

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

## Seniors' lease renewed

The Farmington Hills City Council Monday denied a request by the Sisters of Mercy to increase the funding for its leased senior adult activities center.

In renewing its lease arrangement, the council agreed to contribute \$18,000 towards the \$45,338 it will take to operate the Mercy Conference Center during the coming year.

Since 1980, Mercy has assumed 60 percent of the operational costs of the center, with the city contributing the remaining 40 percent, or \$18,000.

For three years prior to that, Mercy offered its facilities, which include a general activities area (The Gathering Place), pool and gymnasium, to seniors free.

It assessed the \$18,000 rental fee in 1980 due to rising costs and the need to regain a portion of operating expenses.

Seniors again will have use of separate rooms for counseling and tax consultation as well as access to a nutrition program — all Mercy donations.

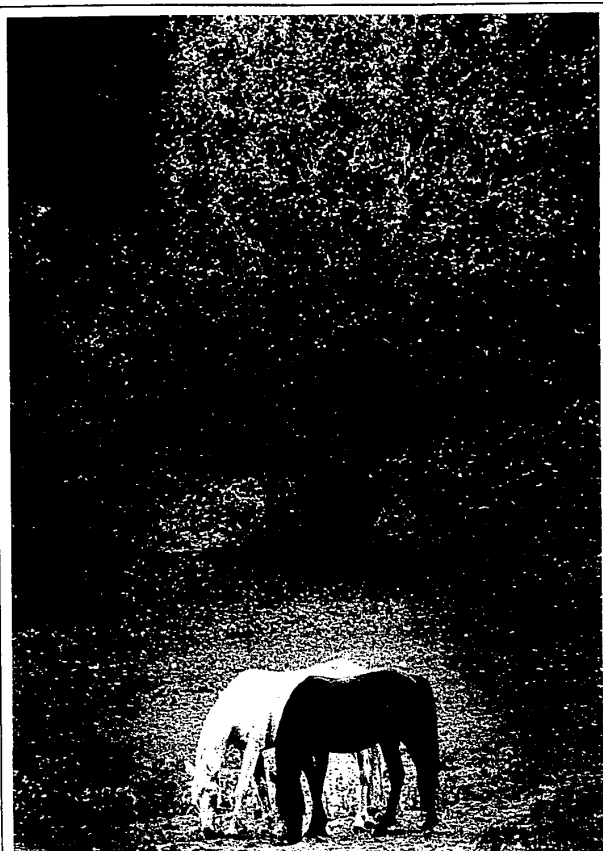
Currently, more than 200 seniors frequent The Gathering Place, participating in programs designed to meet social, physical, recreational, educational and personal needs.

IN A SEPARATE action involving seniors, the council voted 6-1 to hire an additional staffer for its senior adult program. Council member Charlie Williams opposed the measure.

A federal grant will pick up 90 percent, or \$11,686, with the city furnishing the remaining 10 percent (\$1,299) of the cost.

The new staffer, a program developer, will be hired by the Parks and Recreation Department and will be responsible for "improving and expanding the capacity of the multi-purpose senior center to serve the needs of older persons in the community through the development of innovative programs, services and activities," according to Doug Gaynor, parks and recreation director.

Coordinating volunteers, fund raising, distributing donated meals, and assisting with exercise and educational programs also will be handled by the program developer.



## A last chance

Get a good look at this peaceful summer scene because this is one of the last you will see for the summer of '82. Already leaves are starting to turn into the rainbow of fall colors. Tomorrow is the final day of summer.

## New drunk law not the answer, state bar says

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

The state bar association misrepresented itself when criticizing drunk-driving bills presented to the Michigan House Judiciary Committee last week, said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Marty Krohner of Farmington Hills.

State bar representatives said the package of bills is too tough, would not accomplish its intended results and would cost millions to enforce.

"The bar didn't ask me how I feel," said Krohner, president of MADD's (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Oakland County chapter. MADD strongly supports the bills.

"How they arrived at their decision is a matter of a small group getting their heads together. Their claim is that it's going to cost the system too much money, which I find to be ludicrous. I don't think you can place a cost factor on the value of human life."

The legislation, which the Senate recently passed 29-2, would:

- Establish mandatory minimum penalties for repeating drunk driving offenders.
- Increase minimum penalties for persons who drive with suspended or revoked licenses.
- Establish an automatic violation for persons driving with a blood alcohol content of .10 or greater, and permit as evidence a driver's refusal to take the breath test.
- Equip police officers with mobile breathalyzer units to encourage them to make drunk driving arrests, and
- Close loopholes.

WHILE 47TH DISTRICT Judge Margaret Schaeffer agrees with most of the bills' provisions, she dislikes mandatory sentencing.

case to case basis," said Judge Schaeffer.

"There's a difference between the person who consistently drinks and finally gets caught once someone is hurt, and the person who doesn't drink regularly, goes to a retirement party and gets pulled over for a defective tail light."

"Should that person, a family person with a clean record who's never had other violations, automatically get 30-90 days in jail?"

Stricter laws will not keep drunks off the road, either, said Schaeffer, "because no one thinks they're going to get caught."

JUDGES ALREADY are getting tougher on drunk drivers, said Troy attorney Michael Morgan. Eighty percent of his work involves drunk drivers.

"Judges read the papers, and they're doing an excellent job of reacting to the public's demand for tougher enforcement. Lots more jail sentences are being handed out."

"In 1979, there were 37,000 drunk driving arrests in Michigan. In 1981, there were 55,000."

"(Enacting the bills) would create a lot more lawbreakers. Does the public want to pay for more prisons? Do we want to kick felons out of prisons and put drunk drivers in?" asked Morgan.

Countered Krohner, "How many lives do we have to lose to slaughter on the highways while we talk money?"

"If you're killed and leave a wife and kids with no money, the taxpayers will foot the bill. What's the cost to them? That's what we all forget. People are worried about court costs — not the human factor."

That mandatory sentencing laws for drunk drivers already on the books are overlooked by judges is proof that tougher laws are needed, he said.

"Driving with suspended license supposedly gets you three days in jail, and five days with the second offense. But

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## Retiring Congressman sees plight of soviet Jews

By Shirlee Iden  
staff writer

SLIPPING TEA in a Leningrad apartment with other tourists and several Russians, Congressman William Brodhead got a taste of life in the Soviet Union recently.

"We were just drinking tea and eating crackers and chatting and the police came to the door three times," Brodhead says. "They tried to impress us with the fact we were under surveillance."

For Brodhead, a Detroit Democrat who represents the 17th District, the 10-day trip was his first overseas visit. He left his family at home and traveled under the auspices of the Detroit Committee of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

"I've been involved with the Soviet Jewry issue for years and they've always talked to me about going there, but I never took a foreign trip before. Now that I'm not running for re-election, I was able to find the time."

Brodhead's trip from Aug. 27 to Sept. 6 took him to Moscow and Leningrad. Most important for him, he met with 51 separate refusniks (persons refused visas to leave the USSR).

"I SAW Abe Slolar, an American citizen born in Chicago who went to Russia with his father and found he couldn't leave," Brodhead says. "Once he was actually on a plane ready to go and was prevented from leaving."

He saw the mother and brother of Anatoly Scharansky, imprisoned as a CIA spy, who told him Scharansky is alive but in ill health; and he met with

Alexander Lerner, a noted scientist. It was in the Lerner apartment that the Brodhead tea party was thrice interrupted.

"A gutsy lady, Lynn Singer, president of the Soviet Jewry Council, was visited by the KGB," Brodhead says. "They told her what she was doing there was not a good idea."

Brodhead also visited the Christian Pentecostals camped in the U.S. Embassy. "They're not doing well," he says. "Two are on hunger strikes."

The congressman traveled as "Private Citizen Brodhead" with staff members from other congressional offices in his party. One was Nancy Barbour, an aide to Michigan Congressman William Ford.

"Obviously, we were on a sightseeing tour," he explains. "But you inevitably have an official guide with you most of the time."

ably have an official guide with you most of the time."

BRODHEAD found the Pentecostals and Jews pessimistic about the future. "Things are getting tough for all dissident groups," he says.

"Actually, the people we saw are not dissidents. They don't want trouble, they simply want to leave. Most have official invitations to live in Israel and some are eligible to come to this country."

Immediately upon applying for an exit visa, Soviet citizens lose their civil rights and their jobs.

"A professor at a university lost his job, but luckily got another job as a janitor at the school; a dentist was refused a visa so he held up a sign in Red Square and was sentenced to two years in Siberia," Brodhead says.

The dentist now works as a flower arranger.

"THERE ARE Jews, Pentecostals and others who want to leave and all are mistreated," Brodhead says. "But the treatment of Jews is particularly unfortunate."

"Many languages are spoken in the USSR, but the only language you can't speak, read or teach is Hebrew."

Life in the USSR is like what it must have been 30-40 years ago in the U.S., Brodhead says.

"There are no window screens, no air conditioning and just about 10 percent of the people have cars. They have an ongoing shortage of consumer goods. It's like World War II there, no butter, no eggs, and whatever else."

"We saw a truck with tomatoes on it stop on the street. A man and woman got out and in minutes there was a block-long line."

"A person with a three-room apartment would be considered well off, but there is little evidence of crime," he says. "You can't protest."

"In the Soviet Union, there's no singing or dancing in the streets."

"We talk of sacrificing for defense here; they spend the same but their



William Brodhead economy is only half of ours. It's an enormous drain."

Brodhead was taken to the important museums, including the Hermitage, "one of the world's greatest," and a number of "fabulous" churches.

"The subway system is wonderful — it's fast, clean and safe," he says.

FREEDOMS he once took for granted now seem more precious to the lanky Congressman. "So many things we take for granted are just not there for Soviet citizens. I have so much more

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## 'Honest' mistake brings suspension

A Farmington Hills police officer has been placed on a three-day, non-paid suspension for "intentional to duty and bringing the department into disrepute," according to Farmington Hills Inspector Richard Niemisto.

The charges arose from an incident at a Farmington Hills party store at 11:30 p.m. Aug. 24 in which Officer Charles Nebus, 26, issued tickets to two minors after they purchased 10 bottles of beer.

The store, a 7-Eleven outlet, also was charged with a liquor violation, which may be rescinded after further study by Farmington Hills police, Niemisto said.

The department's investigation of Nebus began after one of the minors and a 7-Eleven representative informed police officials that the officer's report of the incident was incorrect.

Their claim — that the young woman and not her male companion purchased the beer — was upheld following a closed, two-day inquiry conducted by a tribunal comprised of Chief John Nichols, Lt. Ernest Miller and Sgt. Peter Larion.

The tribunal found Nebus innocent of making a false official statement, however.

Nebus will receive back pay dating from Sept. 6, when his first suspension started. His three-day, non-paid suspension started Thursday.

It is not known whether Nebus will appeal the finding.

As a result of the investigation, it was the board's (Nichols, Miller and Larion) feeling that, while a violation did take place, it did not occur exactly as Officer Nebus believed it to occur, said Niemisto.

Nebus witnessed the incident from outside the store in an unmarked police car, which hampered his ability to view the purchase, he added.

"It was an honest mistake. In some professions, making errors is potentially more serious than in others. This being a quasi-military organization, is one of those."

"Officer Nebus is a young officer with an excellent record. In the past, he's received citations for proficiency and exemplary conduct as a police officer. I'm sure he'll continue to have a good career," Niemisto said.

Nebus, who joined the force as a cadet in April, 1974, reached officer status four years ago. He is now a member of the SFOI, or special patrol team of four officers and a sergeant which conducts surveillance in high crime areas.

The unit functions separately from the remainder of the department.

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## Suspects nabbed in T-top caper

By Craig Plechura  
staff writer

Three Detroit men were arrested early Wednesday morning by Farmington Police, who report that an officer hiding in the bushes of River Glen condominiums watched them remove a T-top cover from the roof of a parked Camaro.

One of the three men arrested, Eugene S. Carter, 24, pleaded innocent at his arraignment Wednesday in 47th District Court while the other two, Gerald Jordan, 18, and Gregory Dangerfield, 17, stood mute.

All three men were charged with one count of larceny of an item worth more than \$100 from a motor vehicle, a felony punishable by a maximum penalty of five years in jail upon conviction.

Bond of \$5,000 was set on all three men by 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer but Carter was required to post 10 percent while the other two men were released on personal bond.

According to police accounts of the incident, a resident of the complex, Kathy VanGordon, caused police to investigate.

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