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New law takes nip at video

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Merchants who operate four or more video machines will come under closer scrutiny by Farmington Hills Police.

An ordinance, adopted at the urging of City Manager Lawrence Savage and Police Chief John Nichols, will tighten requirements regarding applicants' backgrounds while loosening geographical restrictions.

"We're talking about a business that provides a good way to launder crime, particularly organized crime. We have to have enough information in there that we can rule things out," said Savage at last week's legislative session.

"We don't want to create unnecessary hardships, and it's not that the games are bad," added Nichols. He referred to video, electronic or mechanical devices which are coin-operated.

Those applying for an operator's license must include the following information:

- The written recommendation of at least two persons respecting the applicant's moral character.
- At least five references from "reputable" Michigan residents.

- Applicant's fingerprints.
- Applicant's criminal record.

The ordinance now allows devices within 500 feet of a school to operate between 4 p.m. and 2 a.m. Under the old ordinance, the devices were prohibited from operating within 600 to 700 feet of a school.

The revised ordinance represents a "more practical approach" and "doesn't present that big a problem for applicants." They're small in the questionnaire," said Nichols.

Among the ordinance's other provisions:

- Where coin-operated devices are in use, at least one adult operator who hasn't been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be present.
- A yet-to-be-determined licensing fee of not more than \$100 per machine shall be paid by the applicant.

ALTHOUGH VOTING for the measure, Councilman Charlie Williams questioned whether an applicant's previous crime involvement should be held against him or her.

"Maybe now he owns an establishment and is perfectly straight. It would bother me to withhold a license from him," he said.

Ordinance revision was necessary, said Savage, to regulate "what types of people get in from the beginning."

Nichols stressed that because arcades attract younger persons, they attract the problems associated with youth — drinking alcohol, narcotics use, congregation problems and loitering.

Nichols likened arcade problems with those at all-night grocery stores.

"They (youngsters) raise a little sand and create disturbances in the parking lots. Where you have a lot of people the same age, you have the potential for trouble."

"I can see why the police department wants that. If you have a record, you shouldn't be allowed to do bad things," said Councilman Donn Wolf.

Existence of a criminal record solely won't exclude a person from being granted a license, according to city attorney Paul Bibeau.

"We'll carefully consider each applicant before issuing a permit," he said. Applications will be approved by the city's fire chief, zoning and building inspectors and Nichols.



A fateful turn

A passerby gazes at the wreckage of a truck that went off 14 Mile between Inkster and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills on Friday afternoon. The truck failed to negotiate a curve, rolled over and

came to a stop on the lawn of a nearby home. Police and fire units from Farmington Hills were on hand. The driver was taken by an emergency medical squad to a hospital for treatment.

PHOTO BY RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Thrill of a lifetime

Mr. Sever goes to Washington

By Craig Plochura
staff writer

Very warm but very tough. Those are the words used to describe Ronald Reagan by Terry Sever of Farmington Hills, owner of T&L Printing in Farmington. As president of the Michigan Jaycees, Sever was invited to the Rose Garden of the White House late last month.

Reagan told the Jaycees they were contributing to national volunteerism, which he hopes will take the place of many federal social programs. Sever agrees with that assessment. He's quick to give his opinion on U.S. politics and the national direction of the Jaycees.

Sever met the president with other state chapter presidents and members of the Jaycee executive committee Sept. 21 when Reagan was able to break away from meetings about the crisis in Lebanon. "He has a personality that's very friendly," Sever said of the president. "He smiles, he projects a very warm, personal feeling. Yet, when he stands behind the podium and speaks to you, there's no question he's the strong leader or people perceive him as being. Very warm but very tough, that's the message I get."

Just being in a part of the White House most people never get near was the thrill of a lifetime, Sever said.

"We congregated outside the White House knowing an extremely small percentage ever get past the gate, go through strict security and get the opportunity to stand in the Rose Garden



Terry Sever

of the White House and see the president of the United States step to the podium to address a small group of people," Sever said.

THE ROSE GARDEN is described by Sever as a "kind of a courtyard that is, of course, very well-kept, extremely elegant and very colonial."

It's obvious that speaking as Terry Sever, not as an official spokesman for the Michigan Jaycees, Sever is a solid supporter of the president and his policies.

"It's time for people to start looking at the ability of an individual to lead the country rather than just (his stand on) an issue. "The question we're trying to define is leadership — the ability to sell a program or an idea. In order to be a leader, you have to have followers for the program unless the leader is convinced his followers want to be led in a different direction." Reagan has been "sticking to what he believes in," Sever said, while making some adjustments. That makes him a strong leader for the nation, he said.

Likewise, the Republican candidate for Michigan governor, Richard Headlee, gets Sever's backing for "a lot of the same reasons."

Part of the festivities surrounding United States Jaycees Legislative Week was a mock Senate session where organization leaders overwhelmingly passed mock legislation permitting voluntary prayer in public schools.

THE JAYCEES CLAIM to be a non-political organization, so the logical question is why do the organization and Sever sound political?

"Personally, I'd like to see our organization do it (get politically involved) but the old line — and it's valid

— is we get a lot of cooperation on our projects from state, local and county governments. Cooperation would be difficult if a candidate we opposed were to get elected."

Nothing stops a Jaycee member from taking an individual stand on political issues and candidates, Sever said as he checked a plate bearing the likeness of Headlee to be used as a campaign brochure.

Regarding the prayer in the public schools issue, Sever said the Jaycee membership is comprised of a broad cross-section of American men from all over the country who overwhelmingly support voluntary prayer.

"The Jaycees creed says 'We believe that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life . . . Money, which we all seem to love, bears the slogan 'In God We Trust.' The simple fact is the majority of Americans believe in some form of religion and should have the opportunity on a voluntary basis to pray in school."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT to the Constitution, which prohibits Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, Sever said, "protects the minority while the majority suffers."

"Sever is no stranger to controversy or a heated fight over principle. He's at odds with the national Jaycees over questions of policy, programs and direction.

"We (the Michigan chapter) want more active, more active members that run more projects involving more people." The U.S. Jaycees philosophy puts the emphasis on membership, just people in the form of numbers.

"Our idea is strength through action — do more than use the organization for (members') benefit and business exposure."

Sever became president of the state Jaycees on June 1. His one-year term will expire May 31. Under his direction, the Michigan Jaycees have raised more than \$100,000 — third largest in the country among Jaycee chapters — in the muscular dystrophy fight. The national Jaycee contribution of \$2.2 million to the fight against MD was the third largest corporate sponsor contribution, he said.

The Michigan group has also made burn awareness, education and prevention a national Jaycee objective. Its goal is raising \$100,000 for the cause.

On a state level, Sever said, Feb. 27 is the tentative date for a statewide skate-athon in 30 communities where proceeds will go to the Michigan Association for Retarded Citizens. Half the

money raised at each location will be spent in that community on its retarded residents, he said. The rest will be spent in the state.

Another Michigan Jaycee project is the organization's financial backing of the Palmer Drug Abuse Program in Milford.

Council eyes fate of excess funds

How to spend Farmington Hills' \$1,100,000 surplus will be the topic of a City Council study session at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Farmington Hills City Hall.

Spending proposals presented by administrative officials will add to those already suggested by council members and the Finance Department.

Finance Director Charles Rosch recommends placing \$803,000 of the surplus into reserves for road and building improvements, equipment and sick leave funds.

Council member Charlie Williams, who sharply criticized the city administration and finance officials for their delay in bringing accurate figures to the council, favors allocating the funds towards a major capital improvement

School drivers settle

Negotiators for the Farmington School District and its bus drivers reached a settlement at 8 p.m. Wednesday, putting an end to more than three months of bargaining.

The content of the three-year contract was not disclosed by Robert Coleman, director of personnel for the School District or Maryann Ligato, representative for the Michigan Education Support Personnel Association (MES-PA), who bargained on behalf of the bus drivers.

Compensation and working conditions were the major stumbling blocks, Coleman said.

"We have tentatively agreed to a three-year agreement. Details of the agreement will not be released until the contract is ratified by the bus drivers," said Ligato in a joint statement issued by both bargaining units.

The bus drivers are expected to ratify the contract within a week, added Ligato, who played a major role in the recent settlement of the Novi teachers' strike.

THE CONTRACT, which is retroactive to July 1 and expires June 30, 1985, is "a fair one for both sides which is on par with contracts of bus drivers in other Oakland County school districts," Coleman said.

Contingent upon ratification by the bus drivers, the Farmington School Board will consider ratification at an open 8 p.m. meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Power Middle School.

Proposals on wages and working conditions presented by mediator Leon Cornfield were the basis of the settlement.

"We worked on language based on the proposals the mediator recommended, and it was fair to everybody. Leon Cornfield was not here Wednesday, but he was the one who did all the work. He deserves some credit for that, to say the least," added Coleman.

Cornfield joined the bus drivers' six-member bargaining unit and the district's four bargaining representatives for the two previous negotiating sessions.

Bus service for Farmington students has been continuing due to the drivers' contract extension.

Details of the new contract will be released following ratification.

Nuclear power seminar planned

"Nuclear Power: Commercial and Military" is the theme of a two-part series sponsored by the Farmington Branch Library. On Monday at 7:30 p.m., Mary Johnston from the Detroit Safe Energy Coalition will discuss the commercial ramifications of nuclear energy.

Highlighted will be the safety of nuclear power plants, compliance with federal regulations and the status of these plants in Michigan.

Dr. Linn Campbell, a Farmington Hills resident who is a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, will

be the speaker on the topic "Nuclear Madness: Psychological Adaptations to the Threat of Thermonuclear War."

Campbell is on the faculty at the Department of Psychiatry, Wayne State University, and the Director of Education and Research at the Detroit Psychiatric Institute. Also to be shown is the film "The Last Epidemic," which graphically illustrates the effect of an atomic bomb on man and the environment.

Both of these programs are free, open to the public.

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