

OCC blocks deputization of public safety officers

An Oakland County Circuit Court judge will have to decide if Oakland Community College's public safety officers will receive emergency arrest powers and carrying guns on OCC's various campuses, including the Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

After arbitrator Mario Chaves ruled in favor of the officers regarding their status as Oakland County Sheriff's deputies, OCC filed suit, Dec. 19, to overturn the decision.

The public safety officers lost their deputy status last April when a faculty member on OCC's Royal Oak campus allegedly had his ticket rescinded through the influence of the college's administration, according to Transmitters Union Local 14 business representative Billy Mendon.

"The administration injected themselves into the due process of law," he charged.

The loss of that status was the key point in the binding arbitration with OCC, he said.

The union maintains that the officers should be deputized while the college insists that it is unnecessary to increase the power of its public safety force.

Chaves agreed with the union and decided that OCC should follow the necessary measures to restore deputy status to the men.

To regain police power for its officers, the college is required to appoint a person to head the public safety forces on all OCC campuses, according to Oakland County Under Sheriff John Nichols.

Presently, each campus unit has its own supervisor.

The college would have to pass a policy forbidding faculty members and administrators to interfere with the operation of the public safety officers.

There should be equal enforcement in dealing with faculty and students," Nichols said.

"If they comply with the criteria, they can become deputies, again," he said.

"The right of arrest is an awesome responsibility."

Until then, OCC's public safety officers are denied use of the police radio and of their guns.

OCC trustees would like to see that situation continue. They believe that guns are out of place on a campus.

"I personally feel that guns on a college campus are unnecessary," said Trustee Suzanne Reynolds. "Guns have their place."

"BUT IN THE importance of security on a campus, I think guns don't have such a big value," she said.

Union officials argue that if guns are unnecessary, the college wouldn't have to

hire a private, armed security agency to guard tuition money during registration.

Public safety officers employed by the college want to regain the right to wear a gun, although some admit that they have rarely used one on campus.

But deputy status would allow them to work with the students without calling in another police agency.

"You can handle a student on his own level, on campus. You don't have to follow normal procedure," said Ben Rovinsky, a public safety officer on the Orchard Ridge campus.

"If a kid commits a misdemeanor, instead of marking him for life, you can take him to the dean and have his act straightened out," he said.

2 boys charged in attempted theft of snowmobile

Two Farmington Hills boys will face Wayne County Juvenile Court hearings on charges that they attempted to steal a snowmobile and rammed the owner's car during their effort to flee his Livonia home.

Livonia police didn't release the names of the boys, both age 15.

The police youth bureau reported that the youth who allegedly drove his father's pickup truck during the attempted theft of a snowmobile and rammed the owner's car during their effort to flee his Livonia home.

She added that the boys then drove over her lawn and escaped. They were captured by police officers a moment later at Five Mile near Farmington.

The driver of the truck admitted the attempted theft, police said.

He will face a juvenile court hearing. The second boy was released to his parents.

The driver was charged with breaking and entering of a garage, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and reckless driving.

But the boys dropped the snowmobile, jumped into the truck and rammed her car, extensively damaging the grill and the right front fender, according to Mrs. Wilshire.

She added that the boys then drove over her lawn and escaped. They were captured by police officers a moment later at Five Mile near Farmington.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
Summary of Proceedings
City Council Meeting
December 13, 1976

The City Council of the City of Farmington Hills met in regular session at City Hall on December 13, 1976. Mayor Deacon called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Council Members present were: Dolan, Dudley, Lechman, Oppenheimer, and Smith. Mr. McConnell was out of town on business. Others present were: City Manager Majors, City Clerk Cairns, and City Attorney Bibeau.

Council canceled the regular meeting of December 27, 1976.

Glynis Van Doorne, Ron Reimer, and Tom Le Beau, students at Oakland Community College, presented a report regarding future bike trail planning in the City.

Ordinance No. 80 adopting the Farmington Hills City Code was unanimously enacted.

Cost Hearing date set for January 17, 1977 regarding street paving improvements in Fleming's Island Park and Builders Park Subdivision in Section 33.

Public Hearing date set for January 17, 1977 regarding the vacation of Liberty Street between Rockwell and Hamilton Street.

Agreement to pay \$181.13 to the Farmington Board of Education for sanitary sewer and related easements at Harrison High School unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Prepared by: FLOYD A. CAIRNS
City Clerk

Approved by: D. KEITH DEACON
Mayor

Published December 16, 1976

Tuck Road accidents decline

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tion of eastbound Grand River until the opening of the I-96 expressway in 1967. Because Grand River divided at its intersection with the expressway, the northern side of the highway was no longer accessible to eastbound traffic. At the time it was hoped that the eastbound spur would

save the existing business from going out of business.

The plan didn't work, according to Ed Hubbard, owner of Farmington Transmission on the northwest corner of Grand River and Tuck Road, only a 100 yards west of the end of the spur. Hubbard has been at this location for 13 years.

"This place was a gas station and there was a doctors office (near his location). The gas station went out of business directly with the coming of the expressway," he said.

Now the street services businesses which do not rely on off-the-street trade, the Grand River Driveline, Roger Peck Chevrolet, Farmington Transmission, and the Farmington Veterinary Clinic.

SO FAR, THE INCREASE in signs seems to have done the job. Since August, when the signs went in, there has been only two accidents at the guard rail.

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Students donate food for holiday

(Continued from Page 1A)

the fourth hour classes to award a pizza party to the group that gave the most gifts.

At last count, early Friday afternoon, the chemistry class was ahead of the 64th.

FROM A CLASS of 24 students, the drive received 336 cans of food.

"They collected the money in class and then went out and bought a whole shopping cart load of food," reported Jane Mather, chairwoman of the drive and student council member.

"This is the best turnout we've had since Farmington High started the drive about five years ago," she said.

Across town, Harrison High School students, under the direction of Dave Poelke, were doing their part in the drive to help the Goodfellow.

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers