

Farmington Hills resident Bey Cornell talks about how she cares for the wild bunny. She warns people not to pick up wild bunnies, because they could, literally, scare them to death.



Birmingham, a wild bunny, awaits the day when he will be released into Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. Birmingham's leg was broken and his abdomen punctured by a dog, as he and a sibling sat in their nest. He is being nursed back to health by Bev Cornell, who is ticensed to care for orphaned animals.

Wild bunny boom

They're multiplying like . . . rabbits

HEY'RE MULTIPLYING like . . . well . . .

rabbits.

The fur is flying at the Cornell residence in Farmington Hills, where Beverly Cornell is fielding numerous calls because of an apparent bunny baby boom this summer.

Licensed to care for orphaned baby animals by the state Department of Natural Resources, Cornell said she had received an unusual number of calls because of the increase in the wild bunny births.

Cornell said she's not sure if the exceptionally warm weather has contributed, but many wild rabbits are apparently having second litters late in the summer this year.

"I don't know," she said. "There's an exceptional amount (of bunnles) running around the neighborhood. And I've gotten a lot of calls."

PROOF OF THE boom can be seen in a cage at her house where "Birmingham," one of two baby bunnles found mauled by a dog in the yard of a Birmingham house, is stuying until he can be released into the wild at 'Heritage Park.

"If they run across a nest in their yard, people think there's no mother," she explained. "The mother is around. She only comes and feeds them twice a day,"

Cornell said people should take special care around wild bunnies, because they can be, literally, frightened to death. "They have a high adrenal system," she said. "Under any kind of stress, they give themselves heart attacks and die."

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Wild bunnles, which in Michigan means the White

'I don't know. There's an exceptional amount (of bunnies) running around the neighborhood. And I've gotten a lot of calls.'

- Beverly Cornell cares for rabbits

Cottontall rabbit, often make their homes in the middle of people's yards, and seem alone because of the mother's infrequent visits. She said unless a bunny appears to be injured, people should leave them alone. Cornell also warned that no one should ever try to handle a wild bunny, although those who have been handled will often be taken back by the mother unlike other animals.

SHE HANDLES her visitor Birmingham, only once each day to feed him. He eats everything from old-fash-loned dried outneal to fresh sprouts, a variety of grasses and clover and Queen Anne's Lace. He also enjoyst tomatoes, apples, grapes — if they're cut in half—and occasional vegetables.

Cornell said if a person feels "compelled to feed (a wild bunny) they can put out old-fasioned oatmeal, rasins and maybe a little apple."

In addition to working with the injured bunny, Cornell also has two orphaned squirrels this summer named Mary and Joseph. The raccoons she raised earlier this year have already been released to the wild, and are doing fine, she sald.



Birmingham the bunny shares a moment with Cricket, one of the Cornell's house cats, although he remains safely out of reach. She expects to release the bunny to the wild in the next week or so.

police/fire calls

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

OFFICE FLOODED
 A Farmington dental office was flooded by vandals Aug. 24-25, causing some \$1,000 in damage.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, someone put a water hose into the mail chute at Castle Dental Lab, 23333 Farmington Road, causing about one inch of water to collect on the floor. Damage was

DOG BITE A 48-year-old Farmington man

A 48-year-old Farmington man was bitten by his own dog in mid-August, causing him to seek treat-ment at Providence Hospital in Novi.
"If the bite wasn't enough, hospital 26

officials contacted Oakland County animal control and police and the man was ticketed for failing to il-cense his dog, according to a recent Farmington Department of Public Safety report. The dog was confined for 10 days, until its health could be determined.

SMALL FIRE
 Damage was estimated at \$100 at ter a circuit shorted and resulted in a fire in a plastic cover of an outdoor light lixture on the northwest corner of Parmington Hills Chrysler-Plymouth, 2901 Grand River, Aug. 27, according to a Parmington Hills fire

Window screens valued at \$200 were reported stolen from Flanders Elementary, 32500 Flanders, in Farmington 23-

DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$200 when the door of a car parked on Colchester in Farmington was scratched Aug. 25-26.

Tires and wheels valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a storage yard at Classic Restorations, 20785 Orchard Lake Road, Aug. 27-28.

Personal items valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a storage unit at Independence Green Apartments, at Halsted and Grand River, Aug. 16-23.

An AM/FM car stereo, control head and computer, and CDs valued at \$4,000 were reported stolen from a 1877 Bulke parked at \$1540 mer. Apartments on Middlebelt, Aug. 28-29.

DAMAGE REPORTED
 Damage was estimated at \$1,200 when someone smashed a large window at Leo Adler Nissan, 28200 Eight Mile, Aug. 28.

Program helps kick smoking habit

Smokers interested in giving up their habit once and for all can get help at Oakland University.

The Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute is offering an "Cease Using Obaceo" stop-smoking program. It begins with a free information inght at 6 p.m. Sept. 19.

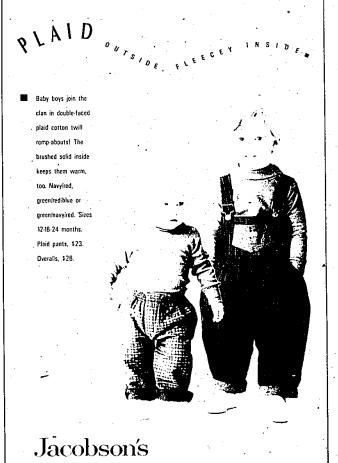
CUT relies on group support, Oct.

19.
CUT relies on group support, positive behavior modification,

Oct. 3.

The registration fee is \$50 for in-

stitute members and \$60 for non-members, but that cost can be re-covered quickly by not smoking. Instructors point out that packa-day smokers, in addition to drain-ing their health, deplete their wal-lets by more than \$600 a year. For registration information, call 370-4524. Registration will also be accepted at the information night program.



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