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Eastpointe residents upset over birds' fate

Couple, city reach an out-of-court answer on feeding concerns

By Randi Goldberg
Associated Press

MOUNT CLEMENS — No more public squawking for an Eastpointe couple and the city over a dispute about feeding the birds.

Victoria and Nickelson Paske were convicted in August on a criminal misdemeanor charge for hanging a bird feeder in their back yard — a violation of a city ordinance called "rat harborage potential" — because they say neighbors worried that the bird seed would attract rats.

The Paskes were sentenced to 30 days in jail or a \$500 fine. They opted for the jail time "as a matter of principle," Victoria Paske said, but a day after the conviction, her mother-in-law paid the fine.

The Paskes appealed the conviction in Macomb County Circuit Court, but reached an out-of-court settlement Friday, moments before their trial was set to begin.

Their lawyer, Stuart Collis, said terms of the settlement could not be made public, but Paske said her bird-feeding habits will change now.

After publicity from the case and that of another resident, the City Council is considering a new ordinance that would allow residents to place two cups of bird seed outside per day, but any leftover seed would have to be cleaned up each night. The ordinance would not affect hanging bird feeders.

The other resident, Luminiza Marinas of Eastpointe, was arrested on charges that she was feeding squirrels in a city park, also a violation of the rat control ordinance.

Paske, 38, said she had been scattering bird seed in her back yard since 1991, but when new neighbors moved in next door, they complained about the feeding.

At the city's request, she hung the feeder 54 inches off the ground, 6 inches higher than the city's required height.

The first day the feeder was up, she said, she returned home and found sticks with aluminum pie plates planted near her property, presumably to shoo away the birds.

Custodians clean up at event



We're No. 1! Custodians from Washtenaw Community College Annual Custodial Olympics Invitational at Eastern Michigan

College champions get down and dirty

Custodial teams from three state colleges met in a showdown this week at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. The prize: Bragging rights as

champion custodians 1998. The challenge: Survive through 15 events in the 2nd Annual Custodial Olympics Invitational. The victors: Not the University

Motorcycle, car crash

Lansing State Journal

IOSCO TWP. — Two Fowlerville teenagers are dead after their motorcycle crashed into a car Friday evening.

Shawn Joseph White, 19, and Matthew James Shafer, 13, were killed about 7 p.m. Friday when their 1997 Honda crossed into the southbound lane on Bullrun Road near Lang Road, said Deputy David Klein of the Livingston County

Sheriff's Department.

The motorcycle struck a 1978 Pontiac driven by David Spaulding Jr., 40 of Fowlerville, police said.

Spaulding was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries.

Police do not believe alcohol was a factor in the accident.

Lansing — Police seek robbery suspect: Police are looking for a man they say robbed a woman at a Pennsylvania Avenue bus stop Thursday night.