

Dariene Feldman waves to the Detroit police as they drive by her new sheller on Cass — Detroit Cover-Up's Learning Center for Homeless ing, a garage door and an automatic garage Women and Children or simply, the Blanket

## Center to aid women, kids

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downward a spiral of the shelters.
Handing out blankets isn't enough.
This woman who believes dreams
can come true has a contemporary
business wish list. She refuses to
spend money that has been donated
to the poor on business essentials,
even if they would make her life easteer.
"Everything has been a hurdle.
Right now, we have a safe, warm
place. We have to get it equipped to
get the people in it."
First on the agenda is getting the

First on the agenda is getting the plumbing fixed.

FOR HER safety and that of volunteers who go down regularly into the impoverished corridor, some hings appear essential:

• One, installation of olitside in two-car bay.

The place is pitch-dark by late afternoon and eramped with only two vehicles. For Feldman to find the keys to the wrought-iron exterior gate and then the wooden door, she meds a flashlight or must turn on her headlights. Once Inside, she must back-track to the ear to turn off the her headlights. Once inside, she must hack-track to the car to turn off the headlights. She does all this while carrying in boxes and bags of donat-ed merchandise. Even the street-smart can recog-nize the potential danger. Twice,

that potential came too close for comfort for Feldman, she said.

• Two, a massive garage dorwith opener.

With this, Feldman could drive in and move around safely in the bay.

• Three, the use of vars, trucks and drivers to pick up and deliver to the center. Feldman needs to transport continuous donations, somilarge, like furniture.

Also, from Jan. 2 to Feb. 2.

The food, donated by merchants, was stolen chowder, stew, roasts, hams, ribs, wonderful gournet for Street Issuer and the top of Street Issuer and the standard properties of the standard properties

LOCALLY, THE Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills has adopted Detroit Cover-up as its 1990 mitzvah — Yiddish for charity or worthy deed. The youth group volun-teered to come down and help do work.

(To donate to Detroit Cover-Up, write P.O. Box 35277, Detroit 48235 or call 851-9027.)

## Citing possible conflicts, Call quits Center board

By Joanno Maliszowski stall writer

Concerned about possible conflicts of interest, Farmington Hills assistant city manager David Cail has resigned as a Community Center of Farmington-Farmington Hills board member.

member.

He will finish out the remaining menths of the last year of his term as a liaison between the city and the center.

as a Bialson between the city and me-center.

Call's decision to resign followed an early December meeting between city staff and residents near the community center on Farmington Road, Residents, he said, felt uncom-fortable speaking about their con-cerns with him present, Call Said.

"I felt that upon complaints and

concerns (of residents) and the community center getting involved with the planning commissions decision, there could be a conflict." Call said.
Call referred to the Farmington Hills Planning Commissions's Nov. 16 decision to ban the center's use obseakers and microphones outdoors for one year. Commissioners' decision was prompted by nearby residents' complaints, at least one of whom was at the early December meeting.

CENTER BOARD president Law-rence Freedman said he's "not up-tight" about Call's decision to resign, effective Dec. 5. "I feel very frankly being that Dave is an employee with the city, it's probably in the best in-terest of the city and the center."

## Noise complaint trial postponed

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served as center spokesman when
the Farmington Hills Planning Commission in September established a
han on the center's outdoor use of
speakers and microphones, as urged
by nearby residents.
Farmington Hills city attorney
Timothy Kenny Idon't wish to olscuss in detail the change in attorney
other than to confirm that the trial
will be rescheduled.
Community Center president Lawrence Freedman said board members agreed with Donolue's recommendation to retain Brukoff. Donohue said he will recommend the
same with other issues confronting
the center.

same with other issue controlling the center.
Despite the delay, Farmington Illils resident William Shortt said he's not disappointed. Shorti lives next to the community center and illed the disturbing the peace com-plaint during a outdoor concert Aug.

23. "I just think these are the wheels of justice grinding slowly. We'll just wait it out. There is nothing personal against Dorothy Pfaff. I'm sure she'll walk out with a suspended sentence. I think justice will be served then," Shortt said.

PFAFF IS charged with a misdemeanor that, upon conviction, carries a maximum \$\$500 fine and \$90
days in jail. A not-guity pica was entered cariler on her behalf, Donohue
said.

Shortt is among a small group of
residents who have been upset with
the "highly amplified" performances
at the center's outdoor theater.

The Aug. 23 complaint was not the
first time residents called Parmingtion Hills police when the outdoor
concerts bothered them. But when
police arrived at Short's home near
the center on Aug. 23, the resident
insisted that a complaint be filled.
The outdoor concert featured guitarbits.

The outdoor concert featured guitar-iss.

Scording to Farmington Hills po-lice reports, city officials were con-tacted before the ticket was Issued to Pfail to determine whether the outdoor concerts had been approved by city officials.

Prompted by residents' com-plaints about noise from the center. Parmington Hills planners Sept. 16 set a one-year ban on the community center's use of speakers and micro-phones. Center officials are still grappling with the financial effect the ban will have on center reve-nues.

Call was the city official who Farmington Hills police contacted in August when Farmington Road resident william Shortt Illed a disturbing the peace complaint against executive director Dorothy Pfaff during an outdoor concert.

The Farmington Hills City Council is expected to discuss the community center at a study session Saturday, Jan. 20. Councilman Ben Marks also is a community center board member.

The community center's deed states that should the center fail financially, it will fail to the Farmington Community Library. If the library board chooses not to take it, it becomes the responsibility of Farmington Hills.



center board member

Genter board member

THOUGH UNCERTAIN whether
it's related, Ploff said 1989 year-end
contributions were markedly reduced compared to 1988 year-end
contributions. "I'm not ready to say
that's the cause." Plaff said.

Center officials also continue to be
concerned whether the ban will ensure neighbors' or planning commissioners' warth if occurrences, such
as children playing joudly at the center's day camp, constitute a violation of the commission's ban and acter's day camp, constitute a violation of the commission's ban and accompanying list of restrictions.

Despite the ban, planning commissioners Sept. 16 approved a special
use to allow the center to have the
outdoor theater in a residential zoning district. Should there be any
more complaints during the oneyear ban, the issue is to be returned
to planning commissioners for discussion.

## Homeless woman gets chance at a new start

Sonja Hall, 25, walking north on Cass Avenue, recognized Darlene Feldman immediately in the dusk. "You're Darlene, the Blanket Lady," Hall sald, "You gave blankets one and my bables." Then Hall, who clutched a rewallet and cellophane package, burst into tears and told Feldman her story.

her story.

Hall left her four children, ages 1 Hall left her four chlidren, ages 1 to 7, with their grandmother in Lansing after spending Christmas there. She returned to Detroit to look for work. Hall pald her security deposit on an apartment but the landlord newer gave her a key. She didn't want to stay with her boyfriend, she sald, because he was using crack. So she ended up on the street. Hall, who lost a child she was carrying in November, has also spent time in a seven-day rotating shelter. But she exhausted her time and was kicked out.

But she exhausted her time and was kicked out.

Now, Hall wanted to go back to Lansing. But first, she wanted to gather up her belongings. "I ain't never been on drugs and I don't want my babies on them," she said.

HALL RECALLED the time she HALL RECALLED the time she spent at the Coalition on Temporary Shelter on Peterboro in Detroit with her children. She got into a tiff with an employee who tried to hurry her and her children during a meal to make room for the men waiting to

eat.
"My kids got to eat first," Hall re-

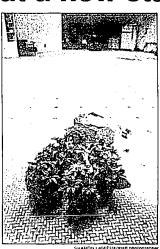
"My kids got to eat first," Hall re-called screaming to the employee.

It's a common scenario among shelter women, according to Feld-man. These woman hush their chil-dren silent for fear of upsetting an unstable man in the room. Rather than reveiling in childhood exuber-ance, the children become fearful zombies, Feldman said.

"People have to be close to the soup kitchens," she said.

Feldman is fond of saying that she some foot in each world.

"I'd like to get a "69's mentality in this generation," she said, referring to suburban youth. "I think the chil-



the soul and the spirit." donated for her shelter's holiday feast by the mana-ger of the K mart on Orchard Lake Road in Farm

dren in the Farmington area need to know that they are privileged, that everybody doesn't have a Nintendo and Reeboks." Feldman knows the Cass Corridor

Feldman knows the Cass Corridor sits outside of the American dream.

After she exhausted efforts to find available overnight housing. Hall chose to go to the Billinghurst Hotel, where she knew the manager would find a vacant room for her until morning.

FELDMAN USED a Detroit Cov-FELDMAN USED a Detroit Cov-r-Up check to buy a non-refundable \$13.50 ticket to Lansing that Hall could pick up at the Greyhound Ter-minal in the morning after gathering her belongings.

On the way to the Greyhound ter-minal to buy the ticket. Hall showed Feldman the contents of the cello-phane package she was holding — a

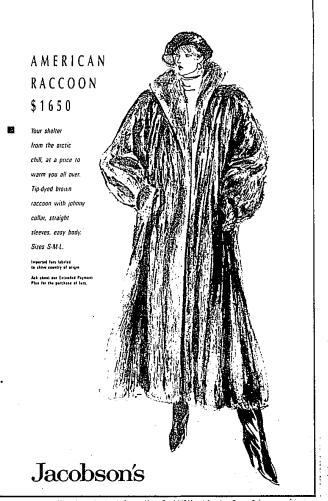
Polish sausage sandwich. A man gave her a eigarette that she, in turn, gave another man in exchange for the sandwich.

gave another man in exchange for the sandwich. Glaneing at the store name on the package, Feldman went back against the ear seat in disbeller. "I can't believe it," Feldman said. "That's our food that was stolen. I hope the thieves get indigestion." It's a tough call to distinguish between the street people who are con artists and those who are truly needy. Feldman said.

She relles on her instinct while watching a person's eyes and body language. "Sonja's eyes weren't diated, her body was related and she wan't jerky," Feldman said.

Hall never changed her story either.

Thanks to Feldman's effort Fri-day, Hall did change her direction.



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