Holidays from page 1A

seams are a danger.

"There is a lot of cash changing hands," she sald. "That's why we teach our people to talk through the exchange and not get complacent."

Cathy Hoffman, who works at the Metro Bank main office on Grand River and Halsted, said the increase in check traffic can spell trouble for banks.

"We have a Telecheck system, but we have restrictions," she said. "It's usually a new account where someone opens it and then writes several checks."

Hoffman said attending the "Crime Watch" seminar also gave her an appreciation for what types of problems merchants face.

And police officers had some horrer stories to tell: Professional shoplifters who wore clothing that would allow them to carry out a small stock room, clothes that "foil" store metal detectors (you know, the ones that pick up the special plastic and metal tag), grifters who fool cashiers into taking small bills and giving big grifters who fool cashiers into tak-ing small bills and giving big

change, and thieves who steal the goods from one store and then return them for cash at another.

But prevention is the key word to keep merchants in good cheer. Here are some ideas to help prevent retail crime:

If hopplifters are favoring a certain item, move it to where it can be better observed or put it into a case.

case.

Let it be known that you have

Elet it be known that you have security.

Eleep front windows clear conough that outsiders can see into the store to help prevent holdups.

Have a policy for apprehending shoplifters and make sure employees know what it is.

Eleck two forms of identification, preferably a driver's license and credit eard. State ID cards are not preferred and names should match up with the first letter of the driver's license number.

ber.
■ Make sure the credit card is signed on the back end the name matches up with that on the driveral license.

Quiet ordinance stirs loud protests

BY BILL COUTANT STAFF WRITER

A Farmington Hills ordinance designed to make sure residents have some peace and quiet has stirred up a lot of noise — much of it directed at city officials.

Council members on Nov. 16 adopted a revised version of the ordinance, which had some residents befuddled until City Attorney John Donobue explained that without the change, there was little police could do to stop directions the change of the council of the council

meighbors.

"The only thing we're taking out (of the ordinance) is the requirement that it be equipped with a muffler," Donohue said.

Several residents from a subdision south of Nine Mile near Middlebelt said a neighbor and his children often rode their dirt bikes on their property last sumer, making so much noise that the residents could not hear each

☑ 'Police have been called so many times to this area, I feel like we're calling wolf.'

Cecile Chitwood

other in their own living rooms.
"This has been a problem we've suffered through the whole sum-mer," said Kelly McLaughlin. Parmington Hills Police have not been strangers to the neigh-borhood, but that hasn't helped, said Cecile Chitwood.

"Police have been called so many times to this area, I feel like we're calling wolf" she saids. I have to be present when the noisy bikes unwind, the law would be unenforceable as written before the council took action, Donohue said.

said.
"I've had your compleint sitting on my desk all this time," he

said. "The way it's written, it couldn't be enforced."
Donohue said the ordinance had required dirt bikes and off-road vehicles to have mufflers that would make them as quiet as passenger cors. Since even on-road motorcycles can't be made that quiet, no court could enforce such a law, he said.

The amended ordinance prohibits motorcycles from making "excessive noise" within the city, something a judge would have to decide based upon police reports and the nature of the complaint.

Not having a more specific standard troubled some residents.
Resident Mark Hanson compared not having a specific noise level in the ordinance to not having a specific speed limit.
"What's too fast for whom?" he said. "It shouldn't be a matter of lettererefaition."

said. "It shouldn't be a matter of interpretation." Others asked why excessive motorcycle noise is not considered "disturbing the peace." Donohus said motorcycles come under their own specific code.

City Manager William Costick said he will meet with residents, including the neighbor they complained about, and try to settle the problem before next summer. But even with the new ordinance, some were skeptical.

some were skeptical.

"For some reason, I have a horrible feeling this is going to backfire," Chitwood said.

Election from page 1A

Farmington Observer

five cut of the next six years.
In an October memo to trustee Helen Dittabzy, chairwoman of the Board of Education Finance Committee, Barrett said the administration was concerned with "legistical problems" because there are now double the precipiets.

there are now double the pre-cincts.

"We are concerned about po-tential 'burn out' of our citizen support base if we ask them to undertake sizable millage cam-paign efforts year after year," Bar-rest call.

rett said.

"We are also concerned about the district's image if it appears to voters that we are constantly asking for 'more money' year after

year," he said. "Finally, in this new era of financial uncertainty, we believe it is our responsibility we believe it is our responsibility to use every means at our disposal to reduce financial variables, in-cluding those associated with an-nual millage votes, some of which could be competing for voters' un-derstanding with other future school finance reform ballot cam-nairus."

School board member Cathy Webb proposed community dis-cussion meetings as well as cable-cast programs to educate voters. "We're being very straightfor-ward with this," Webb said. "There is no hidden agenda."

Police association helps needy

The Farmington Hills local of the Police Officers Association will be helping 10 local families enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

will be helping 10 local families enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Jeff Anderson, public relations officer with the Farmington Hills
POA, said officers are giving the food through the Salvation Army to families who otherwise would not be able to afford such a holiday feast.

The POA will also deliver

Christmes gifts to 10 needy families Dec. 21. It will be the third year for the Christmas gift giving.
Anderson said there will be a wrapping party Dec. 11 at the

wrapping party Dec. 11 at the Farmington Hills Police station.
"If we did not provide these Christmas presents, these families wouldn't have one," Anderson

said.

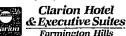
The gifts will include both practical items, such as winter clothing, and toys for the kids.

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- Lemon Buttered Vegetable Medley
- Mashed Potatoes with Giblet Gravy
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- Corn Relish
- Cranberry Sauce
- Ambrosia Salad
- Hot Dinner Rolls
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- Apple Cider

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