



Michael Bouchard  
council president

## Bouchard enters race for 69th House seat

Beverly Hills Village Council president Michael Bouchard is the third announced candidate for the 69th state House district seat.

The district includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield Township and the villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

Bouchard, 32, joins Farmington Hills planning commissioner Paul Weldon and Farmington Hills councilwoman Jan Dolan as declared candidates for the \$39,831-a-year post held by W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington. Brotherton announced earlier this year he

would not seek re-election in 1988 after 16 years in the House.

Bouchard was the top vote-getter in his March bid for re-election to the Beverly Hills Village Council. He had been president pro tempore.

"The tremendous show of support and enthusiasm helped to finalize my decision to seek higher office," said Bouchard, a district resident for 28 years.

"I am committed to public service and believe that expanding my commitment will enable me to better serve the needs of all residents," he added.

THE MOST pressing issues facing the district, Bouchard said, are "tax barriers to economic development, inadequacies and inequities of our educational system, the proliferation of drug abuse among our young people and the increase of violent crimes against the individual."

"I believe I have the experience to effectively address these issues at the state level," said Bouchard, a 12-year veteran of the Bloomfield Township Police Department and owner of a

security company.

He is active with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, the River Rouge Watershed Council, the Oakland County Republican 300 Club, the Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Coordinating Council, Birmingham Youth Assistance and the Birmingham Groves High School Facilities Study Committee.

Bouchard is a graduate of Michigan State University.

The filing deadline for the Aug. 2 primary is May 31. The general election is Nov. 8.

## Lotto money studied as link in party store holdups

Two Mid-Nine Market clerks robbed at gunpoint April 2 told police Friday two of their assailants match the police composite of two robbers wanted for killing the owner of a Troy party store April 6.

The Farmington Hills store was hit on a Saturday night and the Troy store was hit on a Wednesday night — nights when cash registers included Lotto ticket receipts.

"The style of the holdups was the same," said Lt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

"Our victims saw the composites in the Troy case on television and said they were similar to the persons who held them up."

Both stores are Chaldean-run.

At 7:40 p.m. April 2, a man entered the Mid-Nine Market, 22200 Middlebelt, and asked where sandwiches were. Shortly after, a second man entered. Both brandished handguns and declared a holdup. A third robber later entered.

Two store clerks, whose lives were threatened, were tied up behind the counter. A Farmington Hills couple who had entered the store during the holdup was ordered into a cooler.

WHILE PREPARING to leave with \$10,000 in store, lottery and money order receipts, one of the gunmen shot a Livonia man, who was entering the store in the leg.

One of two Ypsilanti men waiting in a car for the Livonia man "saw him go down and went over to help," Murphy said. "The gunmen kept shooting but didn't hit anyone else."

About the same time, a Farmington Hills woman driving on Shilawasee saw what she thought was a fight between two men in the parking lot. She also saw a car speeding through the lot with its headlights off.

She then accelerated and swerved to the side of the road to avoid that car as it left the lot. As it went by, one of the passengers fired, striking her car in the driver's side. She was not hit.

The robbers were thought to be 27-32 years old.

IN THE slinkup at Somerset Party Store, 3025 Crook, the 34-year-old owner, Thamer Balaki of West Bloomfield, was critically wounded and his 73-year-old son, Yousif of Oak Park, was killed. The son is recuperating in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. A clerk was not hurt. Troy police would not say how much money was taken in the robbery.

At 7:15 p.m. April 6, two men entered the store, armed with nickel-plated automatic pistols. Yousif Balaki, who was visiting, began to yell for his son, who was in a rear storage room taking inventory.

Yousif Balaki then ran toward the front of the store. He was fired at twice, and struck at least once. The man who had fired the gun then ran to the storage room and shot Thamer Balaki at least three times.

A store clerk lay on the floor and was ordered to empty the cash register after the shooting, said Lt. William Tullock of the Troy Police Department.

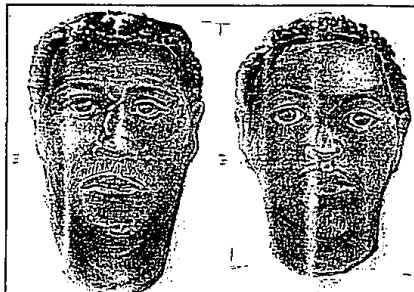
Both Balakis pleaded with the gunmen to take the money and not to shoot.

IN EACH case, a 9mm handgun was one of the weapons used. Police plan to compare shell casings retrieved from each store to determine if they came from the same gun.

The Oakland County Chamber of Commerce is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the robbers in connection with the Farmington Hills incident.

The reward is up to \$2,000 in Troy because a man was murdered.

Call Farmington Hills police: 474-6181. Tipsters can remain anonymous by saying they want to be a Silent Observer. They will be told how to proceed.



Police are searching for these two men they say shot to death 73-year-old Yousif Balaki and critically injured Thamer Balaki, 34, in Wednesday night's robbery of a Troy party store.

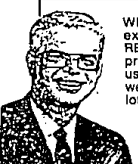
## Report says Leiter's death was due to heart failure

North Farmington High School junior Matthew Leiter died of heart failure from an undiagnosed heart condition after playing in his first varsity basketball game Jan. 25.

The official cause of death was congestive cardiomyopathy and pericardial effusion; in short, he had an enlarged heart surrounded by fluid, according to the Oakland

County Medical Examiner's office.

The 17-year-old Farmington Hills resident scored his first varsity basket in the closing minutes of a loss to Westland John Glenn, then headed for the locker room with teammates, where he collapsed. Despite repeated attempts to revive him, he died a short time later at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.



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## Film illustrates consequences that befall a casual drug user

As part of "Say No to Drugs Week" in Farmington Hills April 17-23, New Hope Presbyterian Church will show the movie "Twice Pardon" Thursday, April 21.

The two-part film series, for parents and children, features Harold Morris, once an all-star athlete in South Carolina.

He knows the struggles facing young people. Having "fun" one night with drugs and alcohol, he found himself in the Georgia State Penitentiary on Death Row. Upon his release, he committed his life to sharing with young people how "little mistakes" can have "big consequences," said pastor Ralph Re-

band.

Show time is 7-9 p.m. at Mercy Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Refreshments will be served. Call the church for tickets: 478-6091.

"Say No to Drugs Week" spearheaded by the Farmington Hills Police Department Citizens Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, is the start of a yearlong campaign against drug abuse.

The three-pronged attack will include a police crackdown on drug dealers and distributors, in-depth

**'Twice Pardon' will be shown April 21 from 7-9 p.m. at Mercy Center as part of 'Say No to Drugs Week' in Farmington Hills.**

training for officers in areas of drug enforcement, education and referral programs, and increased community education about drug use and abuse.

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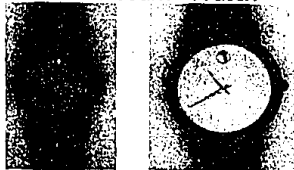
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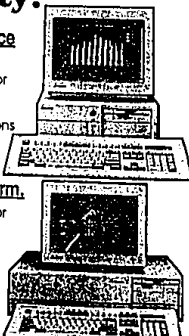
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