

# Bagging it?

*Madsen hedges on leaf bagging, will ask for more time*

Opponents of a proposed law that would end the practice of Kingston city workers collecting un-bagged leaves from curbside may get more time to make their voices heard.

Responding to concerns from his Ward 9 constituents, Alderman Mike Madsen will ask that the proposed leaf bagging law be returned to committee for further debate. The law would require leaves left at the curb for pickup to be placed in bags. Currently, residents can simply rake their leaves to the curb where they are bagged and removed by city Department of Public Works employees.

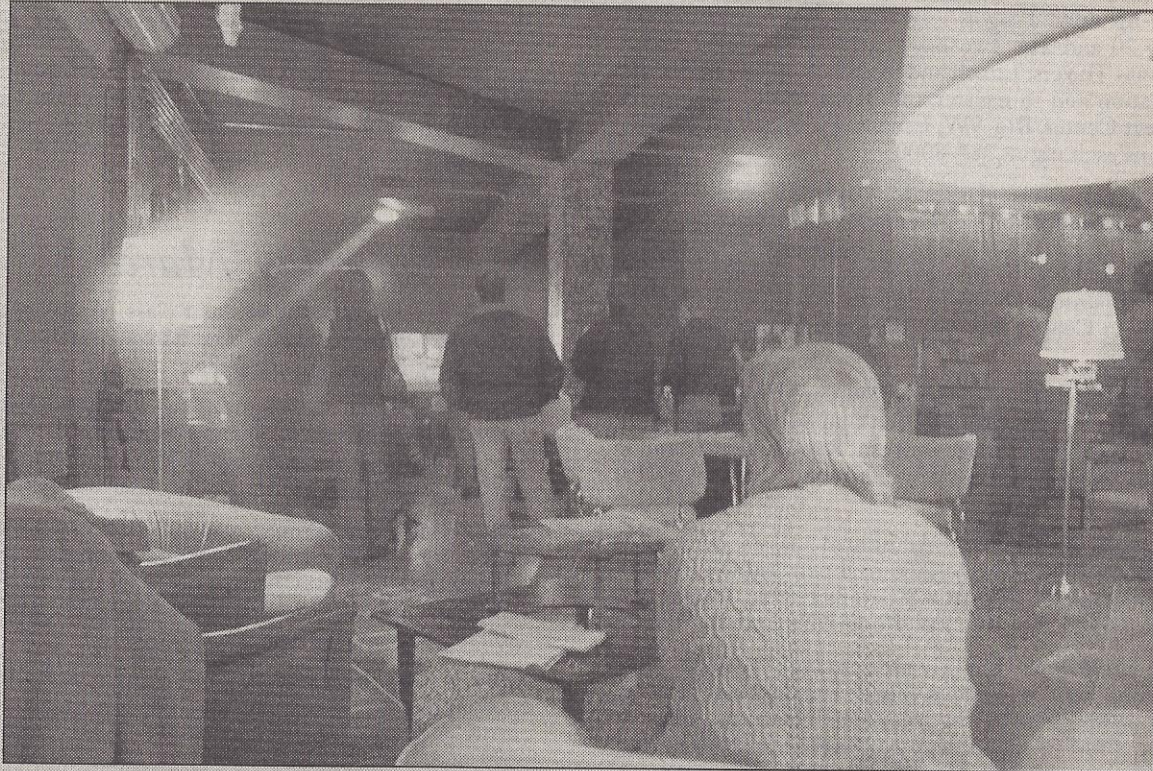
Madsen is expected to ask for more debate on the law when the council meets on Thursday, April 12 — a date moved from the normal Tuesday due to the Jewish holiday of Passover. If the motion passes, it would be returned to the council's Laws and Rules Committee.

The proposal has the support of Mayor James Sottile and Alderwoman Ann Marie DiBella (D-Ward 5) but has drawn opposition from Minority Leader Richard Cahill (R-Ward 6) who has expressed concern that it would place an undue burden on the elderly. In response, Sottile suggested that inmates at the county jail could bag leaves for older Kingston residents. Eligibility would be based on homes with a senior STAR tax exemption. Inmates convicted of non-violent crimes have already worked painting city firehouses.

Meanwhile the Civil Service Employees Association, which represents city workers, has taken a stand against the proposed law, saying it could lead to the loss of jobs at the DPW.

*Jesse J. Smith*

## Coffee and tears



STEVE HOPKINS

*Mary "Chiz" Chisholm, proprietor of the "Heart Street" residence on West Chestnut Street in Kingston, sits back as attendees of last Thursday's Ward 9 neighborhood meeting at the Muddy Cup on Broadway view Touched, Malcolm Burn's documentary about her home for mentally ill residents with substance abuse problems. The 17-minute, unfinished film can now be viewed online, at <http://www.malcolmburn.com/touched/>. The showing came after an emotionally draining session that involved public complaints about the facility followed by impassioned pleas for understanding by Chiz and at least one resident.*