

Boy who was waiting finds his home, 1B



Football review, 1D

Goodfellows seek community's help, 2A

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IT'S an eye-opener," said Farmington Hills Police Department firearms training officer Ray Marchowitz. "Shooting a gun with accuracy is more involved than most people think."

Farmington Hills Building Authority members Jerome Neyer, Vincent Valvona and Leon Kohls, city finance director Charles Rosch and Mayor Ben Marks spent Saturday morning trying their hands at firearms training on the police facility's indoor range. Each received a one-hour orientation before taking target practice.

"It was more educational than fun," Marks said, who hadn't fired a gun for 43 years, since he was in the Army during World War II. "The key is knowing what you're doing and knowing what your weapon can do."

HOURS expanded. The Farmington and Farmington Hills post offices will have expanded window service hours during the holiday period.

On Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, service will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Monday, Dec. 7 and 14, it will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Nicholas Abid Sr., a 30-year Farmington Public Schools employee who held principalships at three elementary schools, died Nov. 25, 1986, at age 60.

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Joint pursuit

Police probe links in assaults

By Bob Sklar staff writer

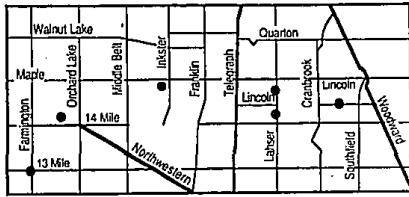
'We're fairly certain, if not 100 percent, it's the same man.'
— Chief William Dwyer Farmington Hills

The man who raped and robbed two women in a house in northwest Farmington Hills Thanksgiving night may be responsible for at least six other rapes or attempted rapes in West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham since April. "We're fairly certain, if not 100 percent certain, it's the same man," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.

Bloomfield Township Lt. Jeffrey Werner agreed that the rapes were similar enough for police "to say it's a possibility" the same man may have committed them. The common link appears to be the rapist's physical description and method of attack. "They were very similar," Dwyer said. In most cases, the attacker wore a ski mask and wielded a knife. Each incident occurred at a residence.

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Range of incidents



Certain rapes or attempted rapes in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham since April are similar enough to lead police to conjecture that the same man may have committed them. Dots indicate approximate locations of the incidents.

DDA opposes parking limits eyed by group

By Casey Hans staff writer

Members of Farmington's Downtown Development Authority will continue reviewing options to alleviate downtown traffic congestion but say they definitely want no change in parking. And they want no negative impact on the city's downtown business community, or interference in the group's development plans, members also agreed Tuesday.

"My feeling is we should discourage the elimination of parking," said DDA member Frank Clappison. "It's contrary to what we're trying to accomplish. We should recognize there's a problem but rely on a professional traffic study before we make any recommendations."

"I don't think we have the expertise . . . to deal with it." Members of the council-appointed authority discussed an eight-point traffic change plan Tuesday, formulated by the Old Village Association, a downtown homeowners group representing residents of the city's historic district. The plan addresses changes in traffic control, signage, parking and other suggestions that will be brought before the Farmington City Council Monday, at the association's request.

THE DDA board voted to "oppose any proposal that will adversely affect current parking conditions." It chose to not take a stand on the remainder of the group's suggestions.

'We should recognize there's a problem, but rely on a professional traffic study before we make any recommendations.'
— Frank Clappison DDA board member

until further information is provided by the city. Members John Donohue and Larry Lenchner were absent for the vote.

"I'm definitely opposed to a reduction of parking in the downtown area," said DDA member Greg Hohler. "It immobilizes the entire downtown section. It would be detrimental to our long-range goals in the downtown area."

THE EIGHT recommendations, as proposed by the Old Village Association, include:

- Controlling traffic along Grand River by reducing speeds to 35 mph from Drake to Gill and 25 mph from Gill to Power, adding traffic signals at Grove and Liberty streets.
- Prohibiting parking along the

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Road widening forum's theme

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

Farmington Hills officials are prepared for a Michigan Department of Transportation public hearing next week on proposed 1-696 improvements.

The city council Monday adopted a resolution that will be taken to the hearing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, in city council chambers, 31555 11 Mile.

Before the public hearing, MDOT will provide a question and answer period 3:30-5:30 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

The resolution expresses city officials' support of the proposed \$34 million improvements on Interstate 696 and requests some accompanying amenities and improvements.

A description of the project and Please turn to Page 13

He revisits homeland

Freedom not easily achieved: emigrant

By Bob Sklar staff writer

SOVIET JEW Misha Vasserman, a Farmington Hills resident who works for a Birmingham Farms computer firm, has mixed feelings about next week's four-day summit between President Reagan and Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"We should demand from the Russian government freedom for everybody, not just Jewish people," said Vasserman, 42, who revisited his homeland of Leningrad for 20 days in September, nine years after emigrating to the United States at the KGB's urging.

"Real freedom," he said, "is not when people are free to leave a country, but when they are free to go and then come back."

A national march for Soviet Jews dubbed "Let Our People Go!" is planned for Sunday in Washington, D.C., on the eve of the historic summit.

Thousands of Jews and non-Jews of all ages are expected to take part in the march to keep the issues of human rights and the right to emigrate high on the summit agenda.

Vasserman shies from calling himself a dissident in the mold of Natan Sharansky, the freed Soviet dissident and former prisoner of conscience now living in Israel. Sharansky visited Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills Nov. 22 to promote the Washington freedom march.

"Just call me a normal man who likes to be free to read what I want, fly wherever I want," he said.

VASSERMAN, THEN a data processing project leader for an electronics company in Leningrad, left his homeland after the KGB received a letter about his outspokenness against Soviet repression of human rights.

Vasserman spoke out against anti-Semitism, censored books, one-sided newspapers and lack of a true constitution. "I had to borrow what I wanted to read from dissidents, the constitution was not real, and there were only communist newspapers," he said.



The Vassermans, Misha (rear left), Alex (rear right), Lana (middle) and Luba.

'Real freedom is not when people are free to leave a country, but when they are free to go and then come back.'
— Misha Vasserman Farmington Hills

the family lived in Southfield. Vasserman sees the Reagan-Gorbachev summit as a natural byproduct of glasnost, the new spirit of openness in the Soviet Union.

But before we trust Gorbachev, Vasserman said, "he should build an American kind of democracy in his own government. If he and Reagan sign some documents next week, the Soviet Union is still a communist country. Some people could kick him out. What they signed wouldn't work."

BUT VASSERMAN acknowledges that the USSR is "still a long way from becoming a real democracy."

Glasnost is a big reason why he received a tourist visa from the Soviet Embassy in Washington five years after he sought one, Vasserman said. He wanted to see his older sister, Ann, who was sick, but she died last year. His mother still lives in Leningrad.

Vasserman's return to Leningrad was an eye-opener. The big Daughter Lana, 6, was born while

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Wibby leaving board

By Joanne Maliszewski staff writer

As he approaches his last meeting as a member of the Farmington Community Library, Jim Wibby has some hopes for the future.

Before long, Wibby hopes that a vote will be taken to determine whether the library should become an independent authority able to levy its own tax for operations. "I would hope the community would support that," said Wibby,

board president. "The cities (Farmington and Farmington Hills) have been generous. But it (the two-branch library) isn't a small operation any more."

After seven years on the library board, Wibby will retire following the board's Dec. 10 meet-

ing. The Farmington resident also is retiring, a second time, from his professional financial career. In 1984, Wibby retired from the presidency of Metro Bank of Farmington.



Jim Wibby

Shortly after his first retirement, Wibby opened a financial consulting business that boasted top-notch clients, such as the Stroh family. When the Stroh-owned River Place Financial Corp., Detroit, opened, Wibby hopped on board and became president.

WIBBY WARMLY recalls his years on the library board, serving in every position, including twice as president. "My involvement with the library probably has been the happiest and most rewarding things I have ever done."

The library's growth, particularly in service areas, such as computerized services, has been great to be a part of, Wibby said. "The staff has done an excellent job."

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