

Police standoff ends peacefully

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After Fehrenbach's wife, sister, sister-in-law, brother and minister talked to him by phone but couldn't get him to give up, police let a long-time friend, John Ponke, 27, talk to him by phone.

Ponke, who had talked to Fehrenbach moments before from a different house on the street, wanted to go inside but police wouldn't let him. "We feared he'd be a potential hostage," Dwyer said.

Instead, Ponke, accompanied by officers, went to the side of the one-story house, Lt. Martin Bledsoe then accompanied Ponke to the side door. From there, "Ponke talked to Fehrenbach."

Fehrenbach "communicated very well with his friend," Dwyer said.

WHEN POLICE were assured Fehrenbach wasn't armed, Ponke and the officers talked him into surrendering within 10 minutes. The standoff ended at 9:45 p.m.

Fehrenbach, initially calm, became agitated by the number of police officers, firefighters and television cameras and had to be cuffed before being led to a patrol car. Police planned to take him to a local hospital for observation.

Dale Caswell, 27, another close friend, showed up at the house late Sunday afternoon — a half hour after the two had planned to go bow-

ling to prepare for the start-up of their winter league.

While glad to see the standoff end peacefully, Caswell felt it could have ended sooner if police had let him talk to the gunman, either by phone or in person, and had not immediately surrounded the house with armed officers.

"It wouldn't have gone as far as it went. I knew all it would take would be for a friend to talk to him," Caswell said. "He was just scared. I've never had any problem communicating with him."

"The police thought he'd get violent. But I knew better."

THE FEHRENBACHS moved back to Farmington Hills six months ago after renting a house in Westland. They've had domestic flareups, neighbors said, but "not like this," said Caswell, a friend since boyhood.

There were no signs anything like this had been brewing. "I see him every other day. If not every day," Caswell said. "We'd often go fishing with the kids. He's a good father."

Police have no record of ever responding to the house before.

The man's parents were flying in from vacation Sunday night and police had prepared to have the Wayne County Sheriff's Department escort them to the house if the standoff hadn't ended.

Public service workers get raise

Farmington public service employees will receive average yearly pay increases of 3.7 percent for laborers to 5.7 percent for crew leaders over the life of a new three-year contract with the city.

The contract, between the city and the Department of Public Services AFSCME Local 1456, runs through June 30, 1992. The city council ratified it Aug. 7. The 12-member union earlier ratified it.

New language makes it clear employees must report an absence not later than one hour after the start of

the work day. The changes permits notification after city offices open.

The exception to the half day after the Christmas and New Year's holidays has been removed. Employees now will get a full day off before both holidays — consistent with other city unions.

MAXIMUM SICK DAY accumulation has been increased from 120 days to 150 days, but the rate at which sick leave credits are earned has been reduced. After 10 days have been earned, employee sick leave

credits are reduced to 10 days per year from the current 12 days per year.

Compensation for sick leave credits at retirement is now based on a formula that amounts to one-half pay for up to 120 days of earned sick days at retirement — identical to the public safety contracts.

A change in retirement benefits is identical to a recently adopted ordinance that provides for a straight life benefit of 1.8 percent of the employee's final average compensation times years of service.

The wages and classifications systems have been restructured and the Maintenance Man I classification has been eliminated.

The department now has two entry level positions, Labor and Maintenance Man II, which are tied to experience. Maintenance Man III is for senior equipment operators and crew leaders.

The union and the city have agreed to discuss the current job bidding and promotional system in an effort to eliminate a seniority only system.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● **LIVING ROOM FIRE**
Damage was estimated at \$1,000 when a living room curtain caught fire in a house on the 22250 block of Cass in Farmington Hills at 3:25 p.m. Aug. 12.

Farmington Department of Public Safety officer Thomas Daniels extinguished the fire using pans of water. The fire damaged the curtain and the carpeting below. The ceiling and surrounding wall sustained smoke damage.

The cause continues to be investigated, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

● **PURSE SNATCHING**
A Bloomfield Hills woman had her purse snatched outside 31065 Orchard Lake Road at noon Thursday.

A teenager ran up from behind her and grabbed the leather purse, containing \$12 in cash. He and a companion were last seen running south through the parking lot.

Children later found the purse behind a nearby T.J. Maxx. The money was missing, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● **SUSPICIOUS MAN**
A 22-year-old Covington Club Apartments resident arrived home to a prowler Thursday night.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:
After parking her car at 10:15 p.m., the woman heard a man's voice

from behind her residence so she hurried inside.
Looking out the front door, she saw a man leaning over her car, peering inside. He then circled her residence and peered in her bedroom window before leaving.

● **BARBECUE FIRE**
A homeowner on Whitwell who didn't shut off a standard 20-pound propane tank while changing it found himself fighting a fire at 8:25 p.m. Aug. 12.

He extinguished the fire with dry chemical extinguisher, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

● **THEFTS REPORTED**
A bicycle valued at \$350 was reported stolen from the side of a house on Roosevelt, Farmington

Hills, July 28.
A bicycle valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a yard on Barwell, Farmington Hills, Aug. 13-14.

Two bicycles valued at \$550 were reported stolen from a patio on Timberdale Lane, Farmington Hills, Aug. 14.

A bicycle valued at \$240 was reported stolen from a garage on Wheeler, Farmington Hills, Aug. 15.

A bicycle valued at \$150 was reported stolen from a garage on Jacksonville, Farmington Hills, Aug. 15.

Stereo equipment, a VCR, a CD player, a color TV, a cassette player and six Nagel paintings valued at \$5,187 were reported stolen from a unit on Roosevelt Court at Independence Green Apartments, Farmington Hills, Aug. 17.

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F & M Distributors, a deep discount health and beauty aid and household supplies chain, has opened a new store in the West River Center in Farmington Hills.

The 24,000-square-foot store is at 30109 Grand River, just north of Middlebelt.
Store hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

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The Farmington School District will be changing telephone numbers during the month of July. The new numbers of interest to the community are:	
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	
BEECHVIEW	489-3655
EAGLE	489-3663
FLANDERS	489-3673
FOREST	489-3688
GILL	489-3690
HIGHMEADOW	489-3699
KENBROOK	489-3711
LARKSHIRE	489-3722
LONGACRE	489-3733
WILLIAM GRACE	489-3747
WOOD CREEK	489-3755
WOODDALE	489-3766
MIDDLE SCHOOLS	
DUNKEL	489-3577
EAST	489-3601
POWER	489-3622
WARNER	489-3636
HIGH SCHOOLS	
FARMINGTON	489-3455
HARRISON	489-3499
NORTH FARMINGTON	489-3535
SPECIAL SERVICE SCHOOLS	
ALAMEDA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	489-3808
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTER	489-3788
CLOVERDALE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	489-3819
FAIRVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	489-3799
FARMINGTON TRAINING CENTER	489-3833
OTHER SERVICES	
FARMINGTON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	489-3352
FARMINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	489-3333
FOOD SERVICES	489-3717
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	489-3440
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