

License renewal meant long wait in line

By C. L. Rugenstein
staff writer

The most perplexing question of 1988 has to be: "Why do people wait till the last minute to get their 1989 license tags?"

There were eight people in the tag-or-address-change-only-line at 4:07 p.m. Dec. 29, the last day to buy tags or renew your driver's license before the Secretary of State's office at 38487 10 Mile in Farmington Hills closed for the four-day New Year's weekend. They were the lucky ones.

There were 48 of us in the other line. That one wound from the front counter, around to the door and up the other wall, with more people coming in at the rate of one per minute between 4:30 and 4:30 p.m. The office was scheduled to close at 5 p.m.

"I was going to put it off till tomorrow (Friday)," said one Farmington Hills man. He had plates to transfer from his old car to one he'd just bought. "I was surprised to hear the office would be closed on Friday."

John Wiseman, who moved to Farmington Hills recently from Co-

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— Linda Katchmerik
Secretary of State's clerk

lumbus, Ohio, said he was still waiting for insurance information to buy his tags.

"I've been here since October," Wiseman said. "This is the first day I've had off since."

"YOU NEED your AET (automobile emissions testing) form and check ready," Delpha Griffin advised as she swung through the office. It was her job that day to make sure people were in the right line and prepared to face the clerks at the counter.

As she checked for proper identification, dispensed and checked tests for license renewals, she noted, "We'll probably do about 700 trans-

actions today," before locking the door at 5 p.m.

Rob Davison, just back from five weeks in Dallas but a resident of Farmington Hills for one more day at least (till his job transfer to Pennsylvania, he thinks) had to renew both his tags and driver's license.

Davison's reason for waiting: "Procrastination! This is the first chance I've had to do it since I got back."

Roy Parry, a Worcester, England, native, brought out his English driver's license. The faded green card, laminated in plastic, showed signs of much wear.

"It's an event when you go down to the tax office to get your license," he said. The expiration date on the Eng-

lish license was 2009. "It's been replaced a couple of times," but in England, getting your license is a once in a lifetime event.

AT 4:59 P.M., one of the clerks went to the front door and locked it.

Most of the transactions done were for "everything," said Linda Katchmerik, one of the harried clerks. "Boats, snowmobiles, everything."

"Most of the people had licenses that expired Dec. 1, but they waited till now" to renew, she added.

Katchmerik estimated that the clerks would probably finish processing everything about 5:30 or 5:45.

"They complain to us but don't do anything about it," she said of the long lines of people that streamed through her office that day.

Lansing is the place to make complaints known, she advised. "This area (of Farmington Hills) is especially bad because we've got so many new people moving in."

Roy Parry finally got through the line and left at 5:05 p.m.

"This beats going to the dentist," but just barely, he said.

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campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news items with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NEW GRADUATES
Eastern Michigan University awarded degrees to 1,260 students Dec. 18 in winter commencement ceremonies.

Eleven Farmington Hills students received degrees: Abdulla M. Alsaliti, Dorit Ben-Gal, Anne M. Bilek, William D. Byrne, Jacquelyn S. Goldman, Shari L. Kolchmanin, Kathleen C. Korte, Anita M. Rees, Josi A. Ryke, Kimberly A. Soroka, Christine L. Wojcik, and Sherri A. Woodworth.

Jeffery Lawton graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., with a degree in industrial engineering. He served as president of Sigma Nu fraternity and was a member of Omicron, a leadership board. He was also on the Purdue track team, earning a varsity letter in pole vaulting.
Lawton is a 1984 Farmington High

School graduate. He will be employed by Star Cutter Co. of Farmington.

Mark Altard, Barbara Brown, Bridget Cahlin, Lania Estrate, Clyde Manion III and Ronna Platts graduated from Oakland University, Rochester Hills.

Janette Flock graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in music education. She is a graduate of Farmington High School.

WHO'S WHO
Mary Beth Manion of Farmington was selected for the 1989 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Selection was based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

AWARD WINNER
Richard Wolff of Farmington was named first-place purchase award winner for his painting, "Blue Suite," in the Seventh Annual Helena DeRoy Art Exhibit held in November on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland

Community College.
The show was juried by Kenneth Gross, director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY
Matthew Kramer of Farmington is studying in Stirling, Scotland, as a part of the Albion College off-campus study program.

The off-campus study program allows students to travel and study various subjects in different parts of the world, including Europe, Latin America, the Far East, Africa, the Middle East and several U.S. cities.

The program provides practical experience in different languages, cultures and environments.

Kramer, a senior, is a 1985 graduate of Redford Township Catholic Central High School.

HONOR SOCIETY
Kristofer Norman of Farmington Hills was elected for membership into Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society. He is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in aerospace engineering. He is a 1986 graduate of Farmington High School.

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