

Ordinance penalties are supported

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FFA members' sentiments regarding concern about criminal records, particularly for teenagers. "With the ordinance as it stands, it is a very simple matter to avoid having a criminal record and that's by not violating the ordinance," he said.

Five people have been ticketed under the ordinance. Only two Farmington Hills 17- and 18-year-olds brothers have been convicted. Trials for two others are pending and a bench warrant is outstanding for a third person who failed to appear at a scheduled court hearing. Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

PRIOR TO adoption of the ordinance last year, talk centered on using the ordinance to deal with parents who gave parties involving liquor for their teenagers, Dudley said. Only one parent has been ticketed and charges were later dropped, she added.

Despite a presentation of research she conducted on the issue, however, Dudley could not convince council to support her request. Mayor Joe Alkateeb called Dudley's proposed amendment "a stupid, ill-informed and ill-advised change."

Other council members expressed continued support of the ordinance and its criminal charges, saying it

has reduced the number of parties with alcoholic beverages being served to teenagers — in Farmington Hills.

Citing Farmington Hills Police Department statistics, Dudley maintained the ordinance has not necessarily been effective in controlling teenage alcohol consumption.

In 1985, Dudley said, seven percent of those arrested for operating under the influence of liquor (OUIL) were minors. From January to May 23 of this year, nine percent of those arrested on OUIL charges were minors. "Not only has the percentage (of minors arrested) gone up... but over 80 percent of drunk drivers in this city are adults," Dudley said.

Considering — from statistics — that most of the drunk drivers in the city are adults (over 21 years of age), the best liability ordinance does not prohibit adults from serving adults liquor at a house party, Dudley said. "Let's get the 80 percent of the killers on the road."

DECIMINALIZING THE penalties would not detract from the purpose of the ordinance, Dudley said. Passage of the ordinance last year was advocated by Farmington Hills police and FFA members as a method of deterring the serving of liquor to minors, particularly at parties on private property.

Decriminalizing the penalties would not prevent police from using the authority given them under the ordinance to take action at a private party, Dudley said.

Michigan has adopted a protective attitude toward minors and their involvement with alcoholic beverages, Dudley told council.

Providing alcohol to minors is a criminal offense for adults. But the only criminal offense for minors is conviction of the use of false identification.

'Walk Michigan' slated

The first of three planned "Walk Michigan" events kicks off Saturday under the direction of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services and the Novi Parks and Recreation Department.

Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, "Walk Michigan" is designed to promote the health benefits and enjoyment associated with walking.

Registration at the Novi Hilton, Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, begins at 8:30 a.m. Participants will be

taken to a starting point at the I-275 bike/walk path at Meadowbrook and 11 Mile.

Participants will walk a three-mile course, concluding at the Eight Mile exit of I-275 with a celebration finish, including refreshments at the Novi Hilton. The event is open to any person who would enjoy walking with a group. There is no registration fee.

For more information, call the Hills Recreation Division, 474-6115, ext. 290.

Rouge rescue planned

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tract about 100 volunteers on that day. There are some 150 volunteers organized within the "Friends of the Rouge" group.

Organizers are counting on this year's cleanup to continue annually under the guidance of the newly formed "Friends of the Rouge" group.

"WE'RE HOPING IT'll build after

this year with more sponsors and communities involved," Monson said, citing 10 communities as taking part during this month's event.

A detailed look at the Rouge, its history, the people who live near it, the problems and planned solutions are examined in a special Observer & Eccentric Newspaper section in today's paper.

"The city does not prosecute," Dudley said.

BUT DUDLEY could not convince council to change its mind. "I have not changed my mind. I respect the reasons Mrs. Dudley has given us for changing it," Councilwoman Judy Soronen said.

Although the amount of teenage drinking has probably not been reduced, the ordinance has helped to reduce the number of parties given, she added.

In opposing Dudley's suggested change, Councilman Donn Wolf said council sent a message to the community when it adopted the ordinance last year. "I think that message was awfully important," he said.

Councilmen Terry Sever and Ben Marks also supported the ordinance in its current form. "My feeling is that we should be as tough as possible," Sever said.

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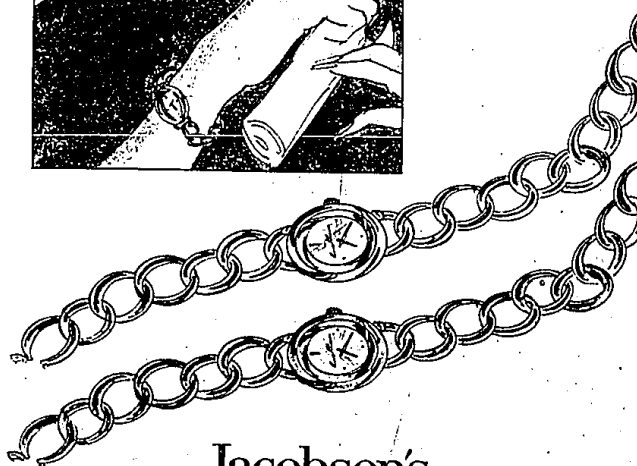
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