

Looking back

Sherman leaving C'ville after 11 years

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

get acquainted with each other and work together."

Sherman, who has served as board president, is now completing his 11th year on the board. But because his family is moving to a home in Livonia outside the district — they couldn't find a suitable home in Clarenceville — Sherman has resigned effective June 30.

Sherman says now, he's more conservative than he was as a high school senior. "Looking back at it now as a school board member, 36 years old with kids, I probably would have voted the same way they did. I think as you get older and go into the work-a-day world and face reality, your views change."

Sherman's work days are spent as a Livonia police officer. He's served as a patrol officer, as a high school liaison officer and last week marked his first year with the detective unit investigating reported child and spouse abuse and sex crimes.

Is child abuse a significant problem in Livonia?

"I think what's happening, especially in the last few years, is you have more being reported."

"And I think the reason is through educational efforts in the schools, making children aware of improper touchings, and just more of a community awareness in re-

people

gards to child abuse and child neglect."

As in reported rapes, child abuse victims usually know the assailant, Sherman said — often a family member or neighbor. "It's amazing how many of these type of cases you deal with that it's not a stranger," he said, adding strangers are sometimes involved.

Asked if dealing with such cases is difficult, Sherman said they do "stir the emotions. However, if there's any silver lining to handling these cases, it's taking the child out of that jeopardizing situation."

AS A CLARENCEVILLE school board member, Sherman said several program improvements implemented in recent years stand out.

He highlighted the competency testing program for seniors, letter sweaters for scholars, the policy setting down criteria a student must meet before moving on to the next grade, guarantees offered by the board with student's diplomas stressing the student has met graduation requirements, and employee relations programs.

"The Clarenceville schools have taken the lead the last five years among area schools for these type programs. We're slowly seeing area schools put some of these things into effect."

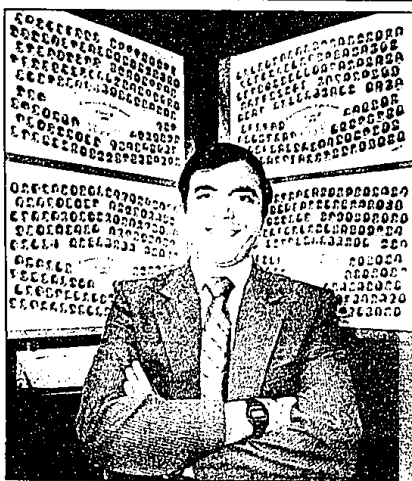
One of the most difficult situations faced by the board was budget cutting ordered by the governor in the late '70s, Sherman said. The high school day was trimmed from six hours to five, among other cuts now restored.

But this year, the board is again considering cuts, as state aid is not keeping pace with rising costs.

"The biggest problem the district faces is finances... Clarenceville doesn't have the tax base that Livonia has." Declining enrollment, also is a problem, as the district now has more than 2,000 students, down from more than 4,000 in the late '60s.

Like state legislators who are struggling to come up with a revised school funding plan that benefits all school districts, "I really don't have an answer to the question of funding," Sherman said.

"The state definitely has to fund education with more dollars. I don't see easing the property tax as a way of doing it because there's just going to be a tax shift. Let's face it, the dollars are going to have to come from somewhere. If they don't take it from your prop-



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Barry Sherman recalls his days on the student council at Clarenceville High as well as his more recent service on the Clarenceville Board of Education.

erty tax, they're going to take it from your sales tax or your income tax or something."

Yet, Sherman said the district is in no worse shape than it was 10

years ago. "I don't see it annexing or dissolving... There's nothing wrong with having a small district provided you're able to provide a good program."

Farmington commanders, city reach accord

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Farmington's public safety commanders reached an agreement with the city last week, calling for wage increases of 15 percent over three years and improved pension provisions.

The pact between the city and Command Officers Association of Michigan was reached following two days of arbitration hearings early

last week, and nearly 16 months of negotiations.

The local unit currently represents four members who comprise the middle management level of the combined police and fire department.

Both city and union representatives said they were satisfied, and pleased the job was complete.

"I'm pleased with the results," said city manager Robert Deadman. He said 11 issues were taken to arbi-

tration and that the city won 10.

"We were happy with the settlement," added Commander Michael Wiggins, president of the local, who highlighted the contract provisions. "I think it was handled very professionally and our professional representation should be commended."

WAGE AND pension issues were major considerations for the unit, Wiggins added.

The agreement was signed by both sides, and must now be approved by the arbitrator. Because of the arbitration, the matter will not need council approval, Deadman added.

The new contract will take a top level commander from \$35,164 under the old contract to \$40,428 in the final year of the new contract. The contract is retroactive to July 1, 1987, when the previous contract expired.

A graduated pension system allowing a portion of sick time to be paid at retirement was included. Retirement after 25 years of service, without age restriction, was also al-

lowed. Previously, commanders needed 25 years of service and to reach the age of 50 before retirement.

Provisions were added giving commanders overtime pay for fire training and straight time pay for staff meetings. They will also receive one year of full duty disability instead of the previous 15 weeks. Language involving the "work day" was also revised, Wiggins said.

DISCUSSION OF comparable jobs was also brought to the table, but no specific language changes were made, according to Wiggins. The

commanders view themselves as equal to a lieutenant rank, but the contract equates them with sergeants.

The wage increases more than made up for the language, Wiggins said. "It reflected more of what we do. Right now, we're a well-paid sergeant."

The previous contract was a five-year pact, which caused many issues to be brought to the table and made for lengthier negotiations, Wiggins and Deadman said.

The commanders agreed to join the COAM two years ago. The new contract will expire June 30, 1990.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● POSSIBLE EXPLOSIVES

The Michigan State Police bomb squad was alerted after Laidlaw Waste Disposal Systems employees discovered two possible explosive devices in a trash container in front of a house on Windingbrook June 8.

The employees took the devices to the parking lot at the Orchard-12 Shopping Center, 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, for review by police and fire investigators.

"We stood by until the bomb was removed from the property," said Al Ellis, fire investigator.

Before the police were called, an employee disassembled one of the devices, found it empty and tossed it into the truck.

The devices included a flined fragmentation grenade and a 20 mm cannon-type projectile, the kinds of things that could be available at Army surplus stores.

They appeared to be military-type weapons but it's not known if they were practice pieces or live rounds, said detective David Loe of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Further testing was to take place at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mount Clemens, Loe said.

● INDECENT EXPOSURE

Two cases of indecent exposure were reported to Farmington Hills police June 7. They don't appear to be related, police said.

At 3 p.m., a woman working in her front yard on Lujan saw a car drive by and stop at Northlawn. A man thought to be in his 30s opened the door and placed his feet on the ground but didn't get out. At that moment, the woman noticed he was nude. He then drove off.

At 3:45 p.m., a woman loading property her car behind a business at 35555 Grand River saw a van approach. When she asked the driver, thought to be in his 30s, if he needed help, he said no. It was then she noticed he was nude. He soon drove off.

In a third case June 8, a woman looked out her window at Spring Valley Apartments at 10:20 p.m. and saw a man standing there, apparently exposing himself.

● ORNAMENTS TAKEN

Eight hood ornaments valued at \$230 were reported stolen from cars parked at Farmington Auto Rental, 38251 10 Mile, at 3:50 p.m. June 9. They were recovered from three juvenile suspects soon after, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● MAN SURPRISED

A 53-year-old Farmington Hills man sleeping on a chair was awakened by noise and spotted an intruder in his hallway shortly past midnight June 10 at Diamond Forest Apartments.

When the man awoke, the intruder ran out the front door into the parking lot. Nothing was taken. Entry was gained by prying a screen from an unlocked bedroom window, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A set of golf clubs valued at \$800 was reported stolen from a garage on Heatherbrook Court June 4-8.

Tools valued at \$800 were reported stolen from Laser Lab, 23014 Commerce, June 6.

A VCR, jewelry and money was reported stolen from a house on the 26000 block of Orchard Lake Road June 7.

Rings valued at \$280 were reported stolen from a locker at Farmington High School, 32000 Shiloh, June 7.

An in-shaft stereo and a cellular telephone valued at \$1,700 were reported stolen from a car parked at Greenhill Apartments June 8-9.

T-tops valued at \$13,200 were reported stolen from eight new cars at Leo Adler Nissan, 28200 Eight Mile, June 8-9.

A bicycle valued at \$150 was reported stolen from Flanders Elementary School, 32600 Flanders, June 9.

● TICKETS ISSUED

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for loitering on school property following a report of beer drinking in the parking lot at William Grace Elementary School, 29040 Shiloh, June 9.

A 39-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for open burning when a bonfire was set behind a house on Rhoadwood June 9.

obituaries

KATHLEEN O'HALLORAN FEARON

Mrs. Fearon, 52, of Farmington Hills died June 4 while vacationing with her husband, Robert, in Hong Kong.

Mrs. Fearon graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in communication arts. She had the distinction of being one of the first female TV directors at Channel 56. She was a lifelong member of Kappa Beta Gamma Sorority.

Mrs. Fearon interests were researching and celebrating her Irish heritage and worldwide travel. Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughters, Lisa Kleinke, Laurie Ann and Lynn Marie; sisters, Judith LaFata, Jackie Engela, Donna Jo Harned and Gail Cummano. Mass was celebrated June 10 in St.

Owen Catholic Church, Birmingham. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Arrangements were made by the Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

WILLIAM R. PERRY

Mr. Perry, 80, of Westland died June 4.

Mr. Perry was the owner of Perry's D&C Market from 1944 to 1977. He was a fine cabinet maker. He graduated from Holy Redeemer High School in 1924.

Survivors include his sons, William, Charles and Thomas; a daughter, Susan; eight grandchildren.

Services were June 7 at the McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, with the Rev. Thomas Finl-

gan officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

LOUIS A. NOLAN

Mr. Nolan, 89, of Farmington Hills died June 6 in Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

Born in New York, Mr. Nolan was a self-employed printer. He was a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Winifred; son, Louis; daughters, Patricia Birrer and Jane Murray; 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Kean Crossin officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

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