

## Security from page 1A

"Quit screaming," he reportedly said. Finally, the man broke loose of the woman's hold and ran out of the apartment, according to police.

"There are some concrete leads we are following up," said Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus. Police returned to the apartment Monday night to gather more evidence.

### Was lock defective?

The woman maintains that the lock on her doorwall, where it appears the man entered, was defective. The apartment complex management doesn't necessarily agree.

"It appears the door possibly may have been pried," Nebus said. "It's unknown if any prying action made it difficult to lock."

The woman said she checks her doors every night before going to bed. The doorwall was locked. Detectives investigating the case found that the door is difficult to lock, Nebus said.

Besides the shock of the ordeal,

the woman said she's also surprised at what she describes as a seeming lack of interest by apartment management.

"The guy (she called at the apartment) was like, 'Why should I listen to you?'"

"My privacy and peace of mind have been violated," the woman wrote to Ron Roy, Bextak regional manager.

When asked about the incident, Roy told the Observer: "We don't make it a practice to comment to the press."

### She makes demands

The woman's list of demands includes being moved to another Bextak rental property, professional packing and moving at Bextak's expense, payment of emotional counseling, cancellation of her existing lease at Muirwood, refund of her deposit, pro-lease payment and cleaning fee.

The woman also is asking Bextak

for a 12-month lease at another of their apartments at rent similar to Muirwood's even though the new apartment has higher rent. She also wants the new deposit and application fee waived.

In a return letter to the woman, Roy offered her two options. The first included providing a moving company and payment for costs to move from her current apartment to another in Muirwood.

The second option includes termination of her existing lease if she wants to move to another Bextak complex. Roy also agreed to transfer the security deposit and waive the application fee.

"Should you elect this option, you will be required to pay the market rate less any specials the community is currently offering when your apartment is selected," Roy wrote. "Furthermore, you will be responsible for the pro-rated amount

of rent due until you vacate your apartment at Muirwood."

If the woman does not choose either one of the two options, "Bextak is not willing to release you from your existing lease at Muirwood," Roy wrote.

The woman said she is disappointed not only in Bextak's response but the false sense of security she was provided when moving into the large complex, which features two gatehouses.

The gatehouses are among the reasons she moved to Muirwood. Security at the gatehouse is supposed to call tenants when a visitor arrives. Security also is supposed to register license plate numbers.

But the gatehouses don't prevent someone from walking into the complex. Gatehouses can help reduce auto thefts. "But other types of crime — people park nearby and walk in on foot," Nebus said.

## State Rep. Barns talks at library

State Rep. Justine Barns, D-Westland, will speak at a meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chapter of the Older Women's League at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5.

"How to Be a Savvy Voter and Use Our Vote Well" will be Barns' topic. She will speak at the Farmington Branch Library, 23500 Liberty.

The public is invited to attend. Call Nadine Mitchell at 422-5863 for more information.

## Noise war from page 1A

"People who live on I-275 where traffic is much less than it is here, like the mobile homes near Michigan Avenue have noise barriers and a wall," Barber said. "Why can't silence be grandfathered in? I feel we deserve as much as anyone else who has a noise problem."

DeFaine says his "heart goes out to Mrs. Barber," but MDOT has done all it can to help her. At a cost of \$49,062 for the safety barrier, MDOT has spent almost double to help her. MDOT policy says no more than \$27,000 can be spent per house for noise abatement.

"To erect a true noise barrier of 10-12 feet high would cost about \$250,000 if not more," DeFaine said. "We cannot justify a noise barrier because we are dealing with only one home. If we did it for her we would have to do it for similar situations across the state. There's no way we could ever afford it," DeFaine said.

Barber has asked the Farmington Hills city council to help persuade the state to do something.

"We've written letter after letter," said Mayor Jonathan Grant. "I just don't see what we

can do. I'm really sympathetic to her problems."

City Manager William Costick says he doesn't have any "magical answers," but had hoped the safety barrier would reduce some of the wheel noise from I-275. Two thoughts, he said, have run through his mind on Barber's noise problem.

First, perhaps the safety barrier could be elongated to cover Barber's entire stretch of property on I-275. On recent travels, Costick said he saw a barrier where another two feet were added on top. "I haven't researched if that would have any noise reduction," Costick said.

But still the problem remains: would the state pay for any more improvements? According to DeFaine, MDOT can't. Grant acknowledges that. "I don't think we can get money out of the state to address individual needs."

That doesn't mean Barber is giving up. She's been fighting the noise from I-275 since the freeway was built in the mid-1970s. "I've been writing (to the state) ever since."

The Barbers sold some of their land for the freeway. And they were assured that noise wouldn't be a problem.



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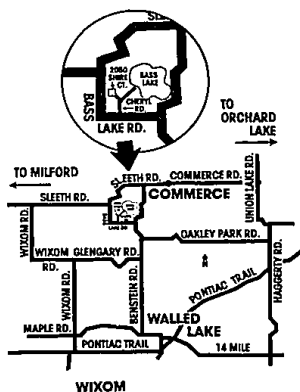
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