

Day care

Farmington post office gets a new life

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Infants and preschoolers will replace letter carriers and customers at the former downtown Farmington Post Office building. The Farmington City Council approved a resolution Monday, Nov. 16 that gave operators of Sunny Day Care, Inc. the go-ahead for their plan to provide a day care facility for infants to children six years of age in the closed post office.

"Sunny Day Care will provide

Montessori education at the landmark Slocum Street building and will care for a maximum of 50 children. The hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We always have a waiting list for infant and toddler care," said Sue Casey, an owner of Sunny Day Care, Inc., which has operated for seven years in Farmington Hills.

"We plan to revamp the whole building," Casey said. "Our dream is to be Farmington's school and day care."

"It may not be exactly what we want there, but it may be a little less obtrusive than what could go there."

JoAnne McShane
—Councilwoman

About 15 residents attended the Nov. 16 council meeting to voice concerns about potential traffic and noise problems caused by the day care.

The residents also wanted to know about the landscape that would buffer their properties from the day care. The closest neighbors live in houses, as well as the Charlestowne Condominiums.

Heading concerns from residents at the meeting, the council required the owners meet with the city's traffic and safety committee to review potential problems.

Also, at councilman Jim Mitchell's request, the council approved stipulations that the day care wouldn't fight future

liquor license requests from area businesses.

Council approval was needed because the property was zoned Central Business District, which doesn't specifically list day care facilities as a permitted use.

Mayor Mary Bush abstained from voting and publicly discussing the property because she is the listing Realtor.

Council members Mitchell, JoAnne McShane and Bill Hartsock voted in favor of the zoning change. Councilman Arnold Campbell was absent.

"It may not be exactly what we want there, but it may be a little less obtrusive than what could go there," said McShane, explaining that a market, for instance, would draw considerably more traffic and noise than the day care.

Hartsock also noted that traffic congestion would be limited because the children will be dropped off and picked up on a staggered basis. This likely wouldn't pose a traffic snarl or parking problem at any particular time.

Union 66 robbed

Two men who appeared to be browsing turned to robbery at the Union 76 gas station on Middlebelt Friday night before a customer unknowingly interrupted the armed heist.

According to Farmington Hills police, at 11:20 p.m., two white males about 18 years old entered the station and started looking around. They waited until no other customers were around when one of them pointed a black automatic handgun into the clerk's chest and demanded money. The clerk, whose English is fleec-

ing, stood motionless. The teen showed the gun in his chest and pointed to the register. The other teen, who watched the door, noticed a woman walking toward the station.

Both shielded their faces and fled in a sport utility vehicle, which sped off north on Middlebelt.

A witness said the vehicle appeared to be a grayish-colored Jeep Cherokee, which had a commemorative Michigan license plate. A female witness waiting in the sport utility vehicle.

Man triggers store alarm

An unidentified man triggered an alarm at Rite Aid Pharmacy Nov. 13.

Employees described the man as about 6-foot-2 inches tall, with brown hair, medium build and about 35 years old.

The man came into the store, walked around and when he

exited he set-off the merchandise alarm. An employee chased him, but the man didn't look back. The suspect entered an older model Volkswagen station wagon and drove southbound on Orchard Lake.

It wasn't certain if anything was taken.

Skate Dec. 2 for Goodfellows

Bonaventure Skating Center in Farmington Hills will host the third annual "Skate for the Farmington Area Goodfellows," 6:30-to-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Admission is \$2 and two cans

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Bonaventure is located at 24505 Haleside. For more information, call 248-476-2200.

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