

Parking lot from page A1

was a victory for Ottowell. "I think it's good," he said. "The people who live back here... the residents should have a say about what they hear and listen to."

Farmington Planning Commission Chair David Gronbach Tuesday said the request by the American Legion was rejected because the lot is zoned specifically for parking and because the driver training course "is not conducive to a neighborhood area."

Residents were emphatic about that point during the commission meeting. City Manager Frank Laubhoff said residents made it known that "people who were going to be tested came all days of the week and all hours of the day to practice."

According to Gronbach, the American Legion leased the space to independent contractors Marjorie Leach and Joyce Dornan, who conduct driver's train-

ing tests for the state. "They've got to find another location," Gronbach said. "My understanding is they had been using part of OCC."

Drivers go through a course made up of painted parking lot symbols and orange cones, completing tests for stopping, backing up and turning, etc.

The city was unaware of the noisily testing until a resident complained, Gronbach said. The matter was subsequently reviewed and Walter Christensen, home board president for the Legion post, was ultimately advised that the testing had to cease until a special exception use permit was obtained.

On Wednesday, Christensen said the commission's decision will cost the Legion \$400 in monthly revenue from the two independent contractors. That money helped pay the bills and fund various community programs.

**AGENDAS**

**Farmington City Council**  
City Hall, 474-5500  
8 p.m. Monday, March 16  
Agenda items include:  
■ Request for outdoor seating by Starbucks Coffee Company.  
■ Proclamations for Fair Housing Month in Oakland County and Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week.  
■ Master plan update by Brad Strader of The Strader Group.  
■ City manager's report about six-year capital improvement plan.  
■ Appointments to Historical Commission.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
City Hall, 474-0115  
7:30 p.m. Monday, March 16  
Agenda items include:  
■ Public hearing on special assessment district for Briarclay Ridge Area and intent to issue bonds to install water main.  
■ Consider rezoning east side of Orchard Lake, Oakland Hills Orchards, from single-family residential district to planned office service district.  
■ Consider community development block grant consolidated plan and the 1998-99 projected use of funds.

■ Consider amendment to consent judgment for property at the northeast corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.  
■ Consider schedule to present and discuss Farmington Hills Mobility Study.  
■ Appointments to boards and commissions.  
■ Adopt resolution to start consumer protection study committee.  
■ Adopt resolutions for 1998 dust control program; set March 30 as date for public hearing.  
■ Approve agreement to buy property at 11 Mile and Halsted roads.

Buses from page A1

write license plate numbers down or get accurate vehicle descriptions - whereas a police officer can, Green said.

No children have been injured or killed in Farmington or Farmington Hills recently, but the program is designed to bring awareness to the problem.

The goal is cut the number of offenses by 25 percent while tripling the number of tickets issued. Raising money through fine collections is not the program's motivation, though.

"The grant is designed to make them stop for the darn buses," Green said.

Green used the results of the school bus driver survey and wrote a grant proposal to the state Office of Highway Safety

Planning, which is looking for ways to reduce the number of such incidents.

The \$10,000 grant allows the department to use 235 overtime hours to place plainclothes officers on the bus driver and watch for offending motorists.

Money for the grant is provided through the National Highway Traffic Safety Association.

During the first week, officers will ride on two bus routes and then evaluate the program,

before picking up again in September and October.

Officers won't be there to make children behave, only to watch traffic.

"I think it's going to be a positive experience," Green said. "They're not there to handle a fight in the back of the bus or cases where someone is stealing a sandwich from someone's lunch."

"I think they'll go to school and tell people why an officer was on the bus."

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Sting from page A1

tobacco products. "Yet this person still wound up selling."

Benner's Amoco owner Mike Alzein said the employee was taking care of two other customers when the young woman, who was "in a hurry," came in asking for the cigarettes.

"We're very careful," Alzein said Friday. "But when you catch the cashier when he's busy... They've been asked to check for ID."

Alzein said the employee would not be disciplined. "He just made a mistake."

"I'm 100 percent supportive of what they're doing," added Alzein, about the efforts of the Farmington Public Safety

Sting from page A1

Department.

Goss had some advice for the retailers, for future reference. "You've got to be aware. The law's the law."

The sting was done independently of the one previously done by the Hills police department.

"We've got the community Call to Action program that's going on," said Goss, explaining why the tobacco sting took place now. "And we've been working with the schools for several years on the tobacco issue. This is just an extension of that."

"From our perspective, we're taking a two-pronged approach. We look at the users as well as the suppliers."

Thefts from page A1

already taken you to the farm. They've tapped your resources."

How a person is hired by a company is key, Ortiz said. He suggests that employers trust intuition about prospective employees. That starts by letting the person talk about himself and listening carefully.

Body language gives clues as to whether a person is lying. For instance, a person who consistently looks to the upper right is building an image in his mind opposed to recalling one that's already there.

Other tips include: not allowing the person to take the application home where someone else

can fill it out; checking references; and doing a criminal background check.

"The only way to stop theft is at the front door," Ortiz said.

A woman in the audience said she paid \$125 to a company for such a check, which revealed all the applicants for security positions had a criminal history. It was money well-spent, she said.

Another Farmington Hills employer found Ortiz's presentation insightful.

"It's a good education," said Jim Willis of Michigan National Bank. "It makes us aware of the vulnerability and exposures..."

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**THE BEST MATTRESS**  
Several years ago in a similar column, I stated that the best mattress is the firmest one you can find. I will stick by that recommendation.  
However, there is more to a good night's sleep than owning a good mattress. One important aspect is how you will lay on the bed.  
If you have scoliosis then being on your back is best. If you have spinal stenosis then a position on your side and curled up on your side is likely to give you a night of minimal pain.  
If arthritis plagues you, then keeping warm may be more important than how hard a mattress you recline on. If your problem is carpal tunnel of the knees then a pillow between, but not under, your knees may be of help.  
If you have carpal tunnel syndrome, then it is conventional to sleep with wrist splints. However, many of my patients find that without the splints they sleep better. Those patients tuck their hands under their body as a way of stimulating the best of the splints they do not wear.  
If you have shoulder pain, then your posture in bed is important. Sleeping on your back is the best for your shoulders if the underlying problem is tendinitis or a rotator cuff tear. In this position the strain on the cuff muscles is minimal. Avoid going to bed exhausted, then you land on the mattress in a heap and strain even your otherwise good muscles and joints.

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