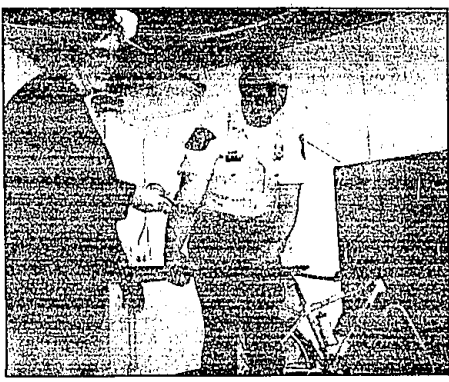


Public Safety headquarters ready for 21st century



Brand new: Mayor Mary Bush and Public Safety Director Gary Goss cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the newly-remodeled police station.

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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Headquarters for the Farmington Public Safety Department are getting out of the 1960s just in time for the 21st century.

The \$830,000 renovation of the public safety facilities was unveiled to a positive reception during an open house on June 23, said Director Gary Goss.

"Everybody thought it was a major improvement," said Goss, recalling the event, attended by nearly 50 city dignitaries and residents.

According to Goss, the refurbished south end of city hall "makes us much more efficient. It's a cleaner and brighter atmosphere to work in. And this side of the building hadn't been renovated since the early '60s."

"A lot of things were needed to be done for safety reasons and efficiency reasons."

For example, the fire barn was totally redone.

Prior to that, said Goss half-jokingly, "Every time you fired up one of our engines, you'd smoke out city hall."

The new facilities boast a much-improved cell block lockup area, complete with a ramp instead of stairs for convicts, "guests," particularly those arrested for drunken driving. That is to help them make their way without falling — thus reducing chances for a lawsuit against the city.

Dispatchers have a larger area and are better protected for after-hours business by bullet-proof glass surrounding the counter.

The wiring — not improved since the early 1960s — was entirely redone, no insignificant development as far as Goss is concerned.

"With the advent of all the technology available in public safety now," Goss said, "the building's wiring wasn't really compatible" prior to the renovation. He mentioned "televoting" and electronic fingerprint devices as examples of modern techniques that demand electrical connections.

Oakland County eventually will install a new computerized Courts Law Enforcement Management Information System, Goss said. The time frame for installation has not yet been determined.



On display: Public Safety Director Gary Goss shows off the new lockup area to Louise and Norbert Leppanen. Norbert serves on the Traffic and Safety Board for Farmington.

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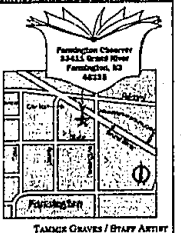
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Helmet from page A1

The way the petition is worded, the 498 who signed will have to do so again, Sibley said.

"I don't think they would be able to count those towards (the 4,368 needed)," Sibley added.

The Farmington Hills city attorney is reviewing petition language, which has to be drafted by those organizing the drive to turn back the ordinance.

The Farmington Hills City Council passed the ordinance by a 6-1 vote June 14. Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio opposed the

Tasks done by CLEMIS include providing data about warrants, criminal history and vehicle licenses and registrations.

When the new version of CLEMIS is installed, possibly within a year, officers will be able to issue tickets and write reports on computer instead of paper, he said.

It took nine months to renovate the public safety facilities, beginning in August 1998. The department temporarily set up shop at the Department of Public Services building on Nine Mile near Farmington Road.

Dispatchers, detectives and the rest of the department moved back in May.

Goss, with a laugh, said he already has an appreciation for the new surroundings, having been stationed at the DFS "classroom" for several months while the work was completed.

Under the law, a child not wearing a protective helmet while riding a bike, in-line skating or skateboarding would be subject to a \$5 fine. Police would scrap the ticket if the child and parent show up at the station with a helmet.

Through a community policing program, the department has given away 400 bike helmets to residents.

Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said the measure is designed to help educate children about bicycle safety and to prevent injuries. Adrian has a similar ordinance.

Opponents, who are not necessarily against kids wearing helmets, see the law as an intrusion on parental rights.

Arthritis Today

THE STAGES OF ARTHRITIS

Arthritis can stop in its tracks if the physician diagnoses a condition that has remained soft and behind skin or no joint changes. When calling your arthritis specialist, the doctor means that no arthritis remains but is not aggressive nor active in the joints already involved. However, he feels the process of inflammation may begin anew at a future time.

When the doctor talks about eradicating arthritis, he implies a process of marked activity and joint destruction that no longer continues because live joints are uninvolved.

Identifying these stages in the development of arthritis is important because of the implications for treatment.

If you and your doctor believe that your arthritis is in remission, then further therapy can stop. What takes good judgment is knowing that the arthritis really is finished as opposed to being quiet. If there is a chance that the arthritis has just gone underground, then continued maintenance with medication is in order.

The same reasoning holds in judging if your arthritis is eradicating. In this setting, assessment is difficult, as you will understand from this text. The questions are: are your joints painful because of inflammation or because of strain upon supporting ligaments and tendons? If pain and impairment result from joint strain then therapy for inflammation will not help.

The strategies discussed to confirm their conclusions will form the basis of the next column.

County booklet available

The Oakland Schools Communications Office offers a new publication, *28 Reasons To Move to Oakland County: A Guide To Public Schools for Families Relocating to Oakland County, Michigan*.

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