

A means of prevention against assault, rape

A woman driver stranded alone on a highway with a flat tire or any other kind of car breakdown has become an increasing opportunity for muggings, robbery, assault, rape and even murder.

A simple means of prevention, initiated in California and now being used effectively in that state as well as in Oklahoma, is an inexpensive emergency banner to be carried in the car and placed in the back window when needed marked "Please Call the Police."

The use of the emergency banner and its effectiveness for women as well as seniors is being introduced to this area by Jodi Soronen, Farmington Hills city councilwoman and executive director of Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Soronen has already distributed information on how to buy the banners for persons here through Farmington Chapter of Business and Professional Women and Professional Women's Net-

work. She is hoping that other groups will contact her to spread the information to their members.

"Other groups in town could either give the banners as a gift to seniors, or they could order them in lots to sell at a small profit for themselves," Soronen said. "Or just let it be known that they are recommended by any number of police departments as a protective personal safety measure."

THE 3-FOOT-long bright fluorescent banners with large red letters are reusable and fold up to glove-compartment size. They are sold by group or crime prevention agencies for anywhere from \$1.50 to \$4.

They have been recommended by Dear Abby, in Women's Day, Ms. and Vogue magazines, major newspapers, TV stations and any number of anti-crime groups.

The governor of Oklahoma was so impressed with the prevention mea-

sure, a proclamation was written urging citizens to respond to the Please Call the Police banner.

A group in California urges carrying the banner by stating, "No rapist or mugger will touch a car with this banner displayed showing that the police may have already been called."

"A woman gets out of her car to see what's wrong, a guy stops to help her and the next thing you know she disappears forever," said a police investigator in California. "The banner can be placed on the inside of the car window and the driver never has to get out of the car. And it might discourage someone from attacking because they might think the police are on their way."

The consensus of all the advocates of the banner seems to be that a woman or a senior citizen on the highway is a "sitting duck." If a call was made on a CB radio she'd be advertising her exact location to anyone who received the message. The same would apply if she

was stranded in the middle of nowhere with her hood up and the blinkers on, advertising to all passersby that she was in distress.

THE SAFEST place to be when the car breaks down is locked in the car with the windows up, not outside changing a tire or checking under the hood. With the windows up chances for knocking out safety glass these days are pretty nil.

"The important thing is to get this protection into every woman's and senior citizen's car. It makes no sense to take an unnecessary chance. The risk is too great," states a message from We Are Against Assault and Rape (WAAAR), the group that initiated the Call the Police banner in Lafayette, Calif.

THE WAAAR address is P. O. Box 98, Lafayette, Calif. 94549.

Soronen can be reached by calling 474-3440 during regular business hours.

Gerish-Fries

Jennifer Jane Fries of Birmingham and Bruce Evan Gerish of Farmington Hills exchanged marriage vows Sept. 14 in Southfield United Presbyterian Church. Their parents are Brenier and Judith Fries of Indianapolis, Ind., and Arthur and Janet Gerish of Plymouth. The bride's William Cabell gown had long sleeves, a peplum and a bodice of alencon lace. She wore an ankle-length veil and carried a bouquet of stephanotis, white carnations and white roses. She is a 1980 graduate of Birmingham Groves High School and a 1984 graduate of Alma College. Her husband graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 1977 and from Alma College in 1981. He is a sales representative with Osborn Industries in Troy.

After an afternoon wedding reception at Western Golf and Country Club in Redford, the couple honeymooned in Jamaica and Western Florida. They are living in Plymouth.



Lazar-Dilley

Catherine Dilley and Craig Lazar were married in MSU Alumni Chapel, East Lansing. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Dilley of East Lansing and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lazar of Farmington Hills. The couple were attended by Brenda Dilley and Robert Gregory. The newlyweds received guests in the University Club before leaving for a honeymoon in Jamaica. They will make their home in East Lansing.



Beck-Smauder

Judy Lee Beck and Gary David Smauder, both of Redford, plan a May wedding at Antioch Lutheran Church. She is the daughter of Roland and Jeanne Beck of Farmington Hills. He is the son of George and Jean Smauder of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a 1975 graduate of Farmington High School. She is employed by Macabees Mutual Life Insurance Co. Her fiancé is a 1978 graduate of Farmington High School. He is employed by General Motors.

Marra-Garmel

Candice E. Garmel and William A. Marra were married Nov. 9. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Garmel of DelRay Beach, Fla., and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Marra of Farmington. The bride is a graduate of Eastern

Michigan University and a special education teacher in Farmington. The groom is a graduate of National Institute of Technology, employed with Xerox Corp. in Southfield. The couple are making their home in Farmington.

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club circuit

HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB meets at 8 tonight in Farmington Hills Branch Library.

Guest speaker for the evening is Judy Corneller, a teacher of herbal crafts. Her talk is called "Victorian Woman, Her Influences, Our Heritage."

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party, beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, in Roma's of Livonia. Music is furnished by Jon Ray, DJ for Honey Radio.

The singles hotline is 562-3160.

FARMINGTON NEIGHBORS CLUB meets at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, in Glen Oaks Country Club. Program for the afternoon is furnished by "Classical Bells of Metropolitan Detroit."

The event is open to guests who must

make reservations on or before Friday, Dec. 13, by calling Evelyn Phillips at 626-6443 or Gloria Butt, 476-1057.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, Broadhead-Farmington Hills Post 2269 and its auxiliary, meet at 8 p.m. Friday in the post home.

After a business meeting with Commander Ira Webber and President Irene Rodebaugh, a holiday meal will be served. Special guests for the evening will be Commander Jim Schaffer and President Ivy Schaffer from the Royal Oak VFW Post 1669.

at noon Thursday, Dec. 19, in Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Program for the afternoon will be furnished by Bill Blakney who narrates a travelogue on France. His film includes the World War II landing beaches at Normandy, the Chateau region of the Loire Valley and ballooning in the wine country of Burgundy.

Guests are welcome. Reservations are necessary and must be made on or before Dec. 16 by calling the center, 477-8104. The \$4 fee includes lunch.

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE, Detroit Chapter, and Detroit Science Center co-sponsor "Women in Science Day," at 1 p.m. Saturday in the center.

"The Dream is Alive," featuring astronaut Sally Ride will be shown. Lunch and a tour of the center is included in the \$3 fee.

Guests are welcome to call 876-7563 for reservations.

BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD TROY SINGLES host a Christmas Dance Party from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, in Glen Oaks Country Club, 13 Mile, west of Middlebelt. Music is furnished by Eddie Rogers of WDTZ Radio.

Admission is \$5 at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres and a chance for door prizes. "Sharp" attire is requested.

LALECH LEAGUE, Farmington-Southfield Chapter, conclude its "Womanly Art of Breastfeeding" series at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, in the home of Ellen Myers, 33229 Kirby, Farmington.

The meeting is open to all women interested in breastfeeding their babies. Inquiries are taken by calling the hostess, 478-4160.

OAKLAND COUNTY YOUNG REPUBLICANS host a Christmas Dance Party beginning at 9 p.m. in Procks, 1019 W. Maple, between Coolidge and Crooks Road.

Admission of \$3 asked at the door. The group's hotline number is 543-5757.

FARMINGTON OPTIMISTS meet for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. every Wednesday in Roman Terrace Restaurant, on 12 Mile, east of Orchard Lake Road.

Newcomers are invited any Wednesday to drop in and get acquainted. Inquiries are taken by Bob Reed, 476-5800.

DETROIT STORY LEAGUE meets for a holiday party at noon Saturday, Dec. 21, in the home of Ruth Kroeppel, 8444 Bee Drive, Westland. Her co-hostess for the day is Donna Teichman of Redford who serve a holiday lunch.

Storytellers for the day are Verna Smith of Birmingham, Dingley Sharp of Union Lake and Violet Alexander of Bloomfield Hills. Their theme for the day is "GHT Bag."

Guests are invited at no charge, and can make arrangements by calling Ruth Kroeppel of Farmington, 477-5624.

Kroeppel and Roberta Bulough of Livonia, 464-7084, both will take requests for storytelling in schools, churches, libraries, clubs and organizations. The group supplies storytellers for both children and adult audiences.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

ACCOUNTANTS GUILD meets at 6 p.m. for cocktails, dinner and a program Wednesday, Dec. 18, in Gino's Restaurant, 27815 Middlebelt.

Speaker for the evening is Charles M. Lay of Rubenstein, Lazars, Lax and Borman. His topic is "Treatment of Automobiles and Other Listed Property on Tax Returns."

Membership chairman is Jacquelyn Hess who will take inquiries at 569-1477.

FARMINGTON MEN'S CLUB meets

retirement memos

Margaret Miller

Rocky retirement takes a tumble

Rockhounding is a hobby I more or less put on the back burner when I became a retiree.

For one thing, visits to Lake Superior, where I have loved to hunt for agates and pollabable stones, had to become a rarity when Joe and I moved to Florida. For another, the rock tumbler that made my Lake Superior finds so shiny and pretty was just too noisy and space-consuming to keep in our condominium home.

But this fall, back on Superior for a brief day or two during our Michigan visit, I met a couple of gentlemen who have turned to rocks and minerals during retirement and found them fine companions.

THE FIRST is Charlie, who has a rock shop in the garage of the attractive home where he and his wife live, right on the shores of the big lake. There's no way I can resist a rock shop, especially when it's just down the road from the motel where I'm staying. So I went down to look at the polished rocks. I stayed to talk to Charlie.

Seems he and his wife had vacationed for years at the motel and they decided to retire there. It turned out we had a mutual acquaintance in Earl, an elderly resident of the area who always had been known in our family as "The Rock Man." Earl had a rather ramshackle shop and home and used to spend his winters polishing stones and making jewelry and other wares to sell to summer visitors like me.

Charlie told me Earl died a couple of

years ago, but before that he drew his son-out-to-be-retired friend into his enthusiasm for rocks. And now Charlie, who has enough retirement income to consider rocks work a hobby rather than employment, follows pretty much the same life pattern as Earl did.

"Keeps me busy all year," he told me. "I really get a kick out of it."

MY OTHER "ROCK FRIEND" I knew only as the man with the red hat. During my short stay on Lake Superior, I managed two visits to my favorite rock beach, and he was there both times.

He searched for good stones the way I do, sitting right down on the cold rocks and digging into the piles. We talked a bit the first day, and he told me he recently retired and recently became interested in rocks. "The more I learn the more fascinating it is," he said.

The second day Red Hat was digging so intently that I didn't disturb him until I was ready to leave, once more having had a ball finding a pile of pretty stones but nothing I could call a real agate.

"Did you find a lot of treasures?" I asked him then. "To me they are," he answered, looking up with a smile. I'll remember a long time.

I brought back to Florida a carton of rocks that could be polished, and Joe and I have talked a bit about my getting a tumbler again. Maybe it could go in our cabana or in the condo workshop. Rockhounding, I've decided, is a malady that afflicts very few, but for those who catch it there's no cure.

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