

Just another day  
of stone throwing, 1B



Grid rivals  
clash, 1C

Where cooks stop  
for kitchen stuff, 1B

# Southfield Eccentric

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Southfield, Michigan

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Fifty Cents



## cityscapes

**HALLOWEEN**  
THEATS come in more than one ghostly form. The city of Southfield and the police department believe that home sweet home may be the best place of all on Halloween. Continental Cablevision will unscramble the PASS and Disney channels on Devil's Night (Monday) and Halloween (Tuesday), making them available to all viewers. A Detroit Pistons Basketball game on Monday night and the Disney Channel will also screen features attraction for children of all ages, according to Continental's area manager Walter Maude. The first time idea also is being tried by United Cable and is under consideration by Barden Cable in Detroit.

**SOUTHFIELD'S**  
Halloween parties this year were held on Saturday, Oct. 28, not the traditional Oct. 31. A parks and recreation spokeswoman said the department was getting calls expressing some confusion over the change. City officials are hoping youngsters will stay home, safe and sound, for the holiday.

**STATE TREASURER**  
Robert Bowman presented city treasurer Roman Gronkowski with a special award in recognition of Gronkowski's performance as president of the Municipal Treasurers Association of the United States and Canada for 1988-89. He was only the third municipal treasurer in Michigan to receive the honor. Gronkowski has served as treasurer in Southfield for 20 years and as city councilman for two years prior to that.

**GRAND OPENING**  
ceremonies for the newly renovated Beech Woods Recreation Center will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1. The center is at 22200 Beech Road, just south of Nine Mile. Activities at the recreation center will include indoor soccer and lacrosse, volleyball, gymnastics and a walking/jogging track. The open house will include demonstrations of volleyball and soccer. Refreshments will be served. The ceremonies are open to the public. The center also includes nine-hole golf course, driving range, concession/pro shop, outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, children's playlot and wintertime cross-country ski trails.

**OVER AT Tel-12** Mall owner Ramon-Gershenson Inc. is converting a former podiatrist's office into a sit-down deli. Bal's Deli will be added to the Restaurants on Main Street court. We reported these plans earlier, but Southfield City Council made it official last week by approving the change in use from doctor's office to eatery. Bal's will be the first sit-down restaurant on Main Street. It will serve up to 80. All of the others, fast food and/or specialty restaurants, serve from a counter and share seating out on the court.

You can have news of your Southfield/Lathrup neighborhood listed in Cityscapes. Just send the complete information to the Southfield Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Be sure to include the name and phone number of someone who can be reached during normal business hours to clarify information.



## The Jug is back

Southfield football coach Cal Fletcher (center) happily carries the Jug while Blue Jay players Kevin Beverly (62) and Karl Miller (65) and a host of others celebrate Saturday's lopsided victory over city rival

Lathrup. After two years at Lathrup, the Blue Jays now own possession of the Jug, which signifies prep football supremacy in Southfield. For the story and more photos, please turn to page 1C.

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

## Police shoot 2 armed men at Northland

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

Two robbery suspects were wounded when they were shot by police officers Thursday outside Northland Mall.

The men were listed in critical condition Sunday afternoon in Providence Hospital. They were arraigned Saturday at their bedside on charges of robbery and assault.

Bond was set at \$60,000 for William Leon Ellington Jr., 19. Bond was set at \$75,000 for Jerry Blessitt, 22.

In the Thursday incident, two Detroit residents, 18 and 20, were walking along Greenfield north of Eight Mile at 8:55 p.m. when they were confronted by two men armed with a gun, said Southfield Police Officer Steve Zultowski.

One of the men took a coat, reportedly valued at \$900, from one of the victims and fled south on Greenfield in a black car. The victims reported the robbery to a plainclothed Southfield police officer who was in the area in an unmarked car.

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## Hospital defends expansion plans

By Tim Smith  
staff writer

Despite opposition to Providence Hospital's planned 200-bed satellite facility in Novi, the hospital's top executive Thursday defended the \$45 million proposal at a state health department hearing at the Southfield Civic Center.

Providence recently applied with the state to build the Novi facility. It plans to shift 188 beds from its Nine Mile Road campus in Southfield.

Following its patient base to the Novi area, and keeping costs down, were main reasons for the proposal outlined at the hearing by Brian Connolly, president and chief executive officer of Providence.



Brian Connolly  
Providence president

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## Candidates civil in Southfield pre-election forum

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

Candidates for Southfield City Council answered myriad questions but exchanged no strident words during Thursday's forum sponsored by a homeowner's coalition comprising 42 neighborhood associations. The Southfield Homeowners Coalition candidate's night, the group's first full-blown activity, attracted mostly family and friends of those jockeying for position in the Nov. 7 general election. The group met in the Southfield High School auditorium.

WXYZ-TV Channel 7 newsmen

Bill Proctor served as moderator for the forum.

Incumbents and challengers responded to the question of what steps council members would take to revitalize and use buildings with high vacancy rates and if they favor restricting new building permits to avoid increasing the problem.

**COUNCILMAN PETER Cristiano** said there are two million square feet of vacant space, mostly in small office buildings along Eight Mile and 10 Mile.

The Downtown Development Authority is looking for smaller buildings, he said.

Challenger James Schuster said the city must address the problem of deterioration and the eventual shrinking of the tax base which could result from the large amount of vacant commercial and office space. Small buildings should be redeveloped in other areas, not just along Northwestern and 12 Mile, he said.

**DENISE ALEXANDER**, a challenger in the city council race, said the city should look at support uses, such as storage space, as adjuncts to larger office buildings.

Challenger Arrisvie Evans said the city can maintain office space and entice owners of smaller businesses,

thus protecting the delicate balance between residents and businesses.

Councilman Steve Hurlic said the city has reached the saturation point of smaller office buildings. Support services for large, signature buildings could be alternative uses, he agreed.

Challenger Richard Bloom agreed that the city should market alternative uses. He also suggested the city should consider a low cost program to keep smaller buildings up to code.

Councilwoman Suzanne Goldstein said large corporations need support services and research and development. The city helps market small buildings and provides a low-interest

loan program to revitalize businesses, she said.

**ACCORDING TO THE** coalition, many residents believe the new land use plan recently approved by the planning commission was passed without sufficient community input.

Residents fear the plan will harm both residential and environmentally sensitive areas, the coalition maintains. Candidates were asked if, as council members, they would withhold approval of the new land use plan until homeowners' concerns are fully considered.

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## Lathrup seeks penalty for repeat false burglar alarms

By Tim Smith  
staff writer

Since January, Lathrup Village police have responded 451 times to burglar alarms — of which 428 probably never should have sounded, officials said Friday.

Largely because the false alarms are taking a large chunk out of police protection time the council Monday instructed city attorney James McCroly to develop an ordinance that would guard against such unnecessary trips.

"We don't want to discourage alarms because they are a valuable aid to police enforcement," Lathrup Village Police Chief Donald Yerrick said. "But people have to be responsible."

Mayor Margaret Dickinson said 428 false alarms in less than 10 months "is inexcusable." "It's just not right for a few families and businesses in town to take the (police) time and protection away from the rest of the residents," Dickinson said.

**ACCORDING TO** Yerrick, it will probably take a month before a final ordinance draft is presented to the

**"We don't want to discourage alarms because they are a valuable aid to police enforcement. But people have to be responsible."**

— Donald Yerrick  
Lathrup Village police chief

council for final approval. The ordinance probably will follow those operating in other communities, he said.

After it is approved, police will visit homes and businesses that have alarms to get current information about their systems.

Yerrick, who requested that officials enact the ordinance, said both businesses and residents are guilty of what he called "unknown alarms." Unchecked, the alarms could blare indefinitely, he added.

Concurring was Dickinson, who said the alarms have sounded on her block for as long as 40 minutes.

"They could be faulty alarms, they could be false alarms," Yerrick said. "It's not uncommon for a resident to leave for a week's vacation and it's triggered by an overly sensitive temperature mechanism or other reasons."

He noted that businesses may be negligent in educating workers about how a particular system works. Police answered 29 false alarm calls originating from one business, which Yerrick would not name.

**BESIDES THE TIME** lost from answering the alarms, there are other concerns, Yerrick explained.

"It becomes a liability problem," Yerrick said. "Police are rushing to the scene," thinking they are answering an emergency.

Repeated false alarms could also eventually affect the attitudes of police officers.

"You can 'cry wolf' too many times," Yerrick said. "When an officer responds time after time (to false alarms) it becomes an 'oh yeah, it's just another alarm.'"

As a result, the officers "may not respond as quickly or aggressively as they should," Yerrick said.

**THE ORDINANCE** would be aimed at those homes or businesses where false alarms are a recurring problem. With each successive instance, penalties, probably through fines, would likely increase, Dickinson said.

Discretion would enter into whether somebody is fined, Yerrick noted.

Penalties would not be incurred in cases beyond control, such as when alarms are tripped by an electrical storm, he said.

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