

# Crackdown on liquor sales unleashed

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school students in our community consume alcoholic beverages on the weekends," Dwyer said.

Student complaints about use of alcohol among fellow classmates drew Dwyer's criticism of Farmington Public Schools officials.

"I don't think they are acknowledging the problem as they should," he said, referring to alleged alcohol and drug abuse problems among high school students.

"The schools better face it. I think it's time someone spoke out, when you can go into an establishment and see that 75 percent are being sold. I'm a firm believer in education as well as enforcement. The police don't have the day-to-day contact that parents and educators have."

School Board President Helen Prutow disagreed with Dwyer's assessment of school officials' awareness of the problem.

"I don't think we have ignored it all. We just aren't making a big splash about it — this is what we are doing," Prutow said. "We're doing what we can. It's hard to know what more we can do."

"We do have substance abuse awareness going on in various classes," she continued. "We are making kids aware. I just don't know what more we can do."

**THE SCHOOL** district works co-

operatively with area substance control and awareness groups such as Farmington Families in Action, Farmington Youth Assistance and Farmington Area Advisory Council.

"I think we can change things around (regarding alleged alcohol and drug abuse) with the cooperation of the schools, parents and the police," Prutow said.

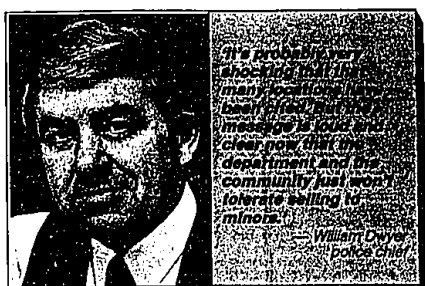
As with the June effort, a two-pronged enforcement process was used in the latest enforcement crackdown. In addition to notifying the Michigan Liquor Control Commission of alleged liquor violations, police cited establishments for allegedly violating city ordinance, which prohibits the sale of liquor to minors.

City ordinance violation is a simple misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine upon conviction, Dwyer said.

When a report charging an establishment with liquor law violation is submitted to the MLCC, it is drafted into a formal complaint, said Verna Foote, MLCC hearings and appeals supervisor.

The MLCC notifies licensees they have been cited and have 20 days to sign a waiver — admitting guilt.

LICENSEES who do not sign the waiver are scheduled for a hearing before a MLCC hearing officer. Generally, alleged violators wait three



to six months for a hearing, Foote said.

If a licensee is determined to be guilty of a violation, the penalty is generally based on the individual case. The maximum penalty levied upon conviction, however, is a \$300 fine and license suspension (temporary) or license revocation or transfer.

"If they order a revocation, it is because of their past record of violations," Foote said. "But an establishment can appeal a revocation."

Despite the high number of establishments cited following the late October/early November operation, Dwyer said he doesn't believe all are knowingly violating the law. About half of the merchants are simply lax in their responsibilities, particularly in ensuring that employees are checking consumers' identification.

Because liquor licensees can lose their licenses, store and restaurant employers should ensure that their

employees know liquor laws and know identification is an important ingredient in compliance, Dwyer said.

**THE LATEST** crackdown is the second of many planned enforcement efforts for getting tough with alcohol use by minors and the selling of it to those younger than 21. The purpose of the crackdown was simply to identify establishments where minors can purchase alcoholic beverages, Dwyer said.

The first enforcement effort in June, "Operation Party Blitz," was a 10-day task force operation targeted for the high-school graduation season. This effort was strictly observation by police officers who talked with minors as they left establishments and determined whether they had been sold alcoholic beverages and whether they had been asked to present identification.

"We didn't continue that because it's not cost effective," Dwyer said, adding such a method was time consuming.

In the latest effort, police used the department's recently hired cadets, who are under 21, as "decoys," Dwyer said.

The undercover operation was conducted so a cadet "enters a licensed liquor establishment and attempts to purchase an alcoholic beverage while under the surveillance of police officers," Dwyer said.

**THE CADETS** violated each of the city's 67 licensed businesses. "We felt we didn't want to have anyone think we are ignoring any particular location," Dwyer said. "So we went to each location and went to each one once."

Some merchants whose businesses were cited by police have complained that using cadets as "decoys" is entrapment. But Dwyer disagreed.

"It's an accepted practice, not only by the courts but by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. A cadet is an employee and at no time do they consume any alcohol," Dwyer said.

The cadet is not doing anything illegal because it is not illegal to attempt to buy alcoholic beverages. State law prohibits minors from being in possession of alcoholic beverages and minors, as establishment employees, from selling alcoholic beverages, Dwyer said.

**THOUGH** the June effort was a multifaceted attack — minors in possession, use of fraudulent identification, drunk driving — the latest effort involved alleged sale to minors, Dwyer said.

"I am really pleased with the results. I think we are going to see a turn around in this city as far as selling to minors," Dwyer said.

# Majority of liquor-licensed businesses cited

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer expects residents to be shocked by the number of liquor-licensed businesses cited for allegedly selling alcohol to minors.

"Unfortunately, there has not been the enforcement efforts made in the past — and I'm not criticizing anyone," Dwyer said.

In addition to two major enforcement efforts this year — "Operation Party Blitz" in June and the recent "Operation Liquor Enforcement" — police have been successful in continued enforcement of the host liability ordinance and beefed-up efforts in alcohol-related traffic incidents, Dwyer said.

In 1985, the host liability ordinance was enforced five times. All of these cases have reached final court disposition; the ordinance has yet to be challenged by a judge or jury, Dwyer said.

In 1986, police applied the host liability ordinance twice — in April and early November.

"The lack of necessity to enforce this ordinance as frequently during 1986 may tend to lend credibility to it being a deterrent," Dwyer said.

**CONTINUING** its efforts in alcohol-related traffic incidents, 1986 shows a much greater increase in alcohol-related arrests than in 1985. This year, through Oct. 31, police have made 258 operating under the influence of liquor arrests compared to 236 in 1985.

The number of traffic accidents involving alcohol has decreased in 1986. In 1984, for example, one of every five accidents were alcohol-related compared to one of every 27 in 1986, Dwyer said.

This year's two major crackdowns on liquor law violations show that not only the police but the community as well no longer intend to tolerate alcohol abuse or disregard for liquor laws, he said.

As a result of the undercover investigation, employees and licensees of these establishments cited were ticketed. Employees were charged with furnishing alcohol to minors

and licensees with the sale of alcohol to minors or the sale of alcohol by a person under 18 years of age.

**THE 49** licensed liquor establishments cited by police include: Perry Drugs, 33330 12 Mile; 7-Eleven, 22323 Middlebelt; Andy's Country Market, 22395 Middlebelt; Great Scott, 25780 Middlebelt; Revco Discount Drug Center, 25870 Middlebelt; BJ's Party Store, 28728 Grand River; Steak and Ale, 28790 Grand River; and McFrocks, 27820 Orchard Lake.

Other establishments cited include: Bosco's Wine Liquor & Deli, 27843 Orchard Lake; Dennison's Seafood Tavern, 27909 Orchard Lake; Farmington Party Store, 28450 10 Mile; 7-Eleven, 23375 10 Mile; J.W.'s Saloon, 31425 12 Mile; O'Sheehan's Tavern, 35450 Grand River; Boltsford Inn, 28000 Grand River; Chuck Muer's Diggers, 30555 Grand River; Moun-

tain Jack's, 24275 Sinclair Court; Jonna's Wine Shop, 24225 Halsted. Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, 24519 10 Mile; Drake's Lanes, 35000 Grand River; Country Lanes, 30250 Nine Mile; G&J Party Store, 30444 Eight Mile; Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, 38441 Grand River; Meadows Party Store, 21099 Farmington; Mid-Nine Market, 22200 Middlebelt; Smith Rexall Drugs, 27702 Eight Mile; Tom's Party Store, 20925 Inkster; Elros Muirwood Drugs, 35584 Grand River; Arbor Drugs, 29321 Orchard Lake; K mart, 30800 Orchard Lake; Max & Erma's, 31205 Orchard Lake; Warren Prescriptions, 32910 Middlebelt; J.R.'s Bar and Grill, 30859 10 Mile; Pizza Hut, 38300 10 Mile; Casa Armando's, 29200 Orchard Lake; Ground Round, 30005 Orchard Lake; New Mandarin Garden, 31539 13 Mile; Wing Hong, 31455 Orchard Lake; Buddy's Pizzeria, 31846 Northwestern Highway; Mike &

Tom's Pub, 31650 Eight Mile; Towne Square Pub, 27405 Eight Mile; Blakeney's Ranch House, 26333 Grand River; Brasserie Food & Spirits, 24234 Orchard Lake; Pizza Hut, 31200 10 Mile.

Five of six establishments cited in the police department's June "Operation Party Blitz" also were cited in the recent enforcement effort. They are Five Brothers Party Store, 29010 Eight Mile; Quik-Pik, 29405 12 Mile; Vineyards Wine Cellar, 32418 Northwestern Highway; Wine Tasters Party Shoppe, 30340 Nine Mile; and Last Stop Party Shop, 29154 Grand River.

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