

# Farmington Hills officials to unleash new rule

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council plans to put some teeth into the city's dog control ordinance.

Acting on a complaint from a resident that too many dogs run loose in the Country Oaks Estates subdivision, the council plans to amend the city's dog control ordinance. The aim is to define what it means to be in control of a dog - with or without a leash.

The current ordinance simply states if a dog cannot be under verbal control, a leash must be used.

Acting city attorney Steven Joppich submitted a code amendment proposal to the council at its study session Monday.

Council members, several of whom own dogs, debated how long a leash should be or how

The dog is at all times within 15 feet of the person.

Proposed language

far a dog could be away from its handler and still be considered under verbal control.

"If the dog is not within 15 feet of the person, you don't have him under control," Joppich explained of the proposed language.

Councilman Barry Brickner asked, if most leashes are 20-foot long, why make people buy 15-foot leashes?

After some debate, the council decided it would be best to have a defined distance between dog and handler at 15 feet. Resident Mary Romine

attended the study session. The member of the Country Oaks Homeowners Association who brought the issue to council at its previous meeting said she was pleased with the proposed language.

"As long as a dog will stop," she said. "It's when they don't stop. At least it's an attempt to stop the dog."

The council is expected to have introduce the code amendment at its Nov. 11 meeting.

Part of the proposed amendment states: "The dog is at all times within 15 feet of the person. An unleashed dog that chases or bites a person or domesticated animal constitutes prima facie evidence that such dog is not under the oral control of the custodian or owner."

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# Hills woman is honored for her anti-abuse efforts

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

Domestic abuse crosses all lines of social status and religious belief, says Donna Carrico of Farmington Hills. Fortunately, there are people willing to help get the word out about stopping the abuse in places one might not expect: houses of worship.

Carrico is one of those people, working as a nurse liaison and educator with Providence Hospital's Parish Nurse Liaison program.

"I'm also a nurse practitioner," said Carrico, "so I know what abuse is."

Because of her efforts, the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence (OCCADV) recently honored Carrico at the 2002 Oakland County Domestic Violence Prevention Awards Ceremony.

"It was a surprise," she said of the award. The Congregational Health Program at the hospital serves 57 churches throughout greater Detroit. Carrico works with 20 congregation health ministries, about 10 of which are in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

The goal of Providence's Congregational Health Ministry program is to assist congregations' wellness in the community by addressing their needs.

Carrico helps facilitate anti-domestic violence programs at churches. She is a member of one of the churches where the program is sponsored, St. Fabian Church on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills.

She said the churches have nurses as members who help facilitate the anti-violence program. Members can get information about how to get help right at the church, she said.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield provides the tool kits for the churches where they contain posters to hang in bathrooms, domestic violence hotline numbers, small, discrete information cards and printed articles to be used in church newsletters.

Last year, more than 1,000 hotline cards were distributed. Numerous educational pre-



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Donna Carrico of Farmington Hills was honored for her work as a nurse liaison with area houses of worship.

sentations were done at various congregations as well.

"It's nice to break the cycle of violence," Carrico said.

In 2003, Providence Congregational Health educators are planning a domestic violence educational program for local area ministers.

The objective is to help these leaders recognize the subtle signs and symptoms of domestic violence and help them understand the cycle of violence so that proper counseling can be initiated.

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