

# Farmington Observer

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## New drinking law cautiously watched by cops and schools

Legislation raising the state's drinking age to 19 is receiving favorable, if cautious, reactions from school administrators, police and businessmen in the Farmington area.

Most are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the new legislation, which bans those who turn 18 after Dec. 3, 1978 from buying and consuming alcohol.

The last time the limit was changed, January 1972, the legal drinking age was lowered from 21 to 18.

Supporters of the new age limit hope it will ease the number of instances in which under-age students gather in parking lots to drink.

School administrators see the move as a positive action toward discouraging drinking in the high schools.

"There's been a problem with kids involved in liquor throughout the country and in the district," said Farmington School Supt. Lewis Schulman. "About half of our 12th graders reach 18 before they graduate. That doesn't mean that half of the 12th graders become involved in alcohol. Not at all," he said.

But the higher age limit should remove one temptation from the high

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—Lt. John Santamouro

school students' reach, according to Schulman.

ONE OF THE REASONS alcoholic beverages are more accessible to high school students is that 18-year-olds usually socialize with a younger crowd.

Nineteen-year-olds usually associate with persons who are out of school and into the work force, according to Farmington Police Lt. John Santamouro.

Younger students will have more difficulty in finding friends to purchase alcohol for them, with the advent of the higher drinking age, according to Santamouro.

Another bonus to enforcing the new regulations will be that high school

students who drink will be more obvious to police, according to Farmington Hills Police Capt. Russel Conway.

Enforcing the new law can be accomplished without added complications, according to police spokesmen.

The situation is the same as it was with checking the ages of persons who were 20 when the 21-year-old age limit was in effect, according to police.

"The only way to do it is to physically check identification," said Santamouro.

"The problem when you're enforcing the drinking laws in a class C liquor establishment is that any investigation

is based on what you visually see," he said.

Class C establishments include bars and restaurants that serve liquor.

"IN A BAR, when you're making a physical check, a 16 or 17-year-old sticks out like a sore thumb to the trained observer," Santamouro said.

One of the reasons that the younger drinker should be discouraged is that he probably is viewing alcohol in a different way than his older friends, according to Santamouro.

"Culturally, a 16-to-18-year-old is not in the adult world. High school culture is different than that of the working world," he said.

What is termed cute behavior in a 16-year-old is obnoxious in a 20-year-old.

"We assume that when you're older you become more sophisticated," he said.

Police spokesmen believe the age limit should have been kept at 21.

The argument that if an 18-year-old could be drafted then he should be allowed to drink is unconvincing to Santamouro.

"Induction into the service doesn't have anything to do with drinking," he said.

Changing the drinking age from 21 to 18 should have been avoided, according to Conway. Now, he says, legislators are bawling that limit around, trying to find a workable solution.

AT LEAST one area bar owner, Marty Burke of Dunleavy's Pub and Grub, Farmington, agrees with the action.

"I think it's wonderful," he said. "As a father of children from 29 down to 18, my greatest gripe has been that it's been too readily available in high school. During lunch any kid can get something to drink. The teachers have too big a problem with this."

Although he might lose a few dollars with the new law, he still dubs it an "excellent idea."

Policing the law in the bar will be a matter of asking for identification, such as a driver's license or a birth certificate, according to Burke.

Even if a customer is 26 years old, if the person looks young, he will be asked for identification.

## For school board seats

### Race draws 4 hopefuls

By LYNN ORR

There will be two winners and two losers in the Farmington school board election June 12—if all four candidates who met the filing deadline Monday stay in the race.

Howard Aldrich, 26, of 22935 Gill, Farmington, is the youngest candidate. He may also have to withdraw from the race today because of a last-minute change in career plans.

Aldrich must withdraw his petition by 4 p.m. today, to have his name removed from the ballot.

A graduate of Farmington schools, he is a bachelor who says he wants to get involved in the policy making of the school system. A Jaycee member for one year, Aldrich is currently vice chairman of the Farmington Historical Commission, of which he's been a member for four years.

Candidate Catherine Egypt, 29, of 34663 Lytle, Farmington Hills, is a four-year resident of the community who has one child in Farmington schools.

She currently works for the school system part-time as a substitute in the kitchens and says she is running for the board to attain some representation for her neighborhood.

"I live in the Farmington Village Cooperative, and we want someone to represent us," she says.

A TRACK and cross-country buff, Richard Jack Inch, 46, of 33140 Meadowlark, Farmington Hills, has four children in the Farmington school system ranging from a kindergarten to a Harrison High senior.

He recently served as a member of the School Organizational Structure Task Force, which studied alterna-

tives to the grade structures of Farmington schools. He teaches at Oakland Community College.

Janice Rolnick, 35, of 31042 Applewood, Farmington Hills, teaches nutrition classes part-time at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. She has two children in Farmington schools.

She chose candidacy in the election based on her interest in education and teaching background, she says. She and her family have lived in the community for one year.

Two seats for four-year terms will be vacant on the seven-member school board. Both Board President William Gravus and Trustee Anne Struble declined to run for a second term.

## Retirement age hike gives 5-year option

How employees look at mandatory retirement age often depends on the age of the employee.

Some workaholics who dread the approach of retirement at age 65 gleefully are awaiting Jimmy Carter's signature on a bill raising the minimum mandatory retirement age to 70 for most workers.

Younger workers who look to retirement as opening some space on the job ladder might just be hoping President Carter's pen runs out of ink.

The bill, if approved by Carter, will take effect Jan. 1, 1979, and includes exemptions for employees covered under existing labor contracts. University professors won't be affected by the bill until 1982.

But the average worker will most likely have the option to retire at age 70 in the years ahead. The bill doesn't up the retirement age; it merely allows retirement to be stalled until 70.

FOR EMPLOYEES of both Farmington and Farmington Hills, the bill will enforce common practice.

"We already have a provision in

which general employees can work with the city's permission until age 70," says Farmington City Mgr. Robert Deadman. He hasn't had a chance to take a good look at the bill, but isn't worried that it will alter city practices.

Farmington Hills employees also are allowed to work beyond 65 with permission of their supervisor and the city council, according to Helen Scott, personnel supervisor.

"We have two employees over the age of 65 now," she says. The city's charter stipulates retirement at 65 with provisions for older employees to attain permission to continue working. The city manager's office would initiate any changes in the retirement policies under the new law, she adds.

IN BUSINESS, it's sometimes a different story. Although the Jervis B. Webb Co. in Farmington Hills doesn't have a minimum mandatory retirement age, General Motors does—68 and out.

"We wish we knew" what the

(Continued on page 9A)



Michigan White Cane Queen of 1978, Laura Pappas, enjoys strumming ballads on the guitar, while her leader dog Flame enjoys listening to a few chords. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Laura Pappas is White Cane queen

By LYNN ORR

Music and motivation are the keys to Laura Pappas' personality.

They also may be the reasons the blind Farmington Hills resident was chosen Michigan White Cane Queen for 1978.

At 23, Ms. Pappas' accomplishments are dominated by her love of music and helping others. But she's hoping the most recent honor, bestowed by the Michigan Lions Club, will lead to the fulfillment of a current goal—a full-time job.

During White Cane Week, April 28 to May 6, she'll be appearing around the state to speak and perform. She's hoping a prospective employer will be in the audience at some point.

Last winter she received two degrees from Western Michigan University—a music education degree with K-12 certification in vocal music and a degree in music therapy, a relatively new field.

"We use music for working with alcoholics, the mentally retarded, psychiatric, and other situations," explains Ms. Pappas.

"But it's a new field, and few employers know much about it or they don't have the money."

TEACHING jobs are scarce as well, but Ms. Pappas isn't relying totally on her degree to remove her from the job-hunting market.

"I'm also looking for jobs in larger companies, perhaps as an information specialist or reading or singing commercials. Both involve lots of communication."

Like other recent college graduates, she gets the same reaction from possible employers. "They tell me I have too much education or not enough education or no experience."

"But I'm hoping somebody will take a chance and give me the opportunity to get some paid experience."

Despite federal laws prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped, being blind is still a problem, she admits ruefully.

And she has little interest in getting a job because of her handicap.

"I want something I can do as well as anyone else, if not better," she asserts. And the full-time job means living on her own. She now lives with her parents, Dora and Charles Pappas. Although she's lived on her own at school, she wants that chance to be completely independent, with her leader dog, Flame, accompanying her.

Flame is a Belgian Tervuren, rare in this country, but commonly used in Europe particularly because of their gentle nature with children.

Europeans use the dogs to babysit young children, Ms. Pappas explains. Flame should do well in the job area, since she loved teaching as much as Ms. Pappas did during a student teaching stint in Redford Township.

"And during therapy internship, Flame sometimes got people to talk when others couldn't," she adds.

Since Flame loves music, she's lucky to be around Ms. Pappas, who can play piano, guitar, trombone, clarinet, flute, oboe and percussion instruments, along with her vocal expertise, which she exercises as a member of the Nardin Park Methodist Church choir.

Ms. Pappas forgets to practice, she gets a nudge from Flame until she sits down at the piano or strums the guitar.

"Most dogs would howl in music classes, but I was the one who wanted to howl before the beginning instrument classes were over," Ms. Pappas says.

FLAME also accompanies her young master to Bethesda Lutheran Church in Detroit, where she teaches a Braille transcription class to sighted youngsters aged 3-12 who are transcribing books such as "Little Toot" into Braille.

While transportation is always a problem, Ms. Pappas hopes to live somewhere close to public transportation in the future.

"Or somewhere with sidewalks," she says. Since Farmington Hills added passing lanes on Middlebelt, she can't walk her dog anymore.

Leader dog school teaches you to walk in places without sidewalks, but drivers here just don't look at pedestrians."

The right-turn-on-red provision is another deterrent, which is why White Cane Week stresses motorists' attention to people with a leader dog or white cane.

But transportation is her problem, Ms. Pappas insists. And she doesn't expect any preferential treatment from employers for her handicap.

"I'm really anxious to get out there and start working."



## Contemplation

This sweet young lady, Leslie Kollin, is checking out her handwork. To see what her artistic endeavor involves, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

**inside**

**MANY CALLS FOR MANNELL**

Local businessman Mr. Mannel reported "many, many calls" in response to his ad for general office help that ran in his hometown newspaper. His is just one of the hundreds of area firms who use our classified section for finding qualified, capable help for their special needs.

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