

Perplexed

Residents, council can RV ordinance

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Recreational vehicle and trailer owners said a proposed ordinance to regulate them created more riddles than solutions.

The measure would have allowed rec vehicles under six feet to be parked on the side of homes but not in front. The purpose was to remove RVs in front of L-shaped or U-shaped homes. Some council RVs and trailers in the front yard as unsightly.

Simple enough, right? Confusion ensued at Monday's Hills City Council meeting.

"My house is round, so I really don't have a side yard," said Joan Nusly, who lives on Dresden Street.

Added Eldred Street resident Robert Hicks, "What you're saying is they can't park boat or race car trailers in their drive-

"We moved into this neighborhood because it was a rural area instead of a well-manicured subdivision. I didn't want to live where there is a subdivision association."

Robert Hicks
—Eldred resident

way."

Other RV owners presented a variety of scenarios, which covered everything except parking dog sleds in front of igloos.

Farmington Hills City Council members seemed equally perplexed, turning down the measure in a 4-2 vote.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, council members Cheryl Oliverio, Vicki Barnett and Jerry Ellis voted against. Council members Nancy Bates and Jody Soronen cast ballots in favor of the regulation. Councilman Jon Grant was absent.

during a planning commission public hearing May 20.

At that hearing, Hicks said he preferred to see boats or trailers compared to some of the junk cars parked legally in front of L-shaped homes where garages sit further back.

Some had problems with the ordinance. Sports utility vehicles are growing in size, a councilman said.

"They're huge," councilman Ellis said. "They don't have both rooms in them yet. So, I guess they're not RVs."

A lot more study needs to be done, Vagnozzi said. He'd like to see where similar ordinances exist in other cities and whether they work.

The Hills measure would mostly affect those who live in older areas where some lots are only 50 feet wide, Vagnozzi said.

"Traipsing through older parts of our city, I can see lots of problems," he said.

Bates and Soronen believed the proposal was straight-forward.

"We have a pop-up tent camper we park in the garage and in the backyard before that," Soronen said. "That works out just fine."

Two Novi teens nabbed

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Two Novi teens, ages 17 and 18, are in custody after they unwittingly tried to break into a GMC Jimmy that was an unmarked police car with a plain-clothes officer inside early Wednesday morning.

Authorities believe the teens are responsible for a rash of car break-ins in the Nine Mile-Haggerty area. After aborting their attempt to get inside the officer's car, both were later caught taking speakers from a parked van, according to police.

Around 1:15 a.m. a South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium undercover unit saw a pair of teens wearing hooded jackets walking across Parkwood Lane in the Eight Mile-Haggerty area. SONIC includes Farmington Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield officers.

The officer laid down on the front seat while the teens came up to his parked GMC Jimmy. One pulled on the locked door handle while telling his partner, "Hey, check this out," police reports said.

When he noticed the man inside the truck, he backed off. The officer stood up and asked them what they were doing.

"Uh, oh uh, sorry dude, I was checking to see if you're OK," the teen replied before walking away with his partner down

Parkwood Lane, according to a police report.

Another surveillance unit watched as the pair disappeared into a wooded area off Cheshire Street. Around 10 minutes later, officers found a Plymouth Voyager - with the dome light on - parked on Heatheridge. They also noticed two shadows behind a house nearby.

Authorities spotted the pair again five minutes later standing next to a van parked in the driveway as one teen was removing stereo speakers. When spotted, the two ran east behind a Heatheridge residence and into a swamp by a construction site.

After a half-mile foot chase, police caught both without incident. The van's owner said he and a roommate loaded the stereo speakers inside and then went to bed.

"This is a warning about locking your vehicle and keeping valuable things out of view," Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said.

One of the teens arrested had a leatherman tool in his jacket pocket, police reports said.

Authorities are asking people in the Nine Mile-Haggerty area who may have victims of car break-ins to make police reports. The department recovered stolen property and needs to identify owners, Chief Bill Dwyer said.

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