

Soviet emigrant in Hills misses homeland

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gest changes were cultural. "I think they're most significant," he said. "People like it much better now."

For example, he said, "Now, you can see writers in bookstores, like (Vladimir) Nabokov, you didn't see before."

Record stores also have a greater variety of albums.

But you still don't see the works of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Russian novelist, Vasserman said.

He was pushed out nine years ago. But Vasserman isn't sure he'd leave the Soviet Union today. "I miss my country, my language. It's more interesting than it used to be."

Even the newspapers are more open. "They're writing about things they never used to" — the KGB, the food shortage, unflattering stories about politicians, previously unreported details about Russian history and Soviet life.

"I saw people standing in line to buy a newspaper,"

He said he also watched Jewish

theater on television and heard a Jewish deli was to open in Moscow.

DESPITE GLASNOST and release of some high-profile dissidents, fewer Jews still targets of anti-Semitism in their pursuit of religious and cultural freedom, are being allowed to emigrate now than during the 1970s.

Since 1968, 650,000 affidavits of invitation have been sent from Israel to Soviet Jews; 270,000 permits have been granted. Another 383,000 are waiting to leave.

Since Jan. 1, only Soviet Jews

with parents, children or siblings abroad can receive the necessary invitation for family unification. That stops 90 percent of the Soviet Union's 1.8 million Jews from even applying to emigrate.

In an exclusive interview Monday, Gorbachev told NBC newscaster Tom Brokaw only Jews with state security secrets are denied exit visas.

Vasserman said some of his Soviet friends who had wanted to emigrate during the repressive 1970s are now in their 40s and 50s. And they have grown weary waiting for

the gateway to freedom to swing open.

"They're getting old and don't want to start from scratch," he said.

What's more, he said, not all Soviets who emigrated to the United States are happy. "Some have problems with the language, their professions, their age, different kinds of problems."

"Emigrating is an unpredictable situation, and some people don't want to challenge themselves."

THE VASSERMANS moved to

Farmington Green subdivision in Farmington Hills from a Southfield apartment four years ago. Misha is a senior systems analyst for Computware Inc. in Bingham Farms. Son Alex is a 10th grader at North Farmington High. Daughter Lana is a Wooddale Elementary first grader.

They'll always miss their homeland. But they have no regrets about their current lifestyle.

As Vasserman put it: "We like it very much — Farmington Hills, Farmington schools, our house, the neighbors, my job."

Rapes may have been committed by same man

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If they are related, Werner said, police are stumped by the gap in time between attacks. "We just don't know the reason for the time gap. All we know is they're similar crimes occurring within eight or 10 miles," he said.

Police believe the man they are looking for stalked his victims before assaulting them. Because of the proximity of the incidents, police believe he lives in Oakland County.

Police from West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills joined with the Michigan State Police Monday to compare notes. "We'll be sharing information," said Dwyer, in whose office the meeting took place.

"This is a tough one," West Bloomfield Sgt. Mike Madigan said. "In our two incidents, the women were coming home late and driving up to the door when they were met outside."

IN THE latest incident, two Farmington Hills women in their 20s were raped at 10:15 p.m. Nov. 26 by a knife-wielding man wearing a ski mask. The man, thought to be 19 to 25 years old, had broken into the house earlier that night. After raping the women, he stole \$275 and a Casio musical keyboard. The victims were treated at a local hospital.

The attacker was described as white, about 5 feet 11 and about 165 pounds. He had a medium build. He was wearing a dark ski mask, a blue nylon jacket, blue jeans, brown gym shoes with mesh on the toes and black leather gloves.

The weapon was an eight-inch-long, narrow-bladed knife.

On May 9 in West Bloomfield, a ski-masked, knife-wielding man met a woman in her 40s in the garage of a condominium where she was stay-

ing near 14 Mile and Orchard Lake. He led her upstairs where he raped and robbed her of jewelry and a camera.

Six days later in West Bloomfield, in what may have been an aborted rape-robbery, a woman in her 40s was returning to her home near Maple and Inkster. She opened her garage door with an automatic opener, drove in and got out after closing the door. An overhead light went out within 45 seconds and she was grabbed from behind by a man in gloves and a ski mask. She resisted, screamed and knocked down her assailant by tripping him. Her screams were heard by her 16-year-old daughter, who opened the garage door and ran to a neighbor for help. The attacker ran, leaving a kitchen knife behind.

POLICE IN Bloomfield Township and Birmingham reported three sexual attacks in adjacent subdivisions during April.

On April 8, a woman in her 40s was raped by a knife-wielding man in a house near Lahser and Maple in Bloomfield Township. She also was robbed. On April 24, in the same house, another woman in her 40s was raped by a man who broke in. He left in her car, which was later recovered.

In the third incident April 15, a woman about 40 years old had just parked her car in her garage near Lincoln and Cranbrook in Birmingham when a man grabbed her, pressed a knife to her throat and decimated sex. A struggle followed and when the man's hand slipped, the woman screamed, scaring him off with her purse. Her neck was slightly cut in the struggle.

More recently, on Sept. 19, a baby sitter in her early teens was raped in a house near Lincoln and Lahser in

Bloomfield Township. Her masked attacker stole something, but township police would not describe what was stolen or what kind of weapon was used.

The rapist in the Bloomfield Township/Birmingham incidents was described as a bit shorter and perhaps a bit older than the man

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public hearing information is on display in the city clerk's office in city hall.

The public hearing is designed to receive comments from area residents on MDOT's plans for I-696. MDOT is proposing improvements along 8.5 miles of I-696 from I-96/I-275 to Lahser in Southfield.

Improvements include widening the freeway from four to eight lanes between I-96/I-275 and Franklin Road; widening and improving the I-696 bridges between US-24 and Lahser; improving the Orchard Lake Road interchange; realigning the southbound lanes of Northwestern Highway and other bridge work.

THE PROJECT is designed to relieve congestion on I-696. "Present and future traffic volumes indicated a need for increased capacity to improve the efficiency of both I-696 and the Orchard Lake Road interchange. This segment of I-696 is carrying more than 33,000 vehicles per day in each direction," according to MDOT.

The project would be financed with the help of the federal government, with the city's share coming to an estimated \$400,000. Improvements would be made over two

Farmington Hills police are seeking. But the descriptions generally were similar.

TO BE eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000, call your local police. Say you want to provide information through the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce Silent Observer

Reward Program. Identify yourself by a secret, multi-digit number. You aren't required to give your name. If a conviction results directly from your tip, your secret number will be referred to the chamber, which issues the rewards.

No tip should be considered too minor. All information will remain

confidential. Even anonymous tips are welcome. "We encourage people to provide any information they might have. We'll do a complete follow-up on all information received," Dwyer said.

Dave Varga and Carolyn DeMarco contributed to this report

Freeway improvements to be detailed

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years, Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said.

The resolution adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council indicates requests for the following additional improvements:

- The installation of a sidewalk through the interchange area along the west side of Orchard Lake Road.
- The installation of master drain improvements at all crossings

of both of the ramps in the freeway. Drains in the area should be improved to accommodate the drainage flow in the area, Call said.

• An extensive landscaping plan to complement improvements in the area. "Many of the trees that were planted a number of years ago are only now beginning to mature to the extent that the landscaping can be considered significant," Call said.

the Oakland Community College campus and further south, the city hall.

In the past, the Michigan Department of Transportation has indicated their resistance to installing any pedestrian walkways over the freeway," according to a report by assistant city manager David Call.

• The installation of master drain improvements at all crossings

Library trustee stepping down

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Looking ahead, Wibby said he is hoping future library boards "continue to be on the leading edges of technology." Wibby also hopes that the community continues to support the library, particularly in its need to expand to accommodate the enormous growth and increased demand for services.

As far as library director Beverly Papal is concerned, there's no doubt Wibby will be missed. "He's been very good to us."

"Mr. Wibby has always been supportive of library services and of our commitment to meet future needs," Papal said. "He has been as

equally supportive of the director and the development of long-range planning."

Papal lauded Wibby's financial expertise and the benefits he brought to the library. "His financial background has been particularly helpful as we have automated the accounting system."

WIBBY WAS first appointed in January 1986, reappointed for a four-year term in 1992 and again in 1986. His current term isn't due to expire until March 1990, Papal said. Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper is expected to appoint a replacement to fill the remaining

years of Wibby's term.

"I have always been interested in libraries. Our family has always been users of the library," Wibby said. Farmington city manager Robert Deadman originally asked Wibby to join the library board.

When Wibby first decided to retire, he and his wife were faced with quite a choice. One of their sons lives in Petoskey, another in Boulder, Colo. "We made a decision we were going to move from the Farmington area. It was a very difficult choice, which city we were going to move to."

The Wibbys finally made a decision. They're moving to Boulder.



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