

Officials to monitor Marks' building permit

By Casey Hahn
staff writer

Elected officials in Farmington Hills vowed to continue monitoring a situation involving fellow councilman Ben Marks, who holds a 2-year-old "temporary certificate of occupancy" (TCO) for his office building, which sits a cross 11 miles from the city hall.

The city also plans to draft a new overall policy on TCOs after it were brought to light that employees were not following a 1986 policy prohibiting issuance of such certificates.

"We're going to review that poli-

cy. We will try to be uniform and fair and review our policies," city manager William Costick said to the council Monday.

He said the administration will prepare a revised policy for council consideration in a few weeks.

Councilman Phillip Arnold suggested that in the future, such documents be issued with appropriate time lines and other rules.

COSTICK SAID a memo prohibiting TCOs had been posted at the city hall since 1986 to discourage builders and developers from requesting them although the city continued to

issue them as needed. That year, there was heavy development activity in the city.

"I think we still need to issue TCOs," Costick added. "But the time limit idea... is a good one."

Marks, a veteran councilman and local developer, was absent from Monday's council meeting. Marks has contended he received no special treatment from the city for TCOs, despite such charges by city activist Luella Hempel. Marks has 12 items to complete on his building before a permanent occupancy certificate will be issued.

Most TCOs are issued for unfinished items around the building's exterior, not the interior. And most developers handle these punch-list items within one building season, according to a report given to the council Monday.

"I'M NOT going to defend the building across the street," Costick said during his report. "Two seasons have gone by."

About \$2,500 in items have yet to be completed on the Marks building, which the councilman has promised will be completed in 30-40 days.

"I would hope... that he would

take care of these items as soon as he can," said councilman Aldo Vagnoni. "I don't understand why he doesn't take care of it. It does reflect on this council. It's starting to bother me."

Mayor Terry Sever, who has promised to keep tabs on council members and those serving on boards and commissions who do business with the city, agreed. "We don't want to be unfair, but I too feel enough is enough. We should stay on top of it," he said.

In spring 1988, a decision was made to post the memo prohibiting issuance of TCOs because of the

large number of certificates that had been issued during that winter, according to Costick's report.

He said that TCOs are never issued if there is a safety concern, and that they do not affect the way property is assessed.

Mayor Sever requested that resident Hempel be sent a copy of this city's report on the TCO matter.

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Hills man charged in Milford rape

By Susan Buck
staff writer

A Farmington Hills man is charged with repeatedly raping a 37-year-old Detroit woman at a nightclub early Sunday in a van on route to and later parked in Milford Township.

He is being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$400,000 cash of surety bond.

Raymond Leroy Emerson, 45, of Farmington Hills was arraigned Monday on four counts of first-de-

A Hills man is being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$400,000 cash or surety bond.

grees criminal sexual conduct before District Judge Brian Mackenzie of Walled Lake.

William James LaForge, 35, of Howell, arraigned on the same charges, is being held in lieu of \$1 million cash or surety bond.

Pleas were not available. If convicted, both men could be sentenced to life in prison.

Milford Township police chief John Daly said the attack "occurred all night long." He said the woman was beaten, cut on the hand and suffered a chipped ankle.

The woman did not know her assailants. They picked her up before midnight Saturday at Eight Mile and Manor in Detroit and drove to Milford Township. She was raped even as the van was moving. "Her attack-

ers took turns driving," Daly said.

ABOUT 4 a.m., the woman jumped out of the van window, by then parked in the Child's Lake area, and ran to a nearby house where she called police, Daly said.

She was treated at Huron Valley Hospital, Commerce Township.

A Walled Lake police officer arrested the suspects. He had their van stopped for a traffic violation when he heard a broadcast about the attack and a description of the vehicle involved, Daly said.

A preliminary examination of the charges is scheduled for April 21 before District Judge Michael Batchik of Walled Lake.

Lions Club donates eye prosthesis

Lorenzo Carr thanked the Westtown Lions Club at a recent club luncheon meeting for giving him a plastic eye prosthesis.

The Club has a 47-year history of supporting sight handicapped citizens in the community and the institutions dedicated to helping the blind.

During 1988 alone, the Leader Dogs for the Blind School, Rochester Hills, delivered 302 trained dogs to blind persons; the Michigan Eye Bank provided 1,416 persons with cornea transplants.

Tax return deadline April 17

This is a reminder that the deadline for filing 1988 Income Tax returns is April 17.

Since the traditional deadline of April 15 falls on Saturday it was extended to the following Monday.

Farmington Postmaster Kenneth Harris advises against delay, but if

you wait until April 17 deadline to mail your income tax returns, you have until midnight to deposit them at the Post Office.

Postmaster Harris said that returns may be placed in collection boxes in front of either the Farmington Post Office on Stouem or the

Farmington Hills Post Office on 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road up to midnight when they will be picked up for the April 17 postmark.

If you mail earlier in the day at a street collection box, Harris advised checking the collection schedule to be sure the next pickup will meet the deadline.

Drinking water safe, schools say

Continued from Page 1

level of 20 parts per billion, or more, is hazardous.

Most lead found in the water is because of lead soldering used for pipe fittings, but some comes from lead-lined tanks, according to the EPA. Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to health causing damage to brain and nervous sys-

tem damage.

The EPA reported that more than a million school water fountains still have lead components and may cause a health risk to youngsters.

The EPA has no authority to order school district testing, but a law enacted last year requires states to assist districts in testing

for lead in drinking water. This law apparently led to Farmington's attention to the matter.

Kemron Environmental Services, a Farmington Hills company did testing for the Farmington district. This is the same company contracted by the district to remove or repair mandatory asbestos problems, as required by law.

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