

Bruce from page A1

vote and ordered City Manager Steve Brock to work with the developer of Olympia Condos on an alternate plan. Bruce said he recognizes officials had to be mindful of lawsuits, but feels they can be creative in coming up with plans that protect the character of neighborhoods and keep the city's business environ-

ment healthy. That kind of problem-solving and compromise is important to Bruce's livelihood; he is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Walled Lake and is associate director of behavioral sciences at Special Tree Rehabilitation Systems in Romulus. "I spend time looking at prob-

lems and how to solve them," he said. Bruce said his wife, Judy, and 11-year-old daughter Gina are behind his decision to run, even though they know it will take a lot of his time. "My wife supports this. She knows this is something that's very important to me," he said.

Chamber office closes April 13-20

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will be closed to the public and its members from Friday, April 13 through Friday, April 20.

Closure of the Chamber office is due to construction and asbestos removal at the Farmington Training Center.

Chamber staff will have the ability to access phone messages left on the Chamber's voicemail system; staff will retrieve messages throughout each business day. Anyone inquiring about information may call (248) 474-3440 and leave messages at:

■ Cheryl Zajdel, executive assistant - Ext. 21, general and community information, relocation information.

■ Carleigh Flaharty, president/CEO - Ext. 22, legislative affairs, economic development, community relations.

■ Ara Topouzian, director of Programs & Events - Ext. 23, Chamber-related special events and programs.

■ Diana Lis, director of Operations - Ext. 24, finance and accounting.

■ Marie Housworth, director of Membership Development - Ext. 25, member relations, advertising, membership inquiries.

Inquiries may also be directed via e-mail to flaharty@fhchamber.com from April 13-20. The Chamber office will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 23.

Waste drop-off slated May 12

Saturday, May 12, is Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day for Farmington and Farmington Hills residents.

Any of the following items can be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at 47th District Court, 32795 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills:

Used computer equipment, oil based paint, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs and other common household chemicals.

For more information call the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County at (248) 208-2270.

Dogs from page A1

Director Gary Goss.

At the beginning of the school year, Goss explained, letters were sent home with students explaining that random parking lot searches could occur for no reason at any time. There also are signs posted in the high school's parking lot that vehicles can be searched if there is reasonable cause to do so.

"This is a deterrent consistent with the schools' policy on zero tolerance," Goss said.

So, with spring break just around the corner, Farmington High School Principal John Barrett decided the time was right for a search. He emphasized there was nothing specifically triggering the look-see.

"It was just to let kids know we're trying to maintain a safe and drug-free environment," the principal explained. "Around spring time, kids begin to become a little more anxious to 'grow up' and do things. But there was no incident we were reacting to."

The specially trained canines found small or traceable amounts in four cars while an apparatus used to smoke marijuana was discovered in a fifth, Goss said.

All of the students received school suspensions of from three- to-10 days, and received misdemeanor tickets, which carry maximum penalties of 93 days in jail and \$500 fine. Barrett said one of the students attends Farmington Alternative Academy, a case of being parked "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Goss said those ticketed for marijuana possession included two 17-year-old females, one 17-year-old male, and one 16-year-old female. Another female, 18, was ticketed for having narcotics paraphernalia. Their hearings are set for Monday, April 23, in 47th District Court.

The student drivers of three of the five targeted vehicles were brought out from inside the school after police dogs "alerted"

officers that there might be drugs present, Goss explained. Under state law, such alerts are enough for a complete search to take place, he added.

Two of the students subsequently were handcuffed and taken to the Farmington police station for processing and then were discharged.

Goss said officers opened a fourth vehicle, after spotting a marijuana seed. The smoking apparatus was discovered under the front seat of a fifth car. Although he said the results of the search "doesn't indicate there's a serious problem, ... this is a drug-free zone and we mean it. And that's a good message to get out."

"This is just one of the school district's efforts to maintain a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning," added Estralee Michaelson, the Farmington district's director of safe and drug-free schools.

Youth from page A1

document at a March 26 study session; officials suggested changes in language, a limited membership and a slate of officers.

The youth council will elect a

chairperson, vice chair and secretary for a term of one year, with elections scheduled to coincide with the school year. No officer can serve more than two terms. Associate members may

be appointed to various committees, but won't have a vote.

"You're pioneers," Bates added. "A lot of people in the country are watching to see how this works."

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