

# Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 41

Thursday, March 4, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

56 Pages

Twenty-five cents

1982 Seberba Communication Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

## Legal fight hits elderly at Oak Hill

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Residents of Farmington's Oak Hill Nursing Home are embroiled in a precedent-setting legal battle which the Michigan Department of Public Health has been investigating since last summer.

It appeared after a public hearing Feb. 24 in Lansing that a resolution is nowhere in sight.

The conflict arose when a representative from Geriatric Screening and Outpatient Service, a non-profit mental health services agency, was denied access to Oak Hill by its owner, Edwin Blumberg, D.O.

Both Blumberg and Geriatric Screening complained to the Department of Public Health.

Until June 1981, Geriatric Screening had provided free ongoing mental health therapy to 12 Oak Hill residents. Under the Public Health Code, nursing homes "shall permit a representative of an approved organization... to have access to patients to visit, talk with and make personal, social and legal services available to patients."

Blumberg refutes Geriatric Screening's status as an approved organization. He said the agency "doesn't meet the requirements of the law," but refused to be specific.

Blumberg was at a loss to explain why Geriatric Screening — if it indeed falls short of the law's requirements — is approved and funded by the state.

"Representatives of Geriatric Screening are entitled to visit my facility until the matter is resolved," he said.

"But I expect the outcome of this hearing to be the denial of Geriatric Screening's access rights."

According to Kenneth Cockrel, attorney for Geriatric Screening, the adjudicated public hearing did little to clarify the issues.

**WHAT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER,** is that the case represents a national landmark with far-reaching implications. It is the first time a health care provider has challenged an outside agency's right to access.

From the perspective of Robert Bernstein, Geriatric Screening direc-

tor, the conflict deals purely with civil liberties.

"The issue is whether a person in a nursing home has the same right to freely receive mental health services as do people living in the community in their own homes," said Bernstein.

"Some people take the position that nursing home patients give up their rights and that the nursing home has the right to say who will or will not receive services, even if they are free."

Vincent Leone, acting attorney for the Department of Public Health, sees it differently.

The issue to be resolved is whether an agency such as Geriatric Screening qualifies to continue to have access to nursing homes as an advocacy group, said Leone.

"The Department of Public Health is concerned about any group going into nursing homes as an advocate and dispensing medical care in a situation where the administrator may not know about it, although he or she is responsible for patients."

Geriatric Screening does have legitimate concerns, he added.

"They want to make sure they can treat their patients. As long as they don't interfere with medical standards, there's no reason why they shouldn't be able to."

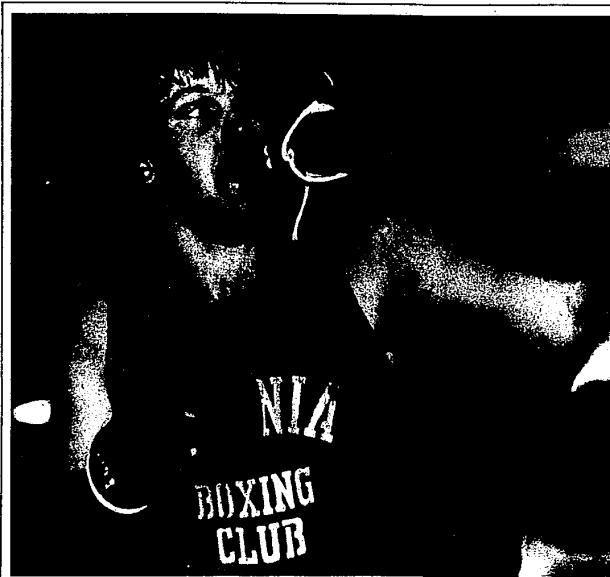
Geriatric Screening's philosophy, Bernstein said, is "that mental health services aren't something one provides in a vacuum. If an individual is depressed, there's a good chance that something in the environment is contributing to that depression."

"Insuring that patients' rights are respected is not out of keeping with the state's model of mental health services. We firmly believe older people living in nursing homes need to have advocacy-type services available."

"In many cases, clients don't have families or interested families. We're all they've got to oversee the care they receive in nursing homes. To us, it's immoral for the Health Department to say a nursing home has the right to say who will or will not receive services."

The issue as seen by Citizens for Better Care, a non-profit organization that

Please turn to Page 2A



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

### A shot in the eye

Rick Londberg took a few punches, but he delivered on Saturday's Golden Gloves final at Schoolcraft College. The annual tournament, held for the first time outside Detroit, was a big suc-

cess. For more on the amateur tournament, please turn to Page 1C and see Steve Barnaby's column on today's editorial page.

## School bus holdup shocks Lutheran High cagers

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

There's a bright side to last Friday's holdup of a busload of basketball players and cheerleaders from Lutheran High Northwest outside a Detroit McDonald's restaurant, say school officials.

"We talk all the time about our Christian feeling toward other persons," said basketball coach George

Lemke who received four stitches and a black eye in the armed robbery.

"We talk about loving your enemy. This incident brought out a real concern for other kids to each other, a concern was shown for the other teacher and myself. It showed in just the way they tried to comfort each other after it happened. I see good, positive things coming out of it."

Lemke said the bus pulled into a McDonald's restaurant on Eight Mile

Road at Greenlawn, west of Livernois in Detroit at 9 p.m. Friday following the varsity team's 89-48 loss to Gross Pointe Liggett, league leaders in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

The 20 students returned to the bus after purchasing their food and Lemke was conducting a head count when four young men boarded the bus and an-

Please turn to Page 4A

## Few tears for old, worn-out No. 1 pumper



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Retiring the 30-year-old Farmington Fire Pumper No. 1 was anything but a sad situation for City Manager Bob Deadman and the city's firefighting team. Used as a reserve engine for years, it has been known for its mechanical failures for many more.

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

After almost 30 years service in the city, one would expect to find a lot of misty eyes in the fire station with news that Farmington Fire Pumper No. 1 is being mothballed.

But the firefighters' usual nostalgia for firetrucks is reserved for reliable equipment and the 1953 GMC 750 was far from that, say veterans of the department.

"It's been an off-and-on problem for years," says former firefighter-turned-city-manager Robert Deadman.

"All I can say is we all welcomed the acquisition of the Mack truck in 1962. This truck has had its share of problems practically from its inception including clutches and controls on the truck that failed in critical situations.

"At times the pressure relief valves failed to function; the tank-to-pump

valves froze up in critical situations and the primary pumps failed more than once over a 28-year period."

The truck is still available for emergency back-up duty and will be used until a new truck, an Attack Pumper equipped with a 65-foot ladder, built by Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. of Appleton, Wis. is delivered in January 1983 as promised.

COST OF the new truck is expected to total \$158,700, Deadman said. The city council unanimously decided Monday to award the bid to Pierce, the lowest of two bidders. The other bidder was Fire Trucks, Inc. of Mount Clemens which submitted a bid for \$165,143 for truck and ladder installation.

The bid by Pierce was \$143,716.35 for one fire pumper-ladder truck mounted on a Ford C-800 chassis equipped with a 65-foot Sponco ladder with a 1,250 gallon-per-minute pumping capacity compared to the old

truck's 750-gpm capability.

An additional \$15,000 will be spent on equipment including lights, nozzles, hose, a gas-powered saw and pipe, according to Deadman, when equipment bids are received while the city awaits delivery of the truck.

Only two companies chose to bid, Deadman said, because the city's bid specifications called for the installation of a Sponco ladder and a platform. Most potential bidders, he said, wanted to sell their own ladder and platform.

The purchase will be financed over five years with a \$100,000 loan from the National Bank of Detroit-Farmington, according to a letter from Tom Geffert, assistant vice president in the bank's Farmington branch. Another \$58,716 from the city's Equipment Reserve Fund will be spent to cover the balance, Deadman said.

## Residents are aging, says study

By Steve Barnaby  
editor

If you're 42 years old, live with two other family members, married and own a home valued at \$65,000, you're an average Farmingtonian, according to the 1980 census figures.

Those figures were presented to the Farmington City Council at this week's meeting.

"In reviewing the report we find that the family unit in the city of Farmington has grown older, more feminine and smaller," according to City Manager Bob Deadman.

"The percentage of our population over 60 has grown to the point where it now comprises 25.4 percent of our total population," he told council members.

The study also shows that persons younger than 5 comprise 3.6 percent of Farmington's population.

With a population of 11,022, Farmington's female population outnumbered males, 54.3 percent to 45.7 percent. In actual numbers that breaks down to 5,982 females and 5,040 males.

Although women outnumber men, when it comes to age men are, on the average, more than six years older. The average female is 38.1 years old and the average male is 45.5 years old, according to the report.

The statistics also show that the number of persons between the ages of 21 and 59 number 5,705, while persons under and over that age number is 5,327.

PERSONS UP TO 21 years old are 2,617, while those who are 60 years and older number 2,710. The largest senior citizen population is in the 65-75-year-old age bracket, numbering 1,035.

Females far outnumber males in that bracket with 664 females and 371 males.

The margin gets even wider when it comes to persons 75 years and older. Population for that bracket tallies out at 943, with 656 females and 287 males.

The overwhelming majority, 99.1 percent, of the population is classified as white. The remainder is divided between blacks and Spanish-speaking persons, according to the report.

House ownership still is dominant in Farmington, with 66 percent of residences occupied by owners, while 34 percent are occupied by renters — 2,967 to 1,529.

While 51.1 percent of persons own their houses valued at between \$30,000 and \$79,999, a hefty 21 percent own dwellings valued at between \$80,000 and \$150,000 or more — 767.

Renters pay a median rent of \$339 a month, with 76.4 percent of those persons falling in the \$300 to \$399 a month range. But at least a few good deals have been found by some renters with 2 percent of renters paying less than \$200 a month. Those forking over \$500 or more are .5 percent of the renter population.

SINGLE PERSON households number 1,291, with 21.2 percent of households being occupied by single women and 7.5 percent occupied by single men. Married couples occupy 60 percent of the households.

Females take the lead in the divorced ranks, with 336 females and 235 males. Those married are 2,751, while the single population is about even — 1,169 males and 1,095 females. Widows number 967, widowers 129.

### what's inside

Community Calendar . . . 3B  
Club Circuit . . . . . 2B  
Editorials . . . . . 16A  
Obituaries . . . . . 2A  
Recreation News . . . . 14A  
Sports . . . . . Section C  
Suburban Life . . . . . Section B  
YMCA Highlights . . . . 8A

### CALLS EVERYTIME!

John Raso does small jobs and repairs, in order to keep "regularly busy" he runs an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad. "I get calls everytime my ad runs! I am very pleased with the results."  
Remember...

One call does it all!



591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa

## Juvenile suspected in Hills burglary

Police suspect a 14-year-old Childers Village runaway in the breaking and entering of a Farmington Hills home last Monday night.

David Lawless of 34550 Fendt returned home around midnight to discover that an estimated \$1,075 worth of cash and property was missing.

Among the losses: \$150 cash, \$140 in checks payable to Walled Lake Schools,

\$600 worth of jewelry, two jewelry boxes and a high standard blue revolver worth an estimated \$125.

A discarded .22 caliber gun box, cigar box and jewelry box tray were found on the pathway leading to the home.

Lawless told police the back door of the residence may have been unlocked. There were no signs of forced entry.