

# Senior citizens and puppy dogs make good pals

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 "I COULDN'T get over the fence — it was about 10 feet high, and I put all those peaches in my blouse. My brother didn't bother with those peaches. I was about 8 or 10, he was two years older. I said 'Take us out here, Duke' and he took us to the back gate and we got out. 'You see, I'd played with him every day since he grew up. Dogs know people. And they tell me almost instantly whether you like 'em or not. And he knew I liked him and he liked me. Those were the days before cars, when you made your own fun.'  
 Mary Dobrul, who hails from Port Huron, said she likes dogs "because they like me" and because "they struggle right down and that's that. We al-

ways had a dog at home."  
 Shirley Cox, 84, petted a puppy until it fell asleep and felt sorry for "the little fella" because "he got handled by people who don't know how." She likes dogs but doesn't care for cats, calling them "slappy little things."  
 The idea behind the Pet Therapy program, said Blauet, of Redford Township, is "animals need people to care for them, but people need animals, too, for various reasons."

**NOTING THAT** the residents of Farmington Hills are, by and large, self-sufficient, Blauet said the most dramatic evidence of the impact pets have on people came at a convalescent

home.  
 "A lady at the Wayne Living Center is 101 years old and, according to their records, hadn't talked in 10 years other than just grunts," Blauet said.  
 "The staff said day after day she just sat and sat. When we came in with the animals she started to cry and she held one. In no time at all she started telling people about the animals she had on her farm when she was younger."

Research has shown, Blauet said, that reclusive and non-communicative persons often open up to animals before they would reach out to another human being. Indeed, national studies recently reported on by the New York Times show persons with severe psy-

chological disorders, such as schizophrenia, respond well to animal therapy.  
 "Animals are non-judgmental," says Blauet.  
 Lynn Elio, social director at the retirement home, said she notices few residents go out with their families on Pet Day or arrange to have their relatives present when the animals arrive.

"They think about their home and how they had to leave their animals at home, but they begin talking about their experiences with their favorite dog or cat," Elio, of Redford Township, said. "It's something to look forward to."  
 Elio said it'd be a good idea if the

state changed its laws governing retirement homes to allow the facilities to keep a dog or cat on the grounds "as a mascot."

# Females are majority in Farmington census

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 The median age in Farmington Hills was 32, 10 years younger than in Farmington. The census also showed that the population per household was 2.4 in Farmington and 2.8 in the Hills.  
 In Farmington Hills, widows outnumbered widowers, 2,105 to 493. Farmington had 987 widows and 129 widowers.

Divorced women in Farmington Hills totaled 1,345 while their male counterparts numbered 1,165. In Farmington, divorced women outnumbered divorced men, 335 to 235.  
 In both cities, there were twice as many married persons as single.

Farmington was 93.1 percent white, and Farmington Hills 97.2 percent

white. Blacks and Hispanics accounted for the remainder.

SEMCOC's housing statistics showed a 6.4 percent vacancy rate in Farmington Hills, and a 2.2 percent vacancy rate in Farmington.

Nearly 30 percent of the Hills units and 34 percent of those in Farmington were occupied by renters.  
 One-person households accounted for 20 percent all Farmington Hills households and 28.7 percent of those in Farmington.

Among householders aged 65 and over, 1,470 are owners, and 1,112 renters in Farmington Hills. In Farmington, however, senior householders were 693 owners and 693 renters.

# Bloomfield Parks and Rec can't top Farland's salary with Hills

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 "Things did not go too well. It was a combination of things," Farland said in explaining his reasons for declining the position. "On salary, we weren't really that far off but we just couldn't come to terms. The salary issue was the big-

gest consideration. It wasn't what I expected."  
 Farland, 31, makes \$24,500 as superintendent of recreation working under an overall parks director in Farmington Hills.  
 When Woelkers left West Bloomfield,

his pay was \$26,378.  
 Commission Chairman Wenzel Koch declined to reveal the salary range the committee negotiated with Farland at a special meeting Wednesday night.  
 "AS IN ANY negotiations, both sides tried to find positions. Largely speak-

ing, it was money. He had other benefits (at his Farmington Hills job) we could not meet," Koch said.  
 "When we brought him in for the interview, we gave him a salary range and asked him if we couldn't come to terms (within that range). He said he was willing to negotiate. But it didn't work out," Koch said.  
 "Actually, any one of the four finalists could do the job. Based on a point rating, all were close. I have no problem with any of the other three."  
 Farland said he was "somewhat disappointed. I really had some plans. It's really unfortunate because I was looking forward to it. It would have been a super position."  
 He will continue as recreation supervisor in Farmington Hills.

The other two finalists from a field of 21 applicants are Mark Ratrik, 29, director of parks and recreation for Van Buren Township near Belleville, and Carl Fisher, 34, park supervisor of the Gosport park and recreation department in Indiana.  
 It's expected that parks would negotiate with either of the two remaining finalists if the committee and Spano fail to reach contract terms.  
 Other personnel committee members are Commission Treasurer Dallas Haun and Assistant Treasurer Bernadine Edwards.

The opening was created when Woelkers was forced to resign after leading a parks employee \$550 from parks funds without commission approval.  
 For further information, call 858-5171.

# Judge Hand jails bike thieves

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 Hills resident Clarice Sello said her two teenage sons worked all summer in order to buy \$1,600 mopeds, only to have them stolen from their garage the day following purchase.  
 She said her sons were especially careful about securing the bikes because of the number of bike thefts in the area along Nine Mile between Haggerty and Halstead. The garage door was bolted shut but that didn't deter the thief, she noted.  
 Sello said there has been so many thefts in her residential area that she suspects an organized ring.  
 It is difficult to stop a thief determined to take a bike, but precautions will deter some thefts, police said. Officers recommended securing bikes with heavy cable and chains. Most bike thefts involve unsecured or unlocked bikes, officers said.

Det. Lee said that as he watched the shopping center for possible thieves, "I must've seen 20 kids drive up on bikes. Not more than two locked their bikes. They let them sit there while they go in and play video games."  
 Ironically, one of the two bikes taken by the Detroit men may have been a bike stolen two days previously. Det. Lee said the bike has a serial number

which is different by only one digit from the serial number of a bike reported stolen Aug. 4 by a Novi man.  
 The 10-year-old who rode the bike to the store told police he had found the bike in a Novi field on Aug. 4.  
 Police said the bike could be the one stolen from the Novi man and the owner somehow had the wrong serial number.

# Discount program offered seniors

Oakland County's Senior Discount Program is seeking locations for camera sites to photograph seniors for identification cards.  
 The cards enable senior citizens of Oakland County to take advantage of discounts offered by local merchants from 4 to 50 percent.  
 Discounts are offered on a variety of

items including automobile parts, rust-proofing, hair care, prescription drugs and eyeglasses.  
 A directory of participating merchants is now available for sale at the camera locations and senior centers. It can also be ordered by mail by sending a check for \$1.20 to OLSBA, 195 Oakland Ave., Pontiac 48058.  
 To participate, persons must be 60 years of age or older and live in Oakland County.  
 For further information, call 858-5171.

# Report due this week on buried chemicals

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 might be brought against the country club under the Water Resources Act.

"We're terribly concerned," she said last week. "I don't know what to think. It seems to me we're just being given the runaround."

FRANKLIN PRESIDENT John Verdon said Friday, "Franklin people are very concerned. I've asked them (DNR) to let me know just as soon as they get the results.  
 "They sure are taking their time to identify it, about letting people know. Obviously Country Club officials hired a consultant. The DNR must be concerned because construction firm to open the pit and they're considering criminal charges," move the barrels at the direction and said Verdon.

"We've requested that the Oakland County Health Department test one of the drums, other debris found in the hole of the DNR to," he continued. "So far, they've been contaminated by the leaking both refused to do water testing in the barrels — were removed by an industrial waste hauler to a licensed disposal site."  
 Many Franklin residents have privately contacted various agencies asking that the testing be done fast.

THE DNR was informed of the possible chemical dump by striking Franklin Hills greenskeepers. After the DNR failed to locate the suspected burial site on its own, it asked the county club to identify it.  
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Shirley Allen, who lives on Wellington at 13 Mile, has written to Gov. William Milliken, the DNR and has called the Oakland County Health Department and officials of the county club.

The greenskeepers in a letter to the DNR listed nine materials as being in the drums, said Laird — DDT (non illegal), sodium arsenite, 2-4-D (brand name for a herbicide or pesticide), cleaning solvents, lead arsenate, seven-gram Milliken, the DNR and has called the Oakland County Health Department based, insecticides, herbicides and ment and officials of the county club.

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 You can claim a deduction for the decrease in the fair market value of your property (if the property is stolen, of course, the value is down to zero). Generally, you can't claim more than you paid for the item in question; you can claim market value of the property as a used item, not replacement cost. You cannot deduct the first \$100 of loss. To qualify as a casualty loss, it must be related to a sudden, unexpected, or unusual occurrence. Theft loss from a break-in or an auto accident would be acceptable so would a storm or fire damage to your house. But termite damage is considered gradual deterioration, and simply losing something valuable doesn't qualify.  
 Be prepared to document the loss. For theft, show police reports and appraisals; photos and repair bills would be appropriate for other losses. Where appraisals of damage are needed, you can deduct the cost of getting them. Casualty losses are usually deducted in the tax year they occur, though when discovered.  
 What if you have insurance to cover your loss and choose not to put in a claim? The Internal Revenue Service says that if you don't claim, you give up a deduction for the amount you would have collected. But the Tax Court has ruled in favor of policyholders who choose not to file claims on small losses for fear of losing their coverage. At this point the IRS is holding firm, though if you claim such a deduction, you may have to go through it.  
 One compromise has been suggested: a higher deductible on your insurance. Raising it to \$500 would save you on premiums, and Uncle Sam would reduce your smaller losses.  
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