

# City officials look to renegotiate rifle club contract

Wyoming City Council members have shot down the request of the Grand Rapids Rifle and Pistol Club to renew the club's lease for \$1 a year for the next 25 years on a parcel of city property.

City Manager James Sheeran has suggested the city offer the club a three-year lease and charge up to \$50 a month rent. He has also

suggested the city ask the club to allow police officers free use of the rifle range during the winter.

City officials are still hashing over particulars of a new lease arrangement and haven't presented it yet to the club.

Sandy MacDonald, secretary of the club, said members would reserve comment on the matter until

they have officially received word of the city's proposal.

"We thought we had a binding lease agreement. Maybe we don't. I'm not sure, though, what we're going to do," he said.

He said the club built the structure in which they shoot.

"We have no plans to move. We'd like to stay right where we

are," he said.

The 81-member club signed a lease in 1955 with Wyoming Township allowing the club use of the building on Nagel Avenue SW at Marquette Park for the next 99 years, at a fee of \$1 a year, to be renewed every 25 years.

When the lease ran out last year, the club asked the city for

renewal. City Manager James Sheeran then referred the matter to the city attorney's office.

Assistant City Attorney Jack Sluiter reviewed the lease and recently deemed it to be invalid for two reasons.

"The state attorney general has ruled time and again that townships could not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of property without a vote of the people," he said.

Sluiter noted that Wyoming Township officials never went to voters on the matter.

Also, Sluiter said he's not sure the township could enter into an agreement with a private club that wanted to lease park property.

"They (club members) might have questions about it. But I hope we can work something out with the club. We haven't had any problems with them being there," said Sheeran.

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## Clocks

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other things, turn lights on and off automatically — on warranty.

"When one of them breaks down, people just look at their papers, see that I'm one of the people in town who fixes the timers, and bring them in," Hilton explains.

Lillian says business has always been brisk. In fact, there was a time when she could barely keep up.

"I used to fix both clocks and timers," she says.

But that problem was solved when her husband retired as a sales clerk from Harlo Products Corp., 2940 44th St. SW, and took over the commercial timer end of the business.

"I don't know what I'd do now without Hilton's help," she says, gazing fondly at her husband who is busy at his worktable.

Looking back on her nearly four decades in the business, Lillian says the quality of clocks, especially the smaller models, has deteriorated.

"Some of the clocks have been getting junkier, although some of them are still very well made," she said.

As far as the job itself, Lillian says it takes patience, experience and a steady hand to be a successful clock repairwoman.

"I can repair most clocks in fifteen minutes with ease," she says.

Some clocks, however, require more time and effort. "I've rarely been stumped, but there have been some that have given me trouble."

When that happens, she usually sets the clock aside, comes back to it the next day "and everything goes smoothly."

"I don't let these clocks get the best of me," she says adamantly.

The majority of the clocks she fixes are table, mantle or chime clocks.

And although the innards of many clocks are similar, Lillian says she is always coming across some new problem.

"You never stop learning the clock business. It seems that something new comes in my door everyday," she says.

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