanted final arguments presented at Friday's session.

judge Cifelli said in granting Cranmer the opportunity to present a written brief prior to closing arguments, set for Friday, Feb. 12.

Cranmer will have his written arguments before Judge Cifelli on Jan. 29 and Cabadas will have a week to respond in writing.

Cranmer disagreed with the format of the preliminary examination, explaining that many of the charges should have been separate court cases rather than lumped together.

"There are 30 different cases with multiple defendants," Cranmer said.

Friday's proceedings focused on the cross examination by Cranmer of Monica Zamler, who had served as general manager of The Boulevard Group. A witness for the prosecution, Zamler last month documented that the 15 bridal gowns in evidence were floor samples sold as new.

She also provided the prosecutor's office with records from The Boulevard Group outlining the "stock substitutions," the process of renumbering orders for new gowns that were never sent to the manufacturer but instead filled by a gown already at one of the salons.

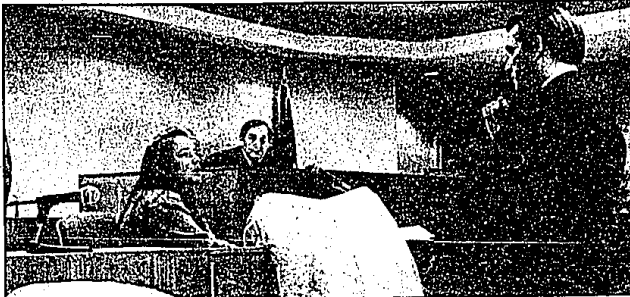
pointed out that it was Zamler, not the Gottschlings, who handled the day-to-day operations concerning the switches, plus noted that her employment contract called for bonuses based on how many stock substitutions were made.

"Isn't this something you negotiated? That provided you with a way to make more money. The more you stock substituted, the more you gained," Cranmer said.

While it did up her income, the former manager said that there was an implied quota for stock substitutions and that if she didn't make substitutions "I'm sure I wouldn't be employed," Zamler testified.

Cranmer also questioned the documentation Zamler provided to the prosecutor's office, since her employment contract called for her to leave all business-related information and goods with The Boulevard Group upon her resignation or dismissal.

Zamler, who offered her testimony without a plea agreement from the prosecution, said she didn't see it as stealing, since the information was in her briefcase every day and that when she quit she didn't think to return it. The Gottschlings didn't ask for it back either, Zamler testified.



Wedding bell blues: Judge Gus Cifelli listens as defense attorney Thomas Cranmer poses questions to Monica Zamler, who is former general manager of The Boulevard Group, regarding bridal gowns sold and at the heart of the court case. The corporation, as well as owners Gary and Donna Gottschling, are charged with multiple counts of fraud.

Suzie Loisel. Both are no longer employed by the Gottschlings.

Hall told the court that she was in charge of mailing orders to manufacturers and noticed that Gary Gottschling had told her to hold all orders placed in August, and most ordered in May and July. She said that since 1986 holding orders had not been an uncommon practice, writing until the salons' account had sufficient money to process the orders.

"I never believed the orders wouldn't be mailed," Hall said. Loisel told the court that she stopped accepting deposits for gowns in August, without the knowledge of the Gottschlings.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Hartsock at 8:05 p.m. on January 4, 1993, in Council Chambers, 23800 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 287-1976.

PRESENT: Campbell, Hartsock, McShane, Richardson, Tupper.
ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Billing, City Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Deadman, City Attorney Donohoe, Director Lauboff, Adm. Assistant Schultz.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of December 21, 1992 were approved as written. Presentation was made by Roxanne Fitzpatrick, honoring Robert Deadman for his contributions to South Farmington Baseball, Inc. Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

Council granted sign variances to Glendale Auto Supply, 23281 Orchard Lake Road and to Jax Kar Wash, 31500 Grand River. Council accepted the resignation of James Stark from the Planning Commission. Council selected the Orchard Lake Road Improvement Project as the 1993 Farmington Tri-Party Program. Council approved Change Order No. 13 to Posen Construction for landscaping work completed on the Sewer Improvement Project.

Council adopted a resolution appointing Frank J. Lauboff as authorized representative for the State Revolving Loan Program. Council approved a service agreement with the Oakland County Animal Control Division. Council commended retiring City Manager Robert Deadman for the many years of service provided to the City of Farmington. Council received and filed the audit report for Resource, Recovery, Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County. Council received and filed the Financial Report for the General Fund and 47th District Court for five months ended November 30, 1992. Council adopted a resolution supporting the consolidation of three school millage renewal requests into one election. Monthly bills were approved for payment. Council scheduled a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

WILLIAM S. HARTSOCK, Mayor
PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF FARMINGTON

The PLANNING COMMISSION of the City of Farmington will hold a PUBLIC HEARING ON Monday, February 8, 1993, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 23800 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, for the purpose of reviewing proposed amendments to the Farmington Zoning Ordinance.

- The proposed amendments would permit the following uses:
 - The installation and/or use of a reception antenna facility (satellite dish) requires site plan approval by the Planning Commission for residential zoning districts.
 - Any ground or roof mounted antenna facility must be mounted in the rear yard or rear roof portion of the residence.
 - Antenna facilities will be mesh or rod construction and black in color.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views at the above time and place. Any additional information desired regarding the above is available at the office of the City Clerk.

PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

Public: January 11, 1993

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS 31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336-1165 (313) 474-6115

ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next sixty (60) days for the following products and/or services:

- Uniform Service
- Leaf Vacuum
- Twelve Mile Road Maintenance
- Fertilizer and Weed Control Program
- Fuel System Upgrade
- Golf Course Mower

Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Division. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications. The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Public: January 11, 1993

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: JANUARY 18, 1993
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall 31555 Eleven Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48336

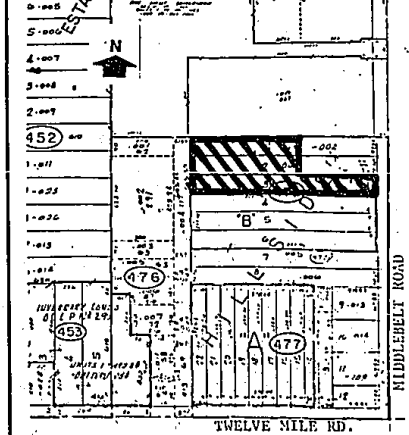
ITEM: Revised Cluster Site Plan/Open Space Plan 69-4-87

The City of Farmington Hills City Council will give formal consideration to Revised Cluster Site Plan/Open Space Plan 69-4-87, consisting of 13 lots, which requests the approval of the City Council to utilize the Cluster Option in an RA-1, Single-Family Residential District, and is more particularly described as follows:

Part of No. 23-11-478-001 and 002
T1N, R9E, Section 11, part of lots 1, 2 & 3 of Hillside Subdivision, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, located on the west side of Mitchell Road between Twelve and Thirteen Mile Roads. Containing 4.5 Acres.

The applicant in this matter is Michael Kallis, who seeks this approval in order to build cluster housing on the site. Any person who is interested is invited to participate in the discussion of the Cluster Site Plan request. The Site Plan and the Zoning Text and Map may be observed at the Planning Office, City of Farmington Hills, on any business day between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director Planning & Community Development



CROSSHATCHED AREA DENOTES PROPERTY OWNED

Cluster Site Plan 69-4-87
Phone: 478-9543
Public: January 11, 1993

Everyone knows someone with diabetes.

Fourteen million Americans are living with diabetes. Unfortunately, more than half do not know they have it because diabetes can strike silently. Many will first learn about diabetes when they are treated for one of its complications - kidney disease, blindness, amputation, heart disease or stroke. Know the early warning signs of frequent urination, unusual



thirst, extreme hunger, frequent infections or blurred vision. While there is no cure for diabetes, every day research brings hope. The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leader in the fight against diabetes - funding research, education and patient services.

14 million reasons to find a cure.



Until there's a cure, there's the American Diabetes Association.