

# Former Berkshire to become Ramada Limited Suites Motel

The former site of the upscale Berkshire Hotel, at the corner of Telegraph and Franklin roads, soon will be converted to a Ramada Limited Suites Motel, after having served most recently as a home for the elderly.

It's called a motel because no internal restaurant is planned. However, the adjacent former Bob Evans Restaurant on Telegraph is slated to open as a Kerby's Coney Island restaurant. The motel building is vacant with the date of opening uncertain, according to Nik Banda, Southfield city planner.

Southfield city council recently approved rezoning, site plan and review requests from Manhal Shammami of D3M, Inc.

No one spoke at a public hearing on the rezoning, which took place before council's unanimous vote, although residents previously had wondered whether the new motel would prosper.

The Ramada Suites Motel will be located on the 2.28-acre location formerly occupied by Springhouse Assisted Living, a division of Manor Care Inc.

**Health Services.**

In March, the 58 residents of the facility were to be relocated to another Manor Care site on Orchard Lake Road, north of Maple Road in West Bloomfield. Other nearby hotels include the Holiday Inn, 26555 Telegraph, south of 11 Mile Road.

Fred Reese, Holiday Inn new general manager, said that he was unaware that a new facility was planned. "If it is limited service, it should not affect us, because we are full service," Reese said.

For full service facilities, when a new hotel enters the area without a market increases, there's an effect, he said.

Further away at the Ramada Inn Hotel, 17017 Nine Mile Road, between Greenfield and Southfield Road, owner Sam Yono felt confident that both facilities can co-exist.

"There's enough room for everyone to survive," Yono said. "It's not a concern. This is a strong economy. Business is thriving. There's room for more corporate hotel rooms."

## POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

The following police and fire incidents were reported in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week:

**DOMESTIC ASSAULT**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
A woman told police her ex-boyfriend threw her to the ground and pulled out the phone so she couldn't phone for help July 7.

**AUTO THEFTS**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
A car thief drove off with a white 1995 Chrysler from Gateway Apartments during the early morning July 7.

Thieves had their eyes on late 1980s model Buicks, stealing a 1987 black Regal while breaking the steering column in an attempt to make off with another '87 Regal from Bob Peck's Show-n-Go on Grand River July 7. A dead battery thwarted the car thieves.

**BREAK INS**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
Someone smashed a passenger window and ripped out a pair of speakers from a 1985 Chevy Celebrity parked on Tulane the night of July 6-7.

Thieves broke in three vehicles parked at the Church of Nazarene on Haggerty July 9. A thief smashed the passenger window and stole a \$2,000 stereo system and purse from a 1997 Chrysler. A 1997 Dodge Caravan was also minus a stereo after someone broke the driver's

window while the van was parked in the church lot. A stereo was stolen from a 1998 Chevy Silverado after the driver's side window was broken.

**SUSPICIOUS PERSON**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
A 12-year-old girl told police a man driving a purple two-door Dodge Neon asked her to get into his car while driving on Eight Mile and Grand River around 1:20 p.m. July 9. The girl ran into Murray's Auto Parts and told police the man followed her inside the store. She fled to the leasing office of Botsford Apartments.

**THEFTS**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
A "Tim the Toolman" wannabe helped himself to numerous construction and hand tools, including a \$5,000 grade setter, from a building site at Hills Tech office complex on Haggerty the night of July 6-7.

**MOVING EXPERIENCE**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
Police are investigating a possible case of larceny by conversion after a former Farmington Hills man told them about some items that came up missing in a move to Livonia in April. A recliner chair, barbecue and 10 coats didn't arrive at the new address. When questioned, the person who helped in the move said they must have fallen off the truck. Recently, the man's wife saw the chair and other

items in the woman's home. The woman denied they belong to the couple, saying they were gifts.

**CHILD ABUSE**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
Police arrested a man after his daughter said her father stepped on her foot while the two argued over the television remote July 7. She also said her dad kicked her in the leg during the dispute. The girl's foot was bleeding and police saw a red welt on her leg, reports said. The father said he stepped on his daughter's foot accidentally and denies kicking her. "She has no respect for her father," he told police.

**DRUNKEN DRIVING**  
*In Farmington Hills:*  
Police arrested a Detroit man after the 1985 Pontiac Bonneville he was driving was involved in a five-vehicle crash on Grand River and Oxford at 7 p.m. July 7. Witnesses said the Bonneville was speeding southbound on Oxford and didn't stop at Grand River, striking a car traveling west. The driver admitted to police that he drank a 40-ounce bottle of Colt 45. He had a blood alcohol level of 0.2 percent, which is twice the legal limit.


**ASSAULT AND BATTERY**  
*In Farmington:*  
A warrant may be filed against a 31-year-old female employee for striking another female employee, 23, about 7:20 p.m.

Thursday in what may have been a dispute between the two over a male employee at the Kmart store, 37175 Grand River. Police said the suspect, from Detroit, twice slapped the victim, from Farmington Hills, in the face, pulled her ponytail and kicked her in the leg after finding her talking to the male, 39, also from Farmington Hills.

The suspect left before police arrived. The victim, who suffered minor injuries, said she was unaware of any relationship between the other two and refused medical attention. Police could not contact either the suspect or the male witness.

**LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
*In Farmington:*  
A 28-year-old Farmington Hills woman arrested about 2:30 a.m. Thursday on Grand River at Indoplex for driving without a license was found to have three previous suspensions in the past two years for either driving while her license was suspended or for registration and/or plate violations.

Police, who stopped the woman after observing her 1993 Toyota Tercel twice cross the yellow lane divider, also found a outstanding warrant issued by Novi for failure to appear in court on a misdemeanor. Officers impounded her car. The woman posted the \$50 bond on the Novi warrant.



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