

Saperstein makes court bid



BRUCE SAPERSTEIN

FARMINGTON — Bruce R. Saperstein is seeking the new seat in the 47th District Court, not because he has any reforms or changes to make, but rather because he sees it as an opportunity to serve the entire community.

Saperstein is competing against 11 other candidates in the August primary for the nomination for the newly created judgeship in 47th District Court which serves Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"The Farmington District Court is working well and the personnel is good," he said. "I don't have any changes to make. I am running because I have a sincere, honest desire, to serve the community in which I live. I think that I can make the most effective contribution through the judicial system because of my legal background." Saperstein who moved to Farmington Hills in December, has been a practicing attorney for almost seven years.

HE IS IN private general practice, currently.

Saperstein said he would support the idea of holding Saturday or night courts if the docket warranted it.

"I would not be opposed to the idea if the court could not keep with the docket, which is the problem right now, and the reason they are adding a new judge", he said. "Other than that I can not see any reason for holding court on Saturdays or at night."

The court appointed counsel system is an effective one he said, adding that attorneys who are given court-appointed cases usually do the best job they can on them.

"I don't know of a better system," he said. "In California they have the public defender system but I don't think that would be as effective. The public defenders and the prosecuting attorneys often become too closely meshed with each other."

Defendants, even in trials for minor crimes should be given the right to request a jury trial he said.

"Although jury trials may back up the docket, a person's liberty is still at stake and they should be given the opportunity to present their case to a jury if they request it."

He said that he has found the plea bargaining system to be effective, but said that someday it may actually become sentence bargaining rather than plea bargaining.

"As it is right now although the plea may be decided the defendant does not know what his sentence will be, if he is found to be guilty, until after the trial."

"The defendant does not care what the plea will be, his concern is with the sentence. The day may come when we will see the plea bargaining actually become sentence bargaining, which is what it really is all about."

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White Motor Co. bonds pass

FARMINGTON HILLS — Farmington Hills approved a \$2.3 million finance package for White Motor Co. Monday, finalizing the first local effort to attract industry through reduced-interest municipal bonds.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the package, with Councilman Mrs. Margaret Schaeffer voting "no."

White opened an engineering-research center recently on the site of the old Star Cutter property which is rapidly becoming the largest single industry in the area.

One of the main incentives to move the operation to Farmington

from locations in California and the east side of Detroit was the offer of the Hills council to finance the local operation with municipal bonds under a state act designed to help attract industry to Michigan.

CITY ATTORNEY Joseph T. Brennan called it a "tax loophole which will probably be closed in the future," in explaining the package to the council.

The bond interest is tax-free to bond holders, which means the municipal bonds interest rate is lower than commercial loans.

White was attracted through the efforts of the Industrial Development Commission, lured partly by the lower finance cost offered under the package.

Brennan explained the arrangement did not count toward the limitation on bonded indebtedness in the city charter, and in effect the city was merely "putting its name" on the bonds to earn the low interest.

Mrs. Schaeffer voted against the arrangement, calling it "special treatment for one company," voicing concern the same financing

might not be available for other, smaller, concerns.

Mayor Frederick Lichtman voted for the bonds, saying his original reservations were based on the idea it should have a public referendum, which did not materialize.

Councilman Earl Oppertbauer added that the financing was authorized by the state in an effort to attract industry. "It brings jobs to the locale, and a good tax base."

Rockwell expands operations in Troy

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held recently in Troy for the Rockwell Automotive Operations headquarters building. It will be constructed on West Maple Road near Crooks.

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