

Farmington Observer

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Help program questioned by parents

By Tom Beer
staff writer

Eyes and Ears — a plan to enlist utility and postal workers and their vehicles in the war on crime — may be tried in the Farmington area, according to police officials.

But some parents have misgivings about the program — especially as it applies to children.

A recent letter from the Farmington Hills Police Department to Farmington District school principals said:

"The program is aimed at providing emergency service to our young people, and is supported by the utility companies, the Farmington Hills Post Office, and by the Farmington Hills Department of Public Services employees.

"Vehicles involved in the program will be marked with the 'Eyes and Ears' logo (except postal vehicles). This logo will alert the public, especially young people en route to and from school, that the vehicle is an emergency reporting station and the employee operating the vehicle is trained to request emergency assistance.

"Area students will be advised to detect the vehicles in case of emergency. 'Eyes and Ears' will specifically focus on reporting suspicious persons and situations that appear to be related to sexual assaults, abductions and rapes."

The utility employees have been asked to contact police on their two-way radios or by telephone if they see a crime or suspicious circumstances, the letter said.

The letter, signed by Officer Dennis Brills of the Hills Crime Prevention Unit, continued:

"The employee may provide temporary refuge to a young person in an emergency situation until help arrives. The vehicle is not a police station, ambulance or taxi service, but a temporary refuge."

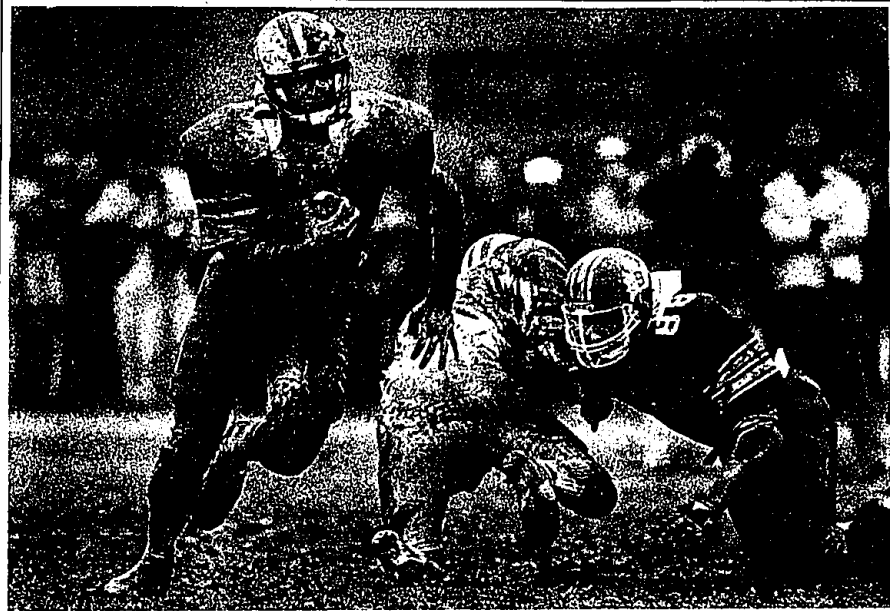
THE EYES and EARS program would be explained in the schools, Brills added in the letter, and school principals were asked to help "in disseminating information."

But some parents already have expressed concerns about Eyes and Ears. Specifically, they say they are worried about to whom their children will be running in case of an emergency.

"Apparently, none of these employees have been screened for criminal records," said Jim Foster, a Farmington Hills resident and president of the Larkshire Elementary Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

"Even if they are checked, I'm sure they have relief people. Who knows who might be driving the truck with that logo on it?"

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On the right track

Farmington Harrison senior running back John Miller and his Hawk teammates stayed on course for the Class A state championship Saturday with a 17-9 victory over Birmingham Seaholm in the first round of the playoffs. Miller rushed for 124 yards in the game played on a muddy field at Southfield-Lathup. The Hawks

(10-0) advance to the semifinals Saturday at Pontiac Waner Stadium against Dearborn Fordson, the school Harrison defeated in 1983 for the Class A championship. More photographs and game stories appear on page 5B.

GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

It's Councilman Sever — this week, anyway

Recount is demanded by Marks

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Defeated in the Farmington Hills council race by only 25 votes, Ben Marks must wait at least two weeks for a recount.

Marks filed a request for a recount with the city clerk's office last Wednesday morning. The Oakland County Board of Canvassers will conduct the recount, said City Clerk Floyd Cairns.

Picking up 13 votes would bump Sever out of the victory seat, Marks said. "I owe it to myself and to the people who worked for me" to ask for the recount he said Friday.

Marks requested a recount of the 15 precincts in which he lost to Terry Sever. That includes Precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, 21 and 24. The former planning commissioner also asked for a recount of absentee

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RANDY BOSTER/staff photographer

Councilman Terry Sever gained his official title last Friday at 11 a.m. as Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns, left, swore in the freshmen

legislator. With Sever are his wife, Linda, and his children, Aaron, in Sever's arms; Melissa, standing in front of Sever; and Jennifer.

Northern precincts aid victor's march

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Although he won a Farmington Hills council seat by only 25 votes, Terry Sever captured more than half of the city's 24 precincts.

Sever's domination of 15 precincts represented a turn-around from his position in the August primary, when he won in only nine of the precincts. Opponent Ben Marks took 15.

Trading places with Sever's primary election position, Marks last week won in only nine precincts.

In the unofficial vote tally, Sever received 50.1 percent (11,005) of the almost 22,000 votes cast in the local election. Marks received 49.9 percent (10,989) of the total.

Marks LAST week requested a recount of the 15 precincts he lost. How the recount will be handled is undecided. Marks has requested the recount be done on Oakland County computers.

How the recount is done will be determined by county officials who monitor it. In the last Farmington Hills election recount, officials counted the

ballots by hand, City Clerk Floyd Cairns said.

Although Marks won in only nine precincts, he did so with overwhelming margins in three. In Precinct 16, Marks defeated Sever by 258 votes. In Precinct 8, he won by 245 votes. In Precinct 19, he won by 222 votes.

Although Sever won 15 precincts, he did not defeat Marks by such great margins. His greatest vote differential came in Precinct 2 where he outdistanced Marks by 187 votes.

IN ADDITION to winning a majority of the precincts, Sever defeated Marks in some northern precincts that had been primary election strongholds for Marks.

Sever took Precincts 20, 10 and 11 in the precincts north of 12 Mile Road, which Marks had won in the primary. If Marks had managed to hold on to just one of these three precincts, he would have won a council seat.

South of 11 Mile Road, Sever won Precincts 1, 14, 9 and 8, also former Marks strongholds.

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Prop C fans defeat local plan, too

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Two Farmington Hills precincts which cast the most votes against the city's request for additional millage were also among the seven precincts which supported passage of the now-defunct Proposal C or "Voter's Choice" amendment to the state constitution.

Proposal C would have rolled back tax levels to 1981 rates and required taxpayer approval of future increases. All of the city's 24 precincts turned down a requested charter amendment to levy a 1.5-mill tax for capital improvements.

All precincts vetoed it

The greatest opposition to the local amendment was in Precinct 4 where 69.5 percent of the voters cast no vote. Precinct 21 followed with 68.4 percent of the voters opposed.

MORE THAN 60 percent (16,663) of the approximately 27,000 voters cast were against the proposed amendment. Only 38 percent (10,554) approved.

Proposal C failed by a slight margin in Farmington Hills with 14,347 in fa-

vor and 14,771 against. Proposal C found overwhelming support in seven of the city's precincts — Precincts 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15, and 21.

The proposed local amendment found greatest favor in Precinct 16 where 47.4 percent of the voters were in favor. This was the same precinct where opposition to C was highest — 65.6-percent against.

PRECINCT 23 followed with 68.7 percent of the vote against C. In this

precinct, 67.4 percent of the voters defeated the local charter amendment.

Absentee voters joined the seven precincts in supporting passage of Proposal C. The absentee ballots — mostly senior citizens — are distributed between three additional precincts (25, 26 and 27).

In each of the three absentee ballot precincts, voters cast more than 50 percent of their vote in favor of C.

Absentee-ballot voters also turned down the local proposal. In each of the three precincts, voters cast more than 61 percent of the vote in opposition.

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