

Appeals board rules against bar

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

A community federation with significant Catholic membership has expressed satisfaction with a decision by the City of Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals to uphold restrictions on a west-side bar.

Following a July 23 hearing, the board denied requests by Perry Reed, owner of The Hot Spot, 849 Jay St., to expand business hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. and to offer live entertainment.

The hearing was attended by approximately 20 representatives of Interfaith Action, a federation of churches, businesses and other organizations committed to revitalizing Rochester's west-side neighborhoods. Kay Perry, one of four people who spoke at the hearing on behalf of Interfaith Action, told the *Catholic Courier* that her group is pleased by the board's conclusions.

"You'd like to see businesses grow and thrive, but we'd like to see a decent business," said Perry, a parishioner of Holy Family Church, which is located just a few doors down from The Hot Spot.

Reed bought the Jay Street property in November 2001 and opened it as a bar shortly thereafter. Interfaith Action has opposed the nightclub based on what members say is its potential negative effect on the neighborhood.

Perry said one of Interfaith Action's fears is that Reed, who acknowledged having owned an escort service at the time he opened The Hot Spot, would open a strip bar or similar venture if the city gave him permission for live entertainment. Reed, on the other hand, told the *Courier* that the escort service "had nothing to do with running my (bar) business" and that he only wanted to

offer live music and karaoke nights at the nightclub.

Interfaith Action also charged that the club often has stayed open well past 11 p.m. Reed acknowledged that patrons sometimes have remained in his bar after the established closing hour, but said no liquor was served after 11 p.m.

Perry said Interfaith Action also is concerned about street prostitution in the area near the club. Yet Reed said activity related to prostitution was taking place "all down Jay Street, also in front of (Holy Family) church" before his business even opened.

Reed claimed that he's being singled out from other neighborhood bars the city allows to stay open until 2 a.m. "I'm the only one who's being targeted," he said. "I've never had fighting, no shooting."

The Zoning Board of Appeals did grant Reed's request to allow expansion of his club into a back room that formerly housed bowling alleys, provided that he installs a sprinkler system Reed said would cost \$38,000. The board also eased restrictions on parking, provided that Reed upgrades the parking area he owns.

Reed said the deck is stacked against him, because he cannot afford to make the required improvements if he is not permitted to operate his business during peak bar-going hours. "I don't have the money to invest to do this stuff," he said. "With all due respect, I can't make a living staying open until 11 p.m."

The July 23 hearing marked the fourth time Reed and Interfaith Action have clashed before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Reed said he would not have invested in opening The Hot Spot if he knew Interfaith Action didn't want him there and that his hours of operation would be restricted by the city. "I've never been given a fair chance," he said.

Now, however, Reed said he plans to continue seeking expanded hours and live entertainment. "I would never walk away. I'm going to fight this and come back again and again," he said.

Perry said Interfaith Action likewise will battle the issue to the end. "I think that any little thing (Reed) thinks he may have a chance at, he'll keep bringing back in," she said, adding that she believes Reed expects the activists eventually to tire of the battle.



Reuters/CNS

Troops arrive in Monrovia

Nigerian Col. Emeka Onwuama, right, clasps hands with jubilant Liberians on his arrival at the international airport in Monrovia, Liberia, Aug. 4. As West African peacekeeping troops landed in the war-torn capital, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, known as LURD, said they would begin withdrawal immediately from the city.

Leadership Days set

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Strengthening bonds between urban, suburban and rural parishes is the focus of Leadership Days 2003.

The annual diocesan gathering of parish leaders is set for Aug. 19-21 at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls. This year's theme is "Ministry in a Pluralistic Church and Society."

Each day will feature a panel discussion involving all Leadership Days participants from 9:45-11:45 a.m. The panels will be made up of ministers representing rural parishes on Tuesday; suburban parishes on Wednesday; and urban parishes on Thursday. Discussions will weigh distinguishing factors typical of these parishes: urban — diverse cultural groups, low parish income, small staff, strong on evangelization of neighborhood; suburban — large parish base, large staff, comparatively good incomes, desire for the status quo; rural — isolation, low income, small or no staff, one priest for two or more parishes.

Bernard Grizard, diocesan director of Parish Support Ministries, said urban, suburban and rural parishes stand to broaden their horizons by examining each other's needs and styles. For instance, he remarked, "Urban churches have a smaller community and a wonderful experience with the personal touch that can enrich a suburban church. These gifts can be highlighted and we can learn from that."

More than 50 afternoon workshops are being offered by diocesan

departments and affiliated organizations. They will deal with such diverse subjects as music programs in urban, suburban and rural churches; parish Web sites; sports and spirituality; the Bible and homosexuality; women in church leadership; Vietnamese and Hispanic cultures; understanding Islam; parish pastoral councils; planned giving; career opportunities with the diocese; Eastern Rite churches; end-of-life ministry; post-abortion healing; annulments; wedding music; preaching; natural family planning; urban youth ministry; mission work; women in church history; the permanent diaconate; reviewing the Charters and Norms on Sexual Misconduct for the United States; and implementing the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

In addition, St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry will offer two courses — in Mariology and cantoring — that can be applied toward a Certification in Designated Ministry.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will offer an introduction each day and celebrate the closing Mass Aug. 21. Other planned highlights are a Divine Liturgy offered by members of Rochester's St. Josaphat's Church, and a tour of the Women's Rights National Historical Park along with a prayer service led by members of the Diocesan Women's Commission.

Registration deadline is Aug. 13. For details, call Yvonne Moss at 585/328-3210, ext. 1328, or 800/600-3628, ext. 1328, or e-mail moss@dor.org.

Police l... of pries... saved w...

Maura Rossi/CN

CLIFTON, N.J. — Police now know the "mystery" p... a 20-year-old wo... abducted July 7

Police said I... priest in Essex... Diocese of Pate... has asked that ne... nor the Newark... leave his name.

According to p... cal good Sama... headquarters... himself after re... paper accounts o... he could be an... ness in efforts to... assailant and wo...

The woman, w... along Route 3 Ea... her job in a near... lice that the assa... ally manhandlin... ing to push her ir... when the priest p... walked toward h... was going on.

At that point, s... sailant jumped b... and drove away, knocking out of... pen she was using... down his license.

The woman gav... scriptions of bot... and the priest. The priest calmed h... her to her job an... identifying himse...

Police said th... them, "I only did... I should do."

"I don't think to... would do what he... Capt. Robert Ro... tive, said of the p...

"It was good of... in. He has been ve... cooperative," sai... tive Douglas M... phone interview... con, newspaper of... Diocese. Clifton... ly 10 miles from N... is located in the di...

The search was... assailant, he said.

"He was able... woman to safety... uation. He's happ... He just prefers at... he go back to nor... ing to James... spokesman for the

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