

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1993

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Pageant possibles

Who will be the 20th Miss Farmington? Residents of the community are being asked to come up with the names of a few likely candidates.

Officials of the Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant are accepting applications. Young women ages 17-23 from the community are eligible. Applications may be picked up during regular business hours at the office of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

Miss Farmington reigns over the Founders Festival in July. This year, the local pageant is July 14. Then the winner represents the community in the Miss Michigan Pageant in Muskegon.

Miss Michigan goes on to compete for the Miss America title in Atlantic City, N.J., in September.

Three local young women have advanced to the Miss America Pageant. Kelly Graver was third runner-up to Miss America in 1985.

For more information, call Joan LaMarra, executive director of Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, at 799-9171.

Direct with 'glee'

Dr. Harry Langford of Farmington Hills will return to direct the Wayne State University Men's Glee Club at its presentation of the annual Alumni Concert at 8 p.m. Friday, April 23, at the Community Arts Auditorium.

"I am very excited about this concert," said Langford, "not only because of the return of Glee Club alumni to new acquaintances to make music together, but also because I want to reassert the presence of the Men's Glee Club at WSU now and for the future."

The Community Arts Auditorium is on Cass Avenue on the WSU campus. A donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens is suggested.

Back for seconds

Jacquelyn A. Stewart of Farmington Hills has been reappointed by Gov. John Engler to a second term on the State Liquor Control Commission. Stewart had served in the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

License request stirs emotions



BY TEDD SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

All they want, say the owners of a suburban billiards center, is a chance to compete for the recreation dollar.

All they want, say nearby residents, is a safe, quiet neighborhood where children can play or walk from school

without being disturbed by pool-hall patrons. Supporters of both sides collided in an emotional public hearing recently at the Livonia City Hall.

At issue is whether House of Billiards, on the Livonia side of Eight Mile Road near Grand River, should be granted a waiver use for a Class B

"tavern" license that would permit the sale of beer and wine.

The waiver is necessary because another licensed business, El Nibbles Nook restaurant, operates within 1,000 feet of the pool hall.

The city planning commission has already recommended against the request.

The council will vote on the owners' appeal April 21, but early signs indicate there isn't enough support among council members for passage.

That's too bad, said Randall Crane, Crane, an avid player, said he would continue to patronize the bil-

liards hall in the Farmer Jack shopping center at Eight Mile and Grand River.

"But it seems to me in this economic time we need to support free enterprise. When you have a business that is willing to expand, to invest in the community, you ought to promote that," he said.

Owners of the center would like to add about 50 percent more floor space, bringing the hall to 2,200 square feet. The new area would feature a bar, an expanded grill, and could be used for banquets, they said.

That would put House of Billiards on par with Cashion Cue & Brew, on Schoolcraft at Inkster, as well as other establishments cropping up in western Wayne County in response to the sport's newfound popularity, said Bruce Ray.

"We need the license to compete, not to survive," said Ray, the original owner who has since sold the business to his children and now acts as a consultant.

Other supporters pointed to the changing image of billiards. The sport is becoming more of a family activity like bowling instead of "the old days when you had your smoke-filled rooms and shady characters," said Sheldon Scharg.

But alcohol sales, and the problems that sometimes accompany them, are what concern neighboring residents.

Karen Connolly said it wouldn't be right to expose elderly shopping center customers or area children to the added risk posed by impaired drivers.

"The question is: Should we allow a business to make a profit at the expense of Livonia residents?" Judy Humphrey, a Long Street resident, said she often sees fights in the parking lot on shopping trips to the Farmer Jack supermarket.

See LICENSE, 13A

Spring

Nice day for softball:
North Farmington freshman Heather Overstreet uses a bucket to collect softballs from her teammates (from left) Elana Balkin, Jaime Miles, Lori Singer and Erin Proctor. The mercury soared to 60 degrees that day, perfect for practice.



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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