

Community Corner

This week's question:

In 1991, would you support renewing a half-mill for parks/recreation and approve new taxes for library expansion/ operations?

We asked this question on the 12 Mile corridor, Farmington Hills



"I would support both. This is something that's a worthy cause, a good use of our money."
— Barbara Teasdale
Farmington Hills



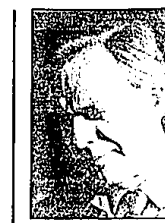
"I'd agree to both. I use the library a lot. I feel it's a real important part of the community."
— Marjorie Griswold
Farmington Hills



"I would support them. We need both."
— Eric Kinder
Farmington Hills



"I would keep it the same. What I find is adequate for what I need. I would renew the parks (levy)."
— John Marxhausen
Farmington Hills



"I'd support both. I think library services are important to the community. Anytime you have money to expand basic services, I'm for it."
— Allan Pfitzenmiller
Farmington



"I think I'd vote for both. The Hills has a nice library. The Farmington Downtown Library is a bit small."
— Mike Nowak
Farmington Hills

police/fire calls

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

- **garage break-in**
Damage was estimated at \$50 when a garage at a house on Claymore was broken into and the rubber trash can set on fire Jan. 8. Nothing else was damaged, according to a Farmington Hills police report.
- **marijuana seized**
A 25-year-old Birmingham man was charged with possessing mari-

juana when a marijuana cigarette and a baggie of marijuana were confiscated from a car parked at Mr. Sports One of a Kind, 38860 Orchard Lake Road, Saturday night, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A 19-year-old Southfield man was charged with possessing narcotics paraphernalia when a marijuana pipe and a roach clip were found in his possession during a traffic stop at M-102 and Gill Tuesday morning, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

- **cars damaged**
Six cars in residential areas in Farmington Hills and four in Farmington had their back windows smashed during a vandalism spree last weekend.
- **Damage topped \$2,300.**
The cars were parked on Stamen Circle, Riverbend and Livingston Circle in Farmington Hills and on Marbhead and Power in Farmington, according to police reports.
- **man removed**
A community service worker assigned to work at Farmington High

by the 47th District Court in Farmington was removed by police Saturday after he became disruptive, according to the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

According to police, the man was being uncooperative and using obscene language before they were called to the school at 32000 Shiawasee. A report will be made to the court.

- **man assaulted**
A maintenance man faces a felony charge in connection with the assault of a man removing bottles from the

trash at Farmington Auto Wash, 28402 Eight Mile, Sunday night, Farmington Hills police said.

The victim, a 47-year-old Farmington Hills man, was hit on the forehead with a beer bottle. He was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, for a cut.

The assault followed an argument between the victim and his assailant over removal of bottles from the trash. The suspect is a 44-year-old Lansing man, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

- **thefts reported**
A pump shotgun, a semiautomatic

rifle and a .38-caliber revolver valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a house on Fendit, Farmington Hills, Jan. 1-13.

A CB and stereo equipment valued at \$910 were reported stolen from a car parked on Caryn, Farmington Hills, Jan. 13.

A radar detector and a cellular telephone valued at \$1,150 were reported stolen from two cars parked at Polo Club Apartments, Farmington Hills, Jan. 13-14.

A stamp collection and silver coins valued at \$1,240 were reported stolen from a house on Greencastle, Farmington Hills, Jan. 14.

Beware of fraudulent 'charitable' solicitations

The following column is another in a series written for the Observer by Chris Cogar, a technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department's Crime Prevention Section.

Telephone or door-to-door solicitations are not characteristic of police organizations. Residents are urged to use caution when approached by

solicitors claiming to represent a law enforcement department.

Although these agencies may be legitimately soliciting citizens to support public events or purchase tickets for upcoming functions, their fund-raising activities are neither sanctioned nor sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department.

A charitable solicitation license is necessary to solicit funds for any charity. Without this license, it is improper to advise the donor that his gift is for a charitable cause and can be considered a tax deduction.

Solicitors have been known to im-

plicitly misrepresent themselves, and in some cases may be deliberate in their deceptive tactics. Since obtaining money under false pretenses is a misdemeanor by ordinance, though difficult to prosecute, residents can pursue verifiable cases through the criminal justice process.

CITIZENS CONTACTED by a soliciting organization should also be aware that some solicitors may follow up a call with a bill, whether the receiver agreed to make a donation or not.

In some cases, the name of a deceased family member may be used in an effort to prey upon the prospective donor's emotions. If the bill

is not paid, the solicitor then sends a dunning notice. Invoices such as this are actually solicitations and residents should treat them as such.

The Farmington Hills Police Department advises against donating to organizations claiming to represent the department. If you wish to donate to an organization, as with all financial transactions, make it a point to know who you are dealing with and how your donation will be spent.

In many cases, only a small percentage of the funds collected go toward the activity, while the majority is diverted for solicitation costs and/or administration purposes. Also, residents choosing to donate



crime watch
Chris Cogar
crime prevention technician,
Farmington Hills Police Department

should never allow a solicitor to personally collect the donation.

If you are asked to support your local police, be sure to request the complete name of the soliciting organization, a telephone call-back number and a mailing address.

Residents are encouraged to call the Crime Prevention Section at 473-9640 with questions or concerns

about a certain organization. Anyone who believes that he has been illegally solicited is urged to report these activities to the Better Business Bureau and the police department.

Those wishing to follow-up with a complaint should be able to provide the police department with as much information as possible.

Homework seminar planned

In many homes, nightly battles over the issue of homework persist. Now, Eagle Elementary parents frustrated with their child's attitude toward homework are being offered help.

A two-hour "Homework Without Tears" workshop is scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 24, giving parents a way to improve their children's motivation toward doing homework. The workshop is sponsored by the Eagle Parent/Teacher Association.

According to information from the Farmington Public Schools, a recent poll of teachers ranked homework as the most frequently occurring problem they face in the classroom. Students do it poorly or not at all.

A \$4 fee will be charged for the workshop, with additional materials available on site, including books and a homework organizer. Questions may be directed to the school office at 489-3663.

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Every Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm
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