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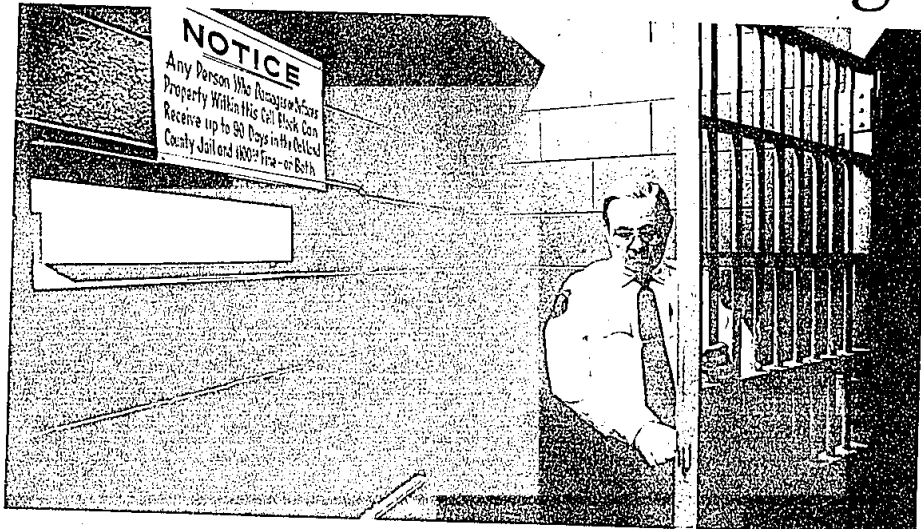
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Farmington, Michigan

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Twenty-five cents

Cops lock out idea of regulated lockup



By Tom Beer
staff writer

The state Department of Corrections would like to impose some strict new regulations on local police station lockups, and chiefs of police in Farmington and Farmington Hills don't like it one bit.

So Farmington Hills' John Nichols and Farmington's G. Robert Seifert have joined hundreds of Michigan chiefs of police to back a bill which would free local jails from state regulation.

Introduced by Rep. Justine Barnes, D-Westland, the bill also would bar public access to reports of "unusual incidents" such as suicides in county jails or lockups.

A lockup is defined by state law as a detention facility operated by a local government to hold people for up to 72 hours. It is usually the first stop after a person is arrested.

"Most of us consider these (lockups) to be living liability time bombs," said Farmington's Seifert. His department has two long narrow cells and another smaller one. All are monitored by a closed-circuit television.

"Most of us would like to be out of the detention business," Seifert said, "but realistically we can't get out. For one thing, we have to have a place to hold people while they're being processed. For another, there are times when you have to keep someone off the street for the protection of the public."

SOME OF the proposed new standards "go to real extremes," according to Seifert.

For example, he said, cells in the lockups would have to be a minimum of 150 square feet and have windows. A library and recreation facilities would have to be provided as would kitchens and personnel and equipment to conduct medical and psychological examinations.

Departments also would have to employ persons specifically assigned to watch the prisoners around the clock. This requirement alone would cost Farmington \$150,000 a year, Seifert said.

Farmington Hills' Nichols said he doesn't know how much it would cost his city to comply.

"There's no way of knowing," he said. "We'd have to establish a whole new level of employee. If you had one on duty, it'd mean you'd have to hire five people (for an around-the-clock watch) I'd be five times whatever the salary is."

Farmington Hills lacks the facilities, manpower and budget "to do what should be done at the county or regional level," Nichols said.

Like Farmington, the Hills has a two-cell lockup with prisoner activity monitored. "We've remedied our jail to conform to state criteria and all the existing rules," Nichols said.

BOTH LOCAL chiefs said people are seldom held more than a few hours in the lockups.

"We've housed up to 10 prisoners for short periods of time," Nichols said. "But this is a temporary facility. Most of our prisoners are in today and out tomorrow."

Added Seifert, "They (the state) basically failed to recognize the difference between temporary and long-term facilities. We hold nobody we can release on any kind of a bond."

Asked why the state was trying to regulate the local lockups, Nichols said, "Maybe they feel that they're the guardians of the welfare of the prisoners, no matter whose jurisdiction they're in."

"I think they're many of us who feel that the state should not have this kind of jurisdiction over temporary facilities — and that's just what they are."

The state's efforts at regulation may stem from a series of suicides by hanging two years ago in jails at Michigan State University and in Ann Arbor and Troy, some police officials believe.

Suits were filed in each case, and the Department of Corrections appeared as advocates for the plaintiff in each case.

The Ann Arbor case was appealed to the Michigan Court of Appeals, which ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The decision said that authority granted to the Department of Corrections to regulate penal institutions shall extend to local jails as well.

THE DEPARTMENT of Corrections inspects local lockups, "but usually only after an incident," Seifert said. The bill, which had not been reported out of committee as of last Friday, is being pushed by the 800-member Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Cost is the main reason the association supports the bill.

"It's just going to hamper us and force us to modify our buildings," Nichols said.

Seifert said that total compliance would cost the city of Farmington at least \$800,000 for the first year and \$240,000 a year every year thereafter.

Farmington's City Council will propose a resolution to support the bill at its meeting tonight.

Lauded by Chamber

Harold Gibson named top citizen

Harold Gibson, one of the areas most noted volunteers, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

More than 150 persons gathered at Botsford Inn Thursday evening to honor Gibson, who is noted for his work with the Farmington Community Center and his intense interest in travel and aiding youth.

"As president of the board during extremely difficult economic times, his leadership provided the stability needed," said the nominating petition submitted by Community Center personnel.

He served as president from 1980 to 1982, when the center was edging toward the brink of failure.

"He dealt with a multitude of problems and no task was too menial. He gave assistance whenever and wherever needed, including patrolling, yard work and even directing car parking."

Now he is chairman of the Community Center Men's Club, a group of primarily professional, retired men who meet monthly for lunch and to listen to speakers.

Besides presenting foreign travel slide presentations at the center, Gib-

son presents his travelogue on China and East Africa to students at Farmington Hills School.

GIBSON ACCEPTED his honor modestly by limiting his remarks to a brief thank you after being introduced by Russ Tuttle, chamber officer in charge of the Citizen of the Year selection committee.

The former manager at Detroit Research Labs also is a member of the Farmington Hills Energy Commission and is active in the Vancian program, which aids homeowners in reducing heating and cooling bills.

An interest in travel has led him and his wife, Frances, to hosting foreign students in their home. In the first nine months of 1983, the couple has entertained 13 students from Japan, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, Germany, Tanzania, Denmark, Yemen, China and Austria.

Since 1976, Gibson has been a volunteer counselor for various schools in the Detroit area.

For more than a decade he has been involved with the Detroit Science and Engineering fair and presently is the fair's executive director.



Harold Gibson accepts the plaudits of his colleagues at the Farmington Community Center and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Franklin would rather switch to Hills

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Farmington Hills police will take over the dispatching services for Franklin Village police within the next few weeks, ending an eight-year agreement between Birmingham and Franklin.

Farmington Hills will be providing more services to Franklin and at less cost than Birmingham has been doing, according to village officials.

Franklin police chief Edward Glomb said Friday the primary reason for switching to Farmington Hills is convenience. "Farmington Hills is on our western border and Birmingham is so far away."

"It's no reflection on the service that Birmingham has been providing. That service has been excellent."

Birmingham police chief Edward Ostin said Friday that Birmingham has as yet heard nothing official from Franklin concerning the dispatching services.

But Farmington Hills City Council last week voted unanimously to approve a tentative \$1,000 a month contract between the village and the city for dispatch services. Mayor Fred Hughes, and council members Jodi Soronen and William Lange were absent.

In approving the contract, the city council gave its nod to a hold harmless agreement with Franklin Village. Under the agreement, Farmington Hills will be hold harmless "from any costs

and/or liabilities incurred by reason of any acts of negligence, gross negligence . . . on the part of Village of Franklin . . ." The agreement also states Farmington Hills will be included under the village's general liability insurance for not less than \$5 million. Franklin's withdrawal from the agreement with Birmingham will mean a \$1,315 monthly loss of anticipated income for Birmingham. The fiscal 1983-84 annual cost to Franklin is budgeted at \$15,780, up from \$13,992 in 1982-83.

BIRMINGHAM made budget cuts for economic reasons this year which included layoffs in the police and fire departments.

Birmingham finance director James Purkiss said Friday he had heard nothing about Franklin's planned pull-out.

"It's hard to say what the loss of \$15,780 means," said Purkiss. "It's a small amount compared to the total budget. Yet it is a significant loss. We'll just have to do without it if it isn't there," he said.

But while Birmingham will lose money, Franklin will benefit.

Settlement is outlined

When the fact-finder's report was issued in the contract dispute between the Walled Lake school board and teachers, it was said there would be "bitter pills for both sides to swallow."

A tentative three-year agreement, reached Oct. 10, has a different pill for everybody. Walled Lake Education Association negotiator Karen Pilar said.

Provisions of the contract, which is expected to be ratified early this week, are as follows:

- SALARY: Wage freeze with no increments in 1983-84. Wage freeze with increments in 1984-85. An 8 percent increase in 1985-86.
- INSURANCE: No change in insurance coverage for two school years. The board will institute a cap on health insurance costs in July 1986, assessing to teachers any increase in premium costs over 10 percent.

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Audits offered to business

With the prospect of cold weather and high energy expenditures again upon us, Farmington Hills business people will have another opportunity to take advantage of an energy analysis program.

The voluntary program offered through the Michigan Energy Administration and the city of Farmington Hills provides small businesses, with 50 employees or less, a free energy audit of their facility. Focus is on no cost and low cost operation and maintenance,

changes easily accomplished by the commercial or industrial establishment.

All businesses interested should contact the city of Farmington Hills, Department of Special Services, at 474-6115, Ext. 277.

Energy analyses are conducted by locally recruited and state-trained auditors knowledgeable about energy and building construction operation and maintenance. The city of Farmington Hills currently has four energy aud-

itors available for conducting each analysis.

By appointment, an auditor will visit each business, review energy expenses for the past 12 months and evaluate the building for energy efficiency. The auditor will conclude the analysis with a written follow-up report submitted to the business owner outlining areas for potential savings. The auditor's recommendations are advisory.

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