

Tapes from page A1

retrieved as they build their case to support at least two charges of criminal sexual conduct.

"Right now, we're trying to systematically bring all those items seized from the townhouse to where we can sift through all of it," Dwyer said.

A school bus driver tipped off a Hills school liaison officer after overhearing a conversation between two students, and police conducted a surveillance based on information gathered by the liaison and a detective. Arrest and search warrants were obtained Friday after police observed Thompson cruising fast food restaurants, parks, neigh-

borhoods - places where young boys would gather, police said.

He was held in the Hills lock-up until after his arraignment Saturday afternoon, then transferred to the Oakland County Jail, held on \$1 million bond.

Thompson's preliminary exam is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. March 6.

Officers spent hours Friday night clearing Thompson's apartment of dozens of boxes filled with audio and video tapes, clothing, file cards and a range of items that point to a history Thompson said included paying young boys to inflict pain, Dwyer said.

A 26-year-old man who spoke

FARMINGTON HILLS

to police said he had been paid thousands of dollars over a period of years. "He says he's now in therapy," Dwyer added.

Nebus believes the adult victim will be a very credible witness. "He knew what the inside of the house looked like ... He had very specific knowledge about some of (Thompson's) methods."

Some of the evidence collected dates back to the 1960s. Given

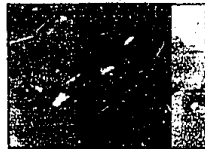
that time span and the amount of media attention the case has generated, Dwyer expects to see many others come forward.

Hills detectives are also trying to verify information Thompson is giving them. Nebus said he told officers he had been questioned and passed a polygraph test in connection with the Oakland County child killings, a baffling case that after almost 30 years remains unsolved and in the public eye. Last year, Oakland County officials flew to Wyoming to gather DNA evidence from a man who had died in a car accident 15 years ago, in the hope of finding a match with

a hair found on one of the victims.

Thompson has denied to police that he was sexually abused as a child. His parents died in 1996, and Dwyer said he believes he has one brother. Other than that, Thompson has said he has no friends. During the week police had him under surveillance, Nebus said, he'd get into his car, a red Dodge Viper, cruise around and make contact with young boys, then go to work in the evening.

"He told us, 'If you look up the definition of loner in the dictionary, my picture will be there,'" Dwyer said.



On hold: Assistant Chief Charles Nebus walks through the police department garage that holds the suspect's Dodge Viper.

Paper from page A1

an "extension of the city clerk's files." That means anything on it is a public document and accessible through the Freedom of Information Act.

The first electronic packets, other than practice run-throughs, will be for the Monday, March 20, regular council meeting. Paper agendas will continue to be posted for meetings and citizens will still be able to receive hard copies of agendas upon request.

"I don't see that it presents any problem with the Freedom of Information Act," Donohue

said later. "All documents will be available at the clerk's office. They can be downloaded by request."

About the Open Meetings Act, which prohibits elected bodies from privately communicating toward a consensus on an issue, Donohue said there shouldn't be any problems "as long as they don't do on the computer what they can't do on the telephone."

That was a reference to conference calls.

Meanwhile, sending e-mails to other council members would be the same as sending a memoran-

dum, he added. Where trouble could arise is if council members engage in an electronic "chat" room with the goal of discussing city issues, for example.

A master copy of the agenda - the "subpoenable version," according to council member Vicki Barnett - will be kept by the city. That version can not be altered, the council was told.

Steve Brock, Farmington Hills city manager, said the "paperless packets" will help reduce time and expenses that the clerk's office now incurs to produce the paper agenda. Those savings will

E-MAIL

take care of the initial cost of about \$20,000 for the 10 Armada V-300 units.

Presenting the computer lesson were Mary Jo Stemple, Mike Lasley and Bill Schultz, of the city's central services department. The study session preceded the regular council meeting.

The city will electronically forward agendas to each council member's e-mail account, which will be for council business only.

They then will be downloaded, and printed, if so desired.

Agendas will be in the Adobe Acrobat format, which includes features such as highlighting text and drawing on the screen, to write down ideas or underline important passages, for example. Lasley said large supplementary items, such as maps, will continue to be provided as hard copies.

"I'm looking forward to it," said council member Chris McRae. "It will cut down on stuff time. ... We'll still get some paper."

McRae said that most of the council already is proficient on computers and that citizens will not lose out with the new system.

"The agendas will still be posted as they are now," McRae said. "Regular citizens don't see all this background information" anyway.

As he spoke he coolly flipped through the 87-page packet for Monday's regular meeting.

Besides the computers, council members are also receiving a printer, complete with color and black-and-white ink cartridges.

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