

Rochester joins move against party drinking

By Wayne Peel
staff writer

A new law aimed at curtailing teen drinking won preliminary approval from the Rochester Hills City Council Wednesday night.

But the ordinance under consideration differs from one being considered

in neighboring Rochester. Rochester's proposed ordinance, similar to one already on the books in Farmington Hills, allows criminal prosecution of adults age 17 or older if minors drink alcoholic beverages or consume illegal drugs at house parties in residences under their control.

While adults who supply the sub-

stances would be prosecuted under other statutes, the new law would mete out punishment for adults who knew or should have known the substances were being consumed and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent their consumption.

In Rochester Hills, the age of responsibility has been lowered to 18.

The wording is also slightly different. Adults would be restricted from inviting minors to drink or consume illegal drugs or from allowing unauthorized drinking or drug-taking to continue.

THOUGH THEY are expected to formally adopt the ordinance Wednesday,

July 24, Rochester Hills council members are still concerned about enforcement procedures.

Councilman Kenneth Snell questions whether it would only be enforced if police received a call about other activities at the residence.

"I'm not prepared to say that just driving by and seeing something happen would give them (police) authority," City Attorney Lawrence Terman said.

Concerns also linger about liability. "What if I'm in the bedroom and somebody sneaks a bottle in. Does that make me responsible?" Councilman Gerald Carvey asked.

"I guess I still have some reservations. It means we're trying to remove the burden from the individual and place it upon some other party."

"When I was young, if youngsters were caught with open intoxicants, they themselves were hauled off to jail."

COUNCIL MEMBERS placed the ordinance on first reading, prior to adoption but will discuss its ramifications with Oakland County Sheriff's Department representatives before formal adoption.

"The position of the sheriff's department is that if we adopt the ordinance, they will enforce it," Mayor Earl Borden said. "They're not urging it, they're not opposing it."

Local members of Families in Action, an anti-substance abuse group, said they were pleased with the ordinance, despite council member's reservations.

"I'm pleased with it. I'm pleased they said 'house parties' instead of 'open house parties.' It could make a difference with invitation-only parties," Rochester Hills resident Hope Sadowski said. "I'm impressed by the fact that it's 16 years of age — that's great."

She earlier said the ordinance would "not be a solution, but it would certainly be a start. It would make parents think twice before leaving home and leaving a child in charge. It would make them aware of the repercussions."

THE ORDINANCE should bring parents out of their bedrooms and into direct supervision over their children's parties, Sadowski added.

Offenders would be subject to a maximum \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail.

In the past, group members said, courts have been too lenient to offenders convicted of using drugs, drinking or trespassing.

In a previous appearance before council members, sheriff's Detective Sgt. Gerard Carlin said the new law could prove easier to enforce than existing statutes.

cable connection

COMMUNITY ACCESS-
PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE
Monday, July 22

- Noon — Duel of Knowledge. Farmington vs. Harrison.
- 12:30 p.m. — Artist in You. Painting without a brush.
- 1 p.m. — Senior Adult Band.
- 1:30 p.m. — Sports in Motion.
- 2 p.m. — Michigan Ballet Theatre Presents six ballets.
- 3 p.m. — Novi Community Education Presents, That's Dancing.

- 6 p.m. — Duel of Knowledge. Farmington vs. Harrison.
- 6:30 p.m. — Artist in You. Painting without a brush.
- 7 p.m. — Farmington Hills Parks & Recreation after school jazz ballet.
- 7:30 p.m. — Spicer Property Public Hearing.
- 8:30 p.m. — Sports in Motion.
- 9 p.m. — Novi Community Education Presents That's Dancing.

Tuesday, July 23

- Noon — Church of Today.

- 1 p.m. — Heaven Sent Productions presents Adventures in Prayer. (for children).
- 1:30 p.m. — White Face. Mime show.
- 2 p.m. — Insight Goes to the Founder's Festival.
- 2:30 p.m. — Fitness Fever.
- 3 p.m. — The Governor's Report.
- 6 p.m. — Church of Today.
- 7 p.m. — Heaven Sent Productions presents Adventures in Prayer. (for children).
- 7:30 p.m. — White Face. Mime show.
- 8 p.m. — Insight Goes to the Founder's Festival.
- 8:30 p.m. — Fitness Fever.
- 9 p.m. — The Governor's Report.

Wednesday, July 24

- Noon — Health Talks.
- 12:30 p.m. — Money Matters.
- 1 p.m. — Keeping in Touch.
- 1:30 p.m. — First Alert. Farmington Hills Fire Department.
- 1:45 p.m. — Senior Adult Band.
- 2 p.m. — "All About Aviation" — Yankee Air Force Memorial Day.
- 2:30 p.m. — Whiteface. Mime show.
- 3 p.m. — Soundtrax. Live local band in video.
- 6 p.m. — Health Talks.
- 6:30 p.m. — Money Matters.

- 7 p.m. — Keeping in Touch.
- 7:30 p.m. — First Alert. Farmington Hills Fire Department.
- 7:45 p.m. — Senior Adult Band.
- 8 p.m. — "All About Aviation" — Yankee Air Force Memorial Day.
- 8:30 p.m. — Whiteface. Mime show.
- 9 p.m. — Soundtrax. Live local band in video.

Thursday, July 25

- Noon — Community Upeat.
- 12:30 p.m. — Oakland County Parks & Recreation Waterford Oaks Sports Game Complex.
- 1 p.m. — Getting acquainted. Farmington Community Center.
- 1:30 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 2 p.m. — Insight.
- 2:30 p.m. — Bubbly's Over with Laura.
- 3 p.m. — Life Style.
- 3:30 p.m. — Summer Fun for Kids with Chuck Waterhouse.
- 5 p.m. — Community Upeat.
- 6:30 p.m. — Oakland County Parks & Recreation Waterford Oaks Sports Game Complex.
- 7 p.m. — Viewpoint. City of Farmington Hills Mayor Jan Dolan and City Manager William Costick.
- 7:30 p.m. — Shores of Your Mind.
- 8 p.m. — Insight.
- 8:30 p.m. — Bubbly's Over with Laura.

Businessman killed in auto accident

Funeral services were conducted Saturday for a Troy man who died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident earlier last week on Square Lake Road west of Coolidge Road.

John Harold Beaver, 40, died Thursday in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. He was a systems marketing manager for Texas Instruments in Farmington Hills.

Troy police reported that Mr. Beaver lost control of his car, a 1976 Corvette, after passing another car at a high rate of speed westbound on Square Lake Road.

Mr. Beaver drove off the road and struck a clump of trees. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt, police said.

He is survived by wife Celeste M.; daughters Theresa M. and Gina B.; mother Elizabeth R. Beaver, of San City Ariz.; brothers William of Livonia; Charles of Burlington, Ky.; and George of Des Moines, Iowa; and a sister, Mary Jane Flanagan of Peoria, Ariz.

Services were conducted at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and the Price Funeral Home. Burial was in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

Memorials be sent to the Leader Dogs for the Blind School in Rochester.

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