



Village of New Holstein for 17 years. **James Bauer** has been appointed in New

## DL Suspensions

As you know, the budget bill removed the authority of courts to suspend juvenile and adult driver's licenses for failure to pay forfeitures on **non-traffic** offenses. Most of the Municipal Judges strongly opposed this provision, especially for juveniles, for whom there is now no consequence for failure to pay a non-traffic forfeiture, except suspending a hunting or fishing license.

At the urging of the Municipal Judges Association, we believe that Senator Alberta Darling will be introducing a bill in the next session of the legislature to reinstate that authority -- possibly only for juveniles but we do not know yet. As soon as it is introduced, you will receive a copy.

If you wish to see this bill become law, you should call and write your state representative and state senator and urge them to support it.

## Appeal Fees

The Justice Information Fee was increased \$2.00 by the budget bill. The cost of an appeal from Municipal Court is now \$2.00 more for each type of appeal. Please change your forms.

## For your Clerk(s)

"After 37 years in the Revocation & Suspension Section, deciding to retire was a difficult decision. For the past 15 years I've been a part of your Municipal Court Clerk seminar, and always looked forward to our time together.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ronni Jones for making that possible and to all of you who, year after year, requested Kent and I attend. I will miss the telephone calls, the time we've shared, and will cherish the many memories. "

Sincerely,

Holstein and will run in April.

*Judy Weger*

## Web Sites

For those of you with access, you know that there are there are some wonderful websites. Unfortunately, there are so many that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between those that are fascinating and those that are truly useful. This column is intended to share those that can be of help to you as a municipal judge. A few are listed below with just some of the items you can find there. You are encouraged to submit your favorites for sharing with the other judges. Please include a brief description of the site.

1. Everything you ever wanted to know about the Wisconsin Court System can be found at: **www.courts.state.wi.us** From this site you can also get the latest decision of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, Attorney General Opinions and Supreme Court Orders.

2. Everything you want to know about what is happening in the current legislative session (e.g., Acts passed, bills introduced, hearings to be held) as well as access to Statutes and Administrative Rules can be found at this site: **www.legis.state.wi.us**

3. **www.ajs.org** is the website for the American Judicature Society. This site contains ethics advisory committee opinions from 12 states, including Wisconsin.

4. **www.wisbar.org** is the very user-friendly website for the State Bar. You do not need to be a member to use it. From that site you can get recent caselaw, the statutes, information on bills being introduced in which the Bar has an interest.

5. The Wisconsin League of Municipalities, which publishes occasionally relevant legal opinions, has bills of interest to municipalities

and legal resources is at **www.lwm-info.org**

## MJ Questionnaire

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 1999 Municipal Judge Questionnaire. We are aware that you will not be able to gather all the statistics for 1999 for quite a while, but we hope, that by getting the form to you early enough, you will be able to collect all those we are seeking.

We hope that in 2000 we will be able to compile some of these statistics through our computer program, thus giving us a picture of how many courts are doing what. Nevertheless, the questionnaires will also be used by the MJ Association to publish the survey. Since municipal budget making begins early in the summer, we would like all the questionnaires returned no later than the end of April so that the information on court salaries and caseloads can be compiled in time to be useful to you when going before your municipal board.

## Terms (revisited)

In roaming around in one of the websites mentioned earlier the Attorney General's Opinion enclosed with this *Muni View* was discovered. It may provide some food for thought.

## In Memoriam

Robert Schieffer, retired judge from the Village of Lannon where he served for 16 years, died in mid-December. He was 80. His daughter Peg became the Judge in Lannon upon Bob's retirement.