

# Farmington Observer & Eccentric

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## Saturation Patrol shadows criminals



Bear cans, broken bottles and other debris litter the 3.6-acre site which is expected to be transformed into a small neighborhood park. Waldron Park located at the corner of Independence and Waldron in the southeast corner of the city has been the scene of continuing vandalism.

The city officials hope to mount an effort to clean up the area and install a skating rink, play area, and tennis, handball and basketball courts.

Initial clean-up and removal of unneeded underbrush is scheduled to begin before the year ends.

By JUDY OWEN

Three police officers in the two Farmington area police departments have traded their uniforms and traditional marked police cars for nondescript clothes and luxury cars.

The three are among 11 men from three police departments who are involved in a surveillance program called Saturation Patrol that is funded through a federal grant.

The men, from the Farmington, Farmington Hills and Livonia police departments, were chosen not only for their past experience but also for their ability to melt into a crowd, walk into a social situation such as a private club or their tough appearance, according to Captain James Mogan of Livonia, who is heading up the program.

The emphasis is on anonymity. Identities of the men are not divulged. They wear no uniforms and have medium-length hair, he said. Some have mustaches, some do not. Some wear business suits, some dress on the grubby side.

THE LUXURY cars were chosen because they don't look like the typical police car. Radio equipment is installed inconspicuously.

The \$438,000 grant came through last May and the departments went to work selecting men, ordering cars, purchasing radio equipment and setting up shop in an undisclosed location.

It wasn't until July when things really began to get rolling, Mogan said.

All of the men involved have volunteered for the program, Mogan said. He tried to tell them all of the negative things about the work — odd hours, weekend and holiday duty, and long stints just sitting in a car observing.

"Our type of operation is surveillance," Mogan said. "We try very hard never to make an arrest."

"We don't want to blow our cover. We don't want to be identified," Mogan said generally uniformed officers will make an arrest.

He said all 11 officers like the program.

"THEY ARE doing the kind of work they thought they would be doing when they joined up with the department," he said.

Special training has included pursuit driving and surveillance driving, in which the men learn to follow a suspect for a certain distance until another team of surveillance officers take over.

The patrol has its own radio frequency as well as using seven others of neighboring police agencies.

Farmington Police Captain Daniel Byrnes believes the city has the "best deal" of the three involved.

Farmington supplies one officer, but can call on all 11 if the need arises.

Much of the work is new to the officers, he said.

"THESE ARE street cops with no expertise in this area and we're putting them into a whole new area of police work."

"There is expertise to be developed. They must have rapport with area departments. They must have rapport with informants. They must have rapport within the departments in which they are operating. They have to win respect."

Byrnes said that the patrol has been a boon to small departments which don't have the manpower to set up a long-term surveillance.

Between four and six men are needed to set up a surveillance operation, he said. In the past, the department was frustrated in such efforts.

Now when the detective bureau has a problem that it can't handle, it can turn it over to the saturation patrol.

"IN THE PAST, our success ratio was very poor," he said.

"I'm not saying that the saturation

patrol is going to have more success but at least it's doing something positive."

The patrol deals mainly with cases involving armed robbery, burglary and auto theft.

The quarterly report for the patrol's work from July through September shows three arrests for two armed robberies, seven arrests for 17 break-ins, one arrest for auto theft and seven arrests for 10 larcenies.

In all, \$21,000 worth of property was recovered, including six cars.

These statistics were used when the three departments submitted application Thursday (Nov. 21) for another year of funding on the two-year grant.

The program is different in that it crosses county lines.

While departments in Wayne and Oakland counties have cooperated in the past, they have not actually worked together like this, Mogan said.

Special arrangements had to be made to supply information for arrest warrants.

The future of the program after the federal grant expires in 1976 is uncertain, he said. Future costs are expected to be considerable.

## 'Permanent volunteer' sparks senior center

By SUSAN AVERILL

Youth, in its exhilaration, has often been characterized as rushing past the snailing aged, leaving them lonely and unloved for in the wake of their youth.

Well, that's just not true, said Loreta Conway, director of the new Farmington-Farmington Hills Senior Citizen's Center.

Also teacher of Our Lady of Sorrows confirmation classes, Mrs. Conway has involved some of the children in her senior citizen projects.

"WE HAVE 200 kids in our confirmation classes, and I asked our religious coordinator if we could use some working with the seniors. I knew he wanted them out working in the community," she said.

"He said 'great,' and now every Tuesday and Thursday, two boys are helping out with them. The kids vie with one another to see who will be next," she said.

The seniors appreciate having the youngsters around. The seniors hug them and fuss over them, and the kids feel good about being there.

"The kids like the people, that's what is so great. They all want to come to the Sunday dinners and help out," she said.

In operation since late June, the center is temporarily housed in Farmington American Legion Post 346, 3175 Grand River.

"Farmington has promised us an office in the new addition they're building," she said.

The center sponsors Saturday shopping trips to local malls, various other trips to distant cities and bingo.

In the offering are art and craft classes, a nurse for health consultation, and a community discount program.

Already the Civic Theatre in Farmington is charging only \$1.25 per movie for every senior citizen with our special card," Mrs. Conway said.

A PRACTICALLY professional volunteer, Mrs. Conway heard of the job opening in June and decided to apply.

She had worked for all types of programs, ranging from Head Start to local confirmation classes.

Her work with seniors was confined to a purely personal program of trans-

portation, and she had taken only one class in gerontology.

"To date, I've had only one class in gerontology. Over the years, I've taken a smattering of courses in whatever my head was into at the time," she explained.

"The city was looking for someone who would work part-time. Before me, there was a lady who worked for Walled Lake, and also scheduled trips for Farmington area seniors."

Being newly-created, the job had no description available, and Mrs. Conway was given free rein.

"WHEN I ASKED Mr. Deadman, my immediate boss, for a job description, he said there wasn't one, and that I should just go out and do it," she said.

"I didn't know I was going to have such fun!" she said enthusiastically. Laughingly, she calls it an eight-day-a-week job. Working day and night on the part-time position, she figures she is also including volunteer work, which she has always enjoyed.

After a flurry of activity in setting up temporary quarters, the first thing Mrs. Conway did was schedule a trip for 110 seniors.

That first outing was to see Lawrence Walk at Pine Knob. Since then, seniors have seen "That's Entertainment," lunched before the show, and shopped at Tel-Twelve Mall.

Dinners are hosted every Sunday evening at the Farmington Community Center by Evelyn and Larry Gould, Mrs. Conway's aides. Some form of entertainment is usually provided, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

LAST SUNDAY'S dinner featured the Sharettes, a local family singing group. Floyd Cairns, Farmington Hills city clerk, and Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager, attended.

Teresa Leber, another aide, added her efforts to make the evening run smoothly.

Mrs. Conway stressed that although there are already three local seniors clubs, the Farmington Area Senior Citizen's Center does not consider itself competitive.

"We are not out to take these people away from their clubs, we even tried to schedule our Tuesday-Thursday meetings so that they wouldn't coincide with anyone else's."

The center eventually hopes to be open five days a week.

What are the Tuesday-Thursday activities?

"Well, we have our avid card players, our games players, and our chat corner. We're starting bingo earlier and earlier each week, because we have some people who come only for that."

## Trips fly on despite rules

By SUSAN AVERILL

This is the time of year most senior classes and their advisers start planning the traditional class trip.

But this year, Farmington district schools are not going to have trips—at least not officially.

And Farmington is by no means the only district with a ban on trips. Westland, Garden City, South Redford, Oak Park, Walled Lake, Southfield and Bloomfield Hills do not sponsor senior trips outside the continental U.S. and most do not sponsor them even inside U.S. boundaries.

UNDAUNTED, Farmington seniors and their parents are scheduling trips on their own. Whole senior boards of some high schools are working on the trips, although they are meticulous in not using school property or resources in planning.

Counselors and teachers, specifically prohibited from aiding students with planning, have expressed distaste with the school board ruling prohibiting trips.

"I have to see no evil, speak no evil," said one educator. "It's too bad, but that's the way it goes."

Generally, however, school personnel seem to understand and agree with the rationale behind the school board's decision.

Official policy regarding senior trips is as follows:

"Trips, tours or programs that traditionally are known as 'senior class trips,' but not necessarily restricted thereto place undue burdens of financial and legal responsibilities on teachers, administrators and the school district."

"Secondary school administrators and teachers are therefore enjoined not to sponsor, chaperone, supervise or organize such trips."

"If students, parents or outside groups wish to plan such excursions independently, they do so without school support."

DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL or advertisements for trips sponsored by outside individuals or groups may not be circulated in the schools."

The statement, however, does not prohibit all trips.

"If a teacher wants to arrange to take his students down to say, Toledo, to see the atomic plant there near

(See CLASS, page 3)



## A stabbing victim

Detroit General Hospital—the reality is more dramatic than the best imaginings of a screen writer. Doctors, nurses, technicians, and policemen work under intense pressures in cases where split second decisions can mean the difference between life and death.

What's it like to spend a night in the busiest

emergency rooms in the metropolitan area? Our reporters and photographers found a blend of medical, emotional and psychological experiences. They found an area doctor willing to share his thoughts on the trauma of the emergency room. Their report can be found on pages 10A and 11A.

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