

# Voters will be electing more Juvenile Court jurists

## Must doctors tell parents about users?

Q. I've been to two different doctors for help. I've been on speed for three years, but none of them would handle my case without my parents' knowledge. How come? I was told by someone who should know that I could be treated by a doctor without my parents finding out.

L.L. Westland

A. What the law says is that if you as a minor so request, a physician may treat you for a drug problem and not advise your parents. What the law does NOT say is that any physician must accept you on this basis as a patient. There are several reasons why a physician may choose not to accept such a case:

1. It may be his professional judgment that treating you without parental knowledge may not be in your best interest although you feel that it is.

2. There's the very practical matter of whether you are financially able to pay for what may be a fairly long course of therapy.

If you are experiencing physical symptoms or discomfort of any kind, it's best not to diagnose your own problem. If you wish, stop in at our free medical clinic Tuesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Westland AIDE Crisis Center, 9068 N. Wayne Road.

Wayne County voters will add two judges to the juvenile court bench in this year's elections.

The county board of commissioners recently voted to place two additional probate judgeships on the Aug. 6 primary ballot, with the expressed understanding they would be assigned to juvenile court, a division of probate court.

The board acted the day after a bill was signed into state law — giving the county authority to increase the probate court bench by as many as four seats. A special board meeting was called May 23 because candidates facing a June 18 deadline for filing nominating petitions.

COMMISSIONERS decided to add only two seats after being told by Presiding Probate Court Judge Willis Ward that the court's docket is current and only juvenile court needs more help.

The main probate court bench has six judges. Juvenile court has one judge, James H. Lincoln, and seven lawyer-referees.

Lincoln told commissioners additional judges are needed rather than the referees because U.S. Supreme Court-imposed procedures must be handled by judges.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has extended to juveniles many rights of adults, including the rights to court-appointed counsel and jury trials. "Instead of pleading their clients guilty, the attorneys are asking for trials, trials, trials," Lincoln told commissioners.

Judge Ward said it may be necessary to expand the probate court bench in the future because the Supreme Court is expected to impose new requirements for commitment hearings for mental cases.

Probate judges receive a \$36,330 annual salary.

Five new Wayne County Circuit Court seats also will be filled in this year's election.

COMMISSIONERS also directed their lawyers to intervene on the side of the defendants in a court suit which could affect mentally ill and retarded children throughout Michigan.

"Jane Doe vs. Michigan Department of Mental Health" is a lawsuit asking the Wayne Circuit Court to require a probate court hearing before a child may be committed to a state institution for treatment.

Also sought is a writ of habeas corpus ordering that all children "being held" in state institutions without

their consent or with a court commitment order be released. At present, parents may have their child committed for treatment.

The suit also asks the court to prohibit "medical experimentation," including routine tests on children in state institutions and to require public access to records of experiments or research involving the children.

The Michigan Association for Emotionally Disturbed Children already has been granted leave by the court to intervene in opposition to the plaintiffs' demands.

County Commissioner Paul Silver (D - Detroit), who proposed that the board oppose the plaintiffs in court, said object of the suit is to place parents in the position of being adversaries of their children.

"Poor parents should be able to have their children admitted to a state institution for the same tests which affluent parents can have done by their own doctor," Silver says.

John J. McCarth, an assistant county corporation counsel, told the board that some areas of the suit aren't likely to be disputed. "No one in this case feels there should be experimentation with the children, with no public knowledge of the experiments."



JACK HART (center) arranged for his firm to donate the brick work on a house being built by Livonia School District students. The students plan to sell the completed house this summer. School district officials hope to have trained student masons for the next house planned, but felt the first house's brickwork should be done by professionals. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Smit's bill would relieve tax delays

State Rep. Raymond J. Smit (R - Ann Arbor) has introduced a bill in the Michigan House aimed at relieving local governments with problems he feels are caused by "inefficiency and foot-dragging" by the state tax commission.

House Bill 6982 introduced by Smit, whose 32nd District includes Plymouth and Plymouth Township, gives each county board of commissioners the right to declare a tentative tax roll as the final levy.

If passed, HB 6982 gives the county board two options when equalization appeals result in the increased tax — spread the additional levy on the next annual tax roll or declare the tentative roll to be the final levy.

"The problem isn't so much one of increased taxation," explains Smit. "Rather it is one of administrative feasibility. How do you treat a property that has been subdivided since the original levy? Who do you charge the tax to when the owner at the time of the original levy has moved away? Can you enforce collection of the tax, against the subsequent owner?"

"Local governments shouldn't be presented with those problems when the problem is solely the result of inefficiency and foot-dragging by the state tax commission.

"This bill would solve the problem of the SVC delay," Smit concludes. "Hopefully the tax tribunal will be more efficient in the handling of appeals so that the problems being experienced now in Washtenaw County won't be repeated."

## C'ville studies repairs

At the last regular meeting, the Clarenceville Board of Education approved a recommendation from Supt. David McDowell on the formation of a committee to make a report on needed repairs to buildings and grounds.

Those appointed to the committee included board members Raymond Chaiken, Richard Kuehn and Richard Wood, along with administration representatives McDowell, Ed Salisz and Bob Vedder, supervisor of buildings and grounds.

The committee will have a comprehensive report ready for the June 27 meeting of the school board. Board reaction to the invitation to have the high school band compete in the fourth annual band competition in Mexico City next year was positive.

Dr. James Leary, assistant superintendent, says the board "was very pleased and happy" and agreed with McDowell's request for additional information on the festival.

The board adopted a motion to change school starting times for the 1974-75 year on a district wide basis. The changes are minor and in line with opinions expressed at the polls by school district residents. The actual schedule will soon be presented to the community.

A group of board representatives and administrators agreed to attend the Oakland Community Schools board meeting on Wednesday, May 29 at the Southeastern Vocational High School in Royal Oak.

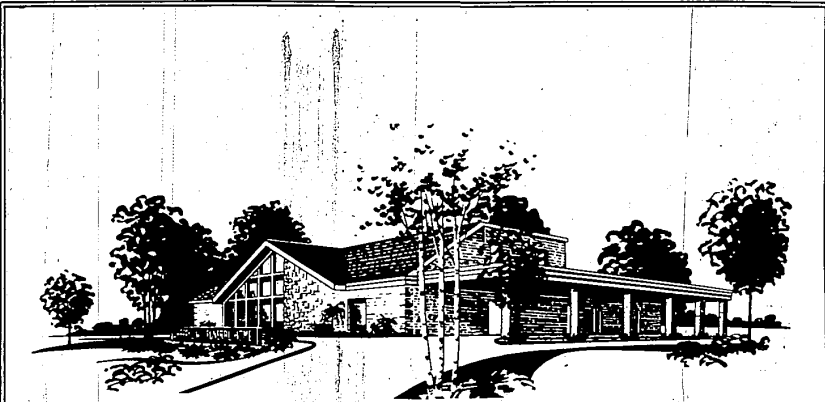
## County asked to spend \$25,000

Wayne County Board of Commissioners is considering spending at least \$25,000 to build a 20-mile bike way this summer at Newburgh Road in Livonia.

The public works committee has asked the board to spend \$25,000 for the bike path, and perhaps \$25,000 more to build the path from Dearborn to Northville. The path would run through the Middle Rouge Park and Edward Hines Park.

The state will spend \$50,000 and the Wayne County Road Commission \$25,000 if the board of commissioners agrees to spend \$25,000. The public works committee has recommended a contribution of \$50,000 if the road commission also hikes its contribution by \$25,000.

The initial funding will help complete the first stage of paths, which will run about three miles.



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