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City launches probe

Oaks residents blast crime increase

By STEVE BARNABY

A city-wide study on how to combat crime in the City of Farmington is being made by City Manager Robert Deadman and Public Safety Director Daniel Byrnes.

The study was assigned after members of the Farmington Oaks Subdivision Association aired complaints at this week's council meeting over the spiraling rate of vandalism and crimes involving youths in the area.

After listening for 1½ hours to resident complaints, Mayor John Richardson asked Deadman for the study, saying something has to be done to fight vandalism which has risen 65 per cent.

AREAS TO BE STUDIED are curfews, citizen band radio contacts, resident patrols, tax increase for increased law enforcement and ways to get residents to report crime without fear of retribution.

Residents in attendance expressed reservations over having to call police, saying they feared harm from those being reported.

"Our main concern is for the women who are alone during the day," said one resident. "I don't think we want it as a known fact that women are having to stay in their homes out of fear."

Byrnes refuted the fear of retribution, saying such cases were seldom recorded. Reporting incidents, he said, was the best way for residents to fight back.

"There is very little retribution. Even when the incident reported goes all the way to court," said Byrnes. "The problem we have is that the vast majority of incidents aren't coming to our attention."

Byrnes said it was difficult for the police department, to tell what was going on out in the street because of the low number of incident reports by residents.

In the last two months residents say that incidents of speeding, false alarms, automobile break-ins, brush fires, and general harassment of residents have been occurring in the Oaks Subdivision. Byrnes said the problem is more widespread, with incidents occurring in Tall Oaks, Birchwood Meadows and Bel Aire subdivisions.

Residents attending the council meeting said it was primarily youth who were causing the trouble.

"Residents must face up to the fact that it is generally their own children and teenagers who they fear. Very seldom is it outsiders causing the trouble," said Deadman.

Deadman said that residents were overreacting to the fear of retribution.

saying that names of persons lodging complaints were kept confidential.

OAKS SUBDIVISION PRESIDENT Kenneth Murray told council members the association was seeking ways in which the city and residents could cooperate to fight the problem.

"The feeling is running high in the subdivision that something has to be done. We need to reach a mutual understanding with the city," said Murray.

"We are calling for a firm and aggressive plan. How can we more fully cooperate with the police and council? How can they help us to help ourselves?"

Byrnes told residents the police department was working on a selective enforcement policy in attempts to stem the speeding through the subdivisions.

"But we haven't been too successful. Issuing tickets doesn't cure the problem," he said. "The solution is for more residents to get involved. They should get the license numbers and identify the drivers."

The automobile break-ins, he said, are a big problem in the apartment complexes.

Presently, the city has two cars patrolling the city at night. This is a decrease from four cars patrolling three years ago. Complaints have increased

116 per cent in that same time, he said.

Deadman was skeptical about residents patrolling the subdivision, as occurred in the Chatham Hills subdivisions, last summer. He also doubted that the auxiliary police could be utilized because of possible labor problems with full-time police officers.

Byrnes agreed with Deadman's assessment of auxiliary police use.

"Besides the question of unions, I question whether reserves would do it. They have limited training for such things as parades and traffic control during fires," he said.

The police department already has alleviated some of the officers' work-

load by shortening report forms, but patrol time on the street, he admitted, still is a critical problem.

Deadman warned residents not to overreact to the problem.

"You're not living in a crime ridden community. You're still living in a crime free city when compared to our neighbors," he said.



On the edge

Three cars and this cement truck were involved in an accident Tuesday afternoon at Grand River and Middle Belt. No one was injured, but it took several tow trucks and the fire department to right the truck which overturned in the intersection. (Staff Photo By Harry Mauthe)

Non-union raises granted by Farmington schools

By CORINNE ABATT

The Farmington Board of Education Tuesday approved a salary increase schedule for non-union administrators.

The board previously had delayed action on the proposed raises which, when presented in final form to the board this week, amounted to an average increase of 6.8 percent.

Instead of the original 25 day vacation in the package which Supt. Martin Van Ameyde presented earlier.

the vacation days were set at 20.

The only objection to the raise schedule came from Trustee Michael Spiece who objected to raises of 8.5 percent for two administrators.

Spiece said of the two raises in question, "I have, with all due respect to those gentlemen, some very serious problems on that."

Specific salaries were not given, and the salary schedule was not immediately available.

HOWEVER, Van Ameyde explained that three administrative directors—labor, personnel and special education—are given salaries on a seven-step schedule ranging from \$25,000 to \$29,000 depending on experience, length of service and other factors.

The salaries of the other three in question, the business manager and two assistant superintendents, range from \$25,000 to \$31,000 as recommended by the superintendent.

At the recommendation of the superintendent, the board approved contracts for the assistant superintendents, Lewis Shulman and Larry Freedman retroactive to last July.

Spiece offered a substitute motion that no pay increase would exceed 7.5 per cent. It died for lack of support.

Dr. Mervyn B. Ross, board secretary, pointed out to Spiece that since the vacation days had been changed from 25 to 20, there was actually less than an 8.5 percent raise, for if the superintendent called the two administrators back from vacation early and paid them for the five extra days work, it would be higher than the proposed schedule which was approved.

TRUSTEE EMMA MAKINEN questioned whether, in the event of a financial bind, the salary schedule as approved, would have to be followed.

She asked, "Then the only way we could adjust, once these salaries are set, is to cut people?"

Van Ameyde told her the salaries could still be changed from year to year.

Mrs. Makinen agreed with the schedule and the change in vacation days saying she felt the superintendent was hard to make the final judgment each year on when and for how long he needed his administrators.

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Riegle to speak at Dem's Club

Congressman Donald W. Riegle, Jr. will speak at a brunch sponsored by the Farmington Democratic Club at noon on Sunday, Nov. 23.

Riegle, a Democrat from Flint, is running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Senator Phil Hart. He was first elected to Congress as a Republican in 1968. He changed parties in 1973.

Tickets for the brunch are \$5 each and can be ordered through Steve McGregor or Aldo Vagazzi.

Womencenter sponsors economic discussion

The Womencenter of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College will present a panel of women discussing "Survival Economics" on Tuesday, Nov. 25, noon to 1 p.m. in room J-409.

The discussion will include information for single parents, the unemployed, persons on welfare, and work-study students.

Free child care will be provided for

people attending the discussion. For further information, call the Womencenter.

Holiday edition

Because next Thursday is the Thanksgiving holiday, your Observer & Eccentric will be delivered Wednesday. All deadlines will be moved up 24 hours—generally Monday instead of Tuesday.

Cigarette recreation tax faces difficult fight

Farmington area officials are dubious over the chances of a proposed one-cent cigarette tax being passed for recreation.

Two pieces of legislation, House Bills 5597 and 5598, which would benefit recreation programs statewide, are now before the House Committee on Taxation.

Introduced to the House by State Rep. Michael Griffin (D-Jackson), the bills would impose a penny-a-pack excise tax on cigarettes and place the funds raised into a public recreation fund.

The legislation provides for a referendum of Michigan voters on the tax fund, which would probably take place next August.

The funds would be earmarked for recreation only and would not be put into the state's general fund.

While to many this may be the merit of the legislation, it may also contribute to its downfall.

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington) questioned the bill's chances of being enacted.

"I am sure, because of the fact that the Governor and many members of the House have said they don't favor an income tax raise; that we will be looking for nuisance taxes by next year."

"I am sure by next year we will start looking for all means to raise revenue just to balance the budget."

he speculated the shovrage would be \$300-400 million.

Brotherton's point was that the extra cent proposed as an addition to the price of cigarettes would probably be needed to finance "all government functions."

THE OTHER ARGUMENT against the proposal, according to Brotherton, is that the bootlegging of cigarettes from other states would increase and the amount of revenue from the penny-a-pack excise could be much less than anticipated.

Jeff Farland of the Farmington Area Recreation Commission said that several groups supporting the legislation keep them apprised on the progress of the legislation.

Saying he felt there is an increasing public awareness of the need for more recreational programs and park areas, Farland added, "We're hoping the legislation would go through."

Because of the possibility of bootlegging, some legislators, such as Rep. John Markes (D-Westland), suggested states move collectively on such legislation.

During a subcommittee hearing held in Detroit Nov. 12, Michigan tobacco wholesalers and vending company representatives spoke against the excise tax. They claimed it would bring more than a one-cent increase at the point of purchase, and bootlegging would increase.

They compared Michigan tobacco

taxes with those in other states: Michigan, 11 cents; Indiana, six cents; North Carolina, two cents; Kentucky, three cents; Ohio, 15 cents; Wisconsin, 15 cents; and Illinois, 12 cents. Chicago has an additional five-cent city tax.

Representatives of the Michigan Tobacco and Candles Association said raising taxes would provide even greater encouragement to allegedly already active bootlegging operations set up to avoid payment of high tax rates.

A vending machine spokesman said there would be additional costs passed on to customers to rest the machines. Because of the mechanism, vending machine operators claim raises must be in five-cent increments. Therefore, the price would be 60 cents a pack instead of 55 cents which is common, presently.

AT THE SAME HEARING, John Greenleaf, executive director of the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, said the tax proposal would offer Michigan residents an opportunity to determine their "quality of life," such as parks, environment, housing, forests, and streams.

Essentially Greenleaf said cigarette sales are increasing, regardless of price increases and warnings about health hazards, and he offered excerpts from the Congressional Record as proof.

Americans, according to the Record, consumed 610.4 billion cigarettes in 1974; persons over 18 had a per capita consumption of 4,150 cigarettes last year, up from 3,800 in 1970.

If the tax is imposed and the recreation fund created, funds could be used at the discretion of local parks and recreation departments.

Farmington students are in Mercy play

Four Farmington residents will have parts in the Mercy High School production of Maxwell Anderson's "The Bad Seed." The play will be presented at the Mercy High School auditorium at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, and Sunday, Nov. 22.

Donna La Vere, junior, will have the roles of announcer and messenger, Cathi Dillon, senior, has the role of Mrs. Daigle, Beth Babington, senior, plays Emily, Mary Wyatt, senior, will be Miss Fern, the teacher, Mike Uzelac, Catholic Central senior, will play Mr. Daigle.

Tickets are available for \$2 by calling Mercy High School. They will be available at the door for \$2.25.

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