

# Neighbors complain as owner explains about problems

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

Boot the rowdies out of the Boot-  
legger's Bar parking lot, two dozen resi-  
dents living near the business told the  
Farmington police chief and city council  
Tuesday night.

Bar owner Joseph Ascione, 43, of  
Livonia says he's hired six security to  
patrol inside and outside the bar on  
Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays —  
the bar's busiest nights. But Ascione  
says he can't be responsible for the be-  
havior of bar patrons once they leave  
the parking lot.

"How do you expect me to stop their  
children — because that's who they are  
— after they leave the bar?" Ascione  
asks.

Homeowners living on Brookdale  
and Powers streets presented city  
council with a petition signed by 80  
persons claiming that many problems  
are taking place in the bar's parking  
lot, contrary to what Ascione says.

The petition, circulated by Darlene  
Thompson of Brookdale Street, states  
"We understand this is a place of busi-

ness; however, we are entitled to peace  
and quiet after reasonable hours.

"The conditions that exist are use of  
drugs, consuming of alcoholic bever-  
ages in the parking lot, trespassing  
onto neighboring yards, loitering,  
shouting obscenities, loud music, cus-  
tomers urinating in the parking lot, fist  
fights, squealing wheels and honking of  
horns, use of firecrackers, illegal right  
hand turns out of the parking lot, pa-  
trons blocking driveways on Brookdale,  
excessive on-street parking and gar-  
bage dumpster left open."

ASCIONE DENIES the bar parking  
lot is the scene of drug use, loud music  
and reckless driving but admits some  
bar patrons may be disturbing neigh-  
bors as they're driving away.

"After they leave this parking lot I  
can't be legally or morally responsi-  
ble," Ascione says.

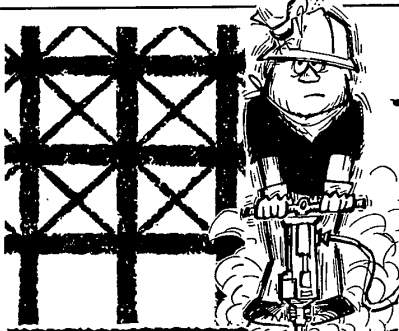
Residents say bar promotions such  
as the all-you-can-drink-for-\$5 policy  
on Tuesday nights may be causing  
problems such as fights, noise and  
rowdiness.

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RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

Joe Ascione has fought to maintain his restaurant's reputation despite complaints from neighbors. He said he believes the problems can be ironed out.



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