

# Grand jury idea to study drugs gets chiefs' OK

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Both Lauboff and Dwyer support a citizens grand jury as a means of gaining leads and tapping into the hierarchy of drug empires. "The locals just can't reach the hierarchy, the top officials and the financiers," Dwyer added.

"One of the problems is that in building a case, the local departments and collectively, and with the state and federal agencies, we still have to develop cases in the same method. It's a long and tedious process," Lauboff said.

THOMPSON SAID he would poll local police chiefs, particularly in the south end. If they agree, he would petition the 14 circuit judges, who would have to grant the petition by majority vote. He estimated this would take 60 to 90 days.

"The grand jury would be chosen as you select a jury," he said. The prosecutor cited an Oak Park shooting Feb. 22 as evidence of the drug war.

"It was a military-style assault on a house . . . canisters of tear gas . . . flares . . . machine gun fire, assault rifles."

In an interview, Thompson said, "Expenses would be minimal. We already have a team of assistants in place — a drug unit team."

THE CITIZENS grand jury was the least expensive in a series of requests Thompson made to the county board. Other items:

- Additional assistant prosecutors — perhaps as many as 10, he said later. Estimated cost: \$450,000 to \$500,000. His current staff is 71 assistants. He noted a 7.5 percent increase in major crimes last year (to 66,092 incidents) and an 83 percent increase in warrants issued.

- More staff to handle cases in juvenile court. New state laws require that an assistant prosecutor be present at more kinds of hearings.

- A child sexual assault unit "to stop the criminal justice system from traumatizing" child victims. He gave no details.

- An increase of 15,000 square feet in office space. Currently his staff has 13,500 square feet, with some lawyers sharing offices. He asked that the space problem be addressed as the county designs a new courthouse wing.

# Kindergarten Round-up gives parents 2 options

The annual Kindergarten Round-up will take place in the Farmington Public Schools next week. Students who will be 5 years old before Dec. 1 have two options in the Farmington district:

- local elementary school kindergartens, which are reflected in the district's elementary boundaries.
- central kindergarten programs, of which there are two, which are

housed at the district's early childhood centers.

Parents interested in the first option should contact their local elementary school.

Anyone interested in center programs can attend an informational meeting Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairview Early Childhood Center. The center is north of Northwestern Highway, east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

# 'There's no credence to Berkley's claims'

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one of those we were unable to close completely. There were a number others like that." But in the long run he was considered cleared. The Norbergs later moved to Wyoming and were living there when he was killed in the accident.

Hedrick has no opinion on whether the cross is a breakthrough. "It could be a big break, it could be nothing. With the limited information I've heard, I really don't know."

"Do the police have more evidence than what was indicated on the news? There's always that possibility."

A LIE DETECTOR test administered to Norberg's widow about

three weeks ago at the state police post in Northville backed up her statements that she knew nothing about the killings and had no knowledge that would implicate her husband.

"You can't help but believe that if he did it, his wife would have known something about it," said Tobias. Tobias, state police Lt. Joseph Kress, who directed the task force, Berkley detective Anger and the polygraph operator were present for the test.

A primary theory in all four incidents was that the abductor had to be someone a child might go with quietly and willingly, even if he were a stranger.

Timothy King, 11, Birmingham, was the fourth and last of the vic-

tims attributed to the Oakland County child killer.

KRISTINE WAS the third victim abducted, held for days, then killed and left at roadside. One victim was shot, the other three were suffocated.

The first was Mark Stebbins, 12, abducted Feb. 2, 1976, in Ferndale. His body found 17 days later in Southfield; Jill Robinson, 12, was last seen in Royal Oak on Dec. 22, 1976, and found shot to death along I-75 in Troy four days later; Kristine was held 19 days before her body was found beside Bruce Lane in Franklin; Timothy, 11, was kidnapped near the Hunter Maple Pharmacy about four blocks from his

home on March 16, 1977. His body found six days later along Gill in Livonia — just 300 yards from the Farmington Hills border. Anger said the cross remained in the possession of Norberg's family until last year when it was turned over to Sterling Heights police by someone described as an informant. The Sterling Heights department turned it over to Berkley police. Officials say Kristine's mother didn't recognize the cross as her daughter's, but an aunt of Kristine's identified it as belonging to the girl after being placed under hypnosis.

Contributing to this report were staff writers Dave Varga, Jackie Klein and Bob Sklar.

# Property values up 10 percent

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son," Seior explained. "The market is changing. The area is becoming more attractive and people will pay more for the property."

The larger commercial adjustments of between 30-40 percent received by some property owners are because assessments now take into account parking areas. This was not done previously, especially for businesses north of Grand River.

The changes "are not phenomenal in most cases," he added.

THE CITY of Farmington reviews each property type annually, comparing sales prices and reviewing building permits for each neighborhood. "We look at all areas every year, and try to make some adjustments each year," Sallor added.

During the past several years, the city has focused on industrial properties, and in this year took a special look at commercial parcels.

Taxpayers unhappy with their assessment can call city hall at 474-5500, to discuss it with the assessor, or make an appointment to have the three-member Board of Review hear the case.

The board will meet March 6 and March 8 at city hall.



Robert Whaley, earns state post

# Executive appointed

AAA Michigan executive Robert Whaley of Farmington Hills has been appointed to serve on Gov. James Blanchard's executive corporate program.

Whaley, director of sales support at AAA Michigan, will work with the state Department of Management and Budget for about six months.

The executive corporate program is designed to create a closer partnership between business and government.

Whaley joined AAA Michigan in 1968.

# Appeals possible to review board on assessments

Residents who have received an increased property value assessment can schedule an appointment before the city's Board of Review and plead their case.

For residents of the city of Farmington, the Board of Review for 1989 will be held at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, in the council chambers:

- Monday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 8, from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

City assessor John Sallor asks residents to make appointments after Feb. 24 by calling 474-5500. Walk-in cases will be heard by the board after any scheduled appointments. Presentations will be limited to 10 minutes.

This year's board is comprised of William Bliss, a real estate appraiser; Herbert Cumbo, a Realtor, and new member Jane Maier, a Realtor.

SAILOR ENCOURAGES residents

**City assessor John Sallor asks residents to make appointments by calling 474-5500.**

to discuss their assessment with him prior to making an appointment with the board, at which time he may correct any errors or give explanations. An appeal to the Board of Review may not be necessary.

Taxpayers granted reductions in their assessments due to economic hardships in past years will automatically receive a hardship form; others may obtain these at the assessor's office. These forms should be completed and returned to the assessor's office prior to March 1.

"An appointment before the board will probably not be necessary, particularly if a reduction has been granted in the past," according to information from Sallor's office.

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