

Drive stalled: Farmington Hills' Vicki Barnett can stop collecting signatures for her petition drive that she hoped would solve the chaos in school financing.



FILE PHOTO

Robbery suspects



ATM holdup: The two men pictured are suspects in an automatic teller machine robbery at the Michigan National Bank branch on Orchard Lake near the Old Orchard Theatre at about 8 p.m. Tuesday. A Farmington Hills woman, 33, had just withdrawn \$10 when one of the two men pulled a gun and demanded the money plus an additional \$50 withdrawal. The woman complied and the two men ran behind the bank. One is described as black, 17, with a dark jacket, pants and knit cap. The other man is described as 17 and also was wearing dark clothing. Anyone with information should call the Farmington Hills police at 474-6181.

CARE from page 1A

Tax bills will fall for many property owners in Michigan. But some taxpayers in wealthy districts are likely to lose under either proposal, according to press reports.

"Why am I not satisfied with the plan? Very simple: the out-of-formula districts are getting screwed," Barnett said.

"You get a choice between a firing squad or a hanging," she said.

"Whatever choice is taken, the governor and Legislature can then blame the solution on the voters."

"So, while they (lawmakers) wanted to hold their feet to the fire, they have in effect walked away. They're saying, 'It's up to the people of the state.'"

"Had they left it up to the people in the first place, we wouldn't be in this mess. The people said 'don't cut property tax at the ex-

pense of the schools' twice in recent memory."

The Farmington area's state lawmakers — Sen. Jack Faxon, a Democrat, and Rep. Jan Dolan, a Republican — skipped the key vote on the March 15 election on Christmas Eve.

Barnett noted that she is still getting requests for petitions and information about CARE.

"People are really unhappy,"

she said. "We want to focus their energy on the real issue: Who is representing us in Lansing?"

"The battle will go on. The Realtors are not done. The (state) Chamber of Commerce is not done... they may be suing."

The state Chamber, calling the proposals unfair to business, has indicated that a court action may be filed, according to press reports.

Art from page 1A

Frederick, a 1984 graduate of Redford Catholic Central High School, worked on the mural in his garage — which is not as tall as the art work. It had to be painted on a slant.

So how did Frederick get into barbering? "I met a girl in a bar," he said. "I needed a job at the time and she worked in a hair salon. I started working there... (and) liked it so much that I went to school."

And how did he get into art? "Oh, I've been doing art since I was knee high."

In the near future, some of Frederick's paintings will be displayed for sale at Bravo, 11739 W. 12 Mile Road, and at the Espresso Cafe, 973 S. Opydyke Road, Auburn Hills.

■ 'People come into this kind of setup — a coffeehouse — for the atmosphere, and the mural certainly helps with that.'

Layth Barash
Bravo owner

Big vote comes in without Faxon, Dolan

The state Legislature has voted: There will be a shift away from using property taxes to fund Michigan's public schools.

But Farmington's two elected state officials apparently weren't around when it came time for the big vote on Christmas Eve day.

Three senators missed the vote, including Jack Faxon, D-Farm-

ington Hills.

David Honigman, a Republican senator who represents neighboring West Bloomfield, joked:

"Jack's probably dancing at the ballet ('The Nutcracker'). He's getting exercise. He's having fun. Everyone here is mad and irritable."

Faxon, who opposed SB 1,

which eliminated school operating property taxes, was expected to vote against most of the replacement bills.

State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, was present for 10 a.m. roll call on Thursday, Dec. 23, and then answered a call at 12:01 a.m., according to House records.

But Dolan, who has generally supported the shift away from property taxes, wasn't heard from after that, missing the crucial vote on the March 15 ballot proposal.

Their absences had the effect of being no votes.

Neither Faxon nor Dolan could be reached for comment.

Officer puts brakes on theft of car left idling at business

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A 35-year-old Novi woman will probably think twice before she leaves her car unattended while it's unlocked and running.

Farmington Hills police captured two men at about 8 p.m. Dec. 28 after the woman's Ford Taurus was taken from the Shell gas station at the northeast corner of Grand River and Haggerty. The woman had left the car engine on as she went into the station to buy a pack of cigarettes.

Hills patrol officer Bonnie Unruh heard the call as she was writing a traffic ticket at 13 Mile and Orchard Lake and went west on 12 Mile looking for the car.

"The traffic was heavy and that's a common type of car," she said. "But I knew the area and thought they might try to get back to 12 Mile on Country Club (Drive)."

Unruh's hunch paid off. When she stopped at the flashing red light at 12 and Country Club, she saw a car that matched the description pointed south, parked on Country Club. The driver

■ 'The traffic was heavy and that's a common type of car. But I knew the area and thought they might try to get back to 12 Mile on Country Club (Drive).'

Bonnie Unruh
Hills patrol officer

turned off the lights, indicating he saw the officer.

Unruh, a three-year department veteran, yelled at him to stop as the driver got out of the car and ran away on foot. Unruh said she knew officer Scott Cronin was on his way from 12 and Haggerty headed east on foot. So she went past an abandoned house and then west, with the hope that the man would be flushed out.

"There was some light from the snow," she said. "I knew he had to be in the abandoned house or jump a wall. At that point I heard a noise in the street (Minnow Pond Creek), turned my flashlight in that direction and saw another man in the creek."

Unruh waded into the knee-deep, chilly water to cuff the sus-

pect. Two other officers caught up with another suspect.

Hills Inspector Tom Godwin praised Unruh's work in the case.

Ernest Kirk Feltz, 26, and Jerry Wayne Richardson, 34, both of Dearborn, were charged with auto theft and receiving and concealing stolen property, both five-year felonies in 47th District Court Dec. 29. They pleaded innocent and will have a preliminary exam Jan. 7.

The car was recovered unharmed and the woman's purse had been rifled but she had taken her money with her into the station.

"I'm always telling people not to leave their car running and leave it," Unruh said. "I hope they get the message."

Notice: Public Comment Period Transportation Improvement Program (FY 1994-1996) Amendments

Presented by: SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900
Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-4266

The public is invited to review and submit comments on amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1994-1996 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) during the public comment period, **January 3 to January 28, 1994**. The TIP is a listing of federally and non-federally funded major road and transit service improvements proposed by various communities, road agencies, transit agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) emphasizes the public's opportunity to review and comment on road and transit projects proposed for federal funding. This public comment process is part of SEMCOG's overall responsibility for formulating the TIP and for approving projects for federal funding.

The additional projects are located in the Southeast Michigan counties of

Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne and the City of Detroit. The types of proposed projects include construction of new roads, widening of existing roads, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges, large bus and equipment purchases by transit agencies and operating assistance for transit agencies. The TIP document identifies the location of each project, estimated cost, the source of funds and the agency or community which has jurisdiction over the project.

Written comments concerning the projects should be submitted to John M. Amberger, Executive Director of SEMCOG, at 660 Plaza Drive, Suite 1900, Detroit, MI, 48226. Verbal responses may also be made, at SEMCOG's Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) meeting to be held in SEMCOG offices (same address) on Wednesday, January 26, 1994, at 9:30 a.m.

The TIP amendments are available for review starting January 3 at the following locations:

SEMCOG offices (address above)
The Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), First National Bldg., 660 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

The Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), 1301 E. Warren, Detroit.
The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Urban Area Transportation Study, 278 Collingwood, Ann Arbor.

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, 2700 Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor.

The St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, 108 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron.

County planning departments and the main offices of county road commissions in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw and the Wayne County Department of Public Services (Department of Engineering).

The City of Detroit's planning department and Planning Commission office.

Most obey liquor law in sting, but chief sober about violators

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The 14th liquor sting conducted by the Farmington Hills Police Department last week was encouraging, with 46 of 50 licensed establishments not violating the law.

But three of the four restaurants ticketed for selling to a minor were repeat offenders. That worries police Chief Bill Dwyer. "We've made a lot of progress since we started these stings seven years ago," Dwyer said. "We had a lot of injuries and fatal accidents that resulted from underage drinking. I'd like to commend the 46 establishments that did the right thing. But I'm really disappointed about a couple of the

others."

In particular, Dwyer cited the Metropolitan Musicale on 12 Mile. The restaurant was ticketed for selling to a minor for the third time in just over 18 months. And the cadet police used in the sting last week had also been served at the restaurant in the last sting.

"I'm going to strongly recommend to the L.L.C. (state Liquor Control Commission) that their license be revoked," Dwyer said.

Liquor Control Commissioner Jackie Stewart, a Farmington Hills resident, said that while three violations within 24 months can result in suspension or revocation of a liquor license, the commission does not have strict guidelines.

"Normally, it depends on the magnitude of the violation," she said. "If they've sold to a 16-year-old, right off the bat that would probably mean a \$1,000 fine and a three-day suspension."

But when it comes to most cases, the commission makes a decision on a case-by-case basis, Stewart said.

"If they've been in business for 15 years with no problems and then they have three straight citations, it could be a change in management," she said.

The sting involves having a police cadet less than 20 years old and dressed appropriately for his