



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

White Cane Week

White Cane Week will be observed statewide April 27 through May 6. Farmington Area Lions Club members will be at various local shopping areas soliciting cash to continue their aid to the sight and hearing impaired. The Lions include Bill Gottschalk

(left), Joan Fox and Jack Kaviakian. Aid may be in the form of eye exams and glasses for local children and adults, Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Beaumont Silent Children program and other local programs.

Concealed weapons charge irks Farmington mechanic

By Bob Sklar
Staff writer

A Farmington mechanic charged with carrying a concealed weapon in Farmington Hills said he doesn't think most people realize it's unlawful to carry a double-edged, non-folding knife in their motor vehicle.

Roger J. Jagosz, 28, Precision Tune manager, said he uses that kind of knife as a general-purpose tool. The knife has a four-inch blade and is 7 1/4 inches long, police said.

Farmington Hills police officer Thomas Silvack found it in a sheath on the dashboard of Jagosz's pickup during a traffic stop on M-102 at 7:40 a.m. March 19.

At work, Jagosz carries the knife on his belt loop. But when in his pickup, he said, he put it on the dash "so it didn't poke the seat."

Jagosz said he used the knife "to cut vacuum lines or hoses in the station and when on road calls. Almost every mechanic I know uses one."

"I didn't know it was not legal to carry it — now look at the hell I'm going through," said Jagosz, a Precision Tune employee for 7 1/2 years.

"I may have made a mistake, but I didn't commit a crime," he said.

"There was no illegal use intended.

I'll demand a trial by jury if necessary."

Jagosz has no police record, said Sgt. Charles Nebus, Farmington Hills Police Department Detective Section supervisor.

"WE CHARGE according to a strict interpretation of the law," said Oakland County assistant prosecutor Michael Cox. "And the law is pretty clear that people can't carry in the passenger compartment of their vehicle a knife of the sort seized."

In Jagosz's case, "the knife was on the dashboard within easy access of the driver," Cox said. "That's something we considered."

Appearing before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington Wednesday, Jagosz waived his right to a preliminary exam on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

He will be arraigned before Oakland County Circuit Judge Hilda Gage April 17. On March 27, District Judge Fred Harris entered an innocent plea on Jagosz's behalf and set a \$2,500 personal recognizance bond.

If convicted of the felony charge, Jagosz faces a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Jagosz wants people to be aware of the law. "Carry a knife and this is what could happen to you. You could

be going to work one morning and your whole world could be turned around."

"When you buy a paring knife and put it in a grocery bag, how do you get it home without breaking the law?" he asked.

Now, he said, he'll leave a knife at work.

STATE LAW forbids "a person from carrying a dagger, dirk, stiletto, a double-edged, nonfolding stabbing instrument of any length, or any other dangerous weapon (except a hunting knife adapted and carried as such), concealed on or about his or her person, or whether concealed or otherwise in any vehicle operated or occupied by the person, except in his or her dwelling house, place of business or other land possessed by the person."

If you transport such instruments in the course of work, keep them in the trunk, trailer or rear storage compartment of your vehicle. That would mitigate concern about them being dangerous weapons, Cox said.

Pocket knives are about all that's legal to carry in the passenger compartment, he said. It's unlawful to carry a pistol in a vehicle without a license.

Jagosz said he will not plead guilty to a lesser charge.

Hillside construction falls further behind

Construction schedules on Hillside Elementary have moved even further behind, to the annoyance of Farmington school board members.

"The project has slipped another notch," said trustee James Abernethy, head of the board's building and site committee, reporting to the public at an April 3 board meeting.

Construction manager Bill McCarthy said at a special meeting earlier that evening a portion of the building was one week behind because of a delay in delivery of a metal deck. He said others sections were either on schedule, or several days ahead.

But the further delay did not make

board members happy. Just two weeks ago, they received an updated building schedule that showed parts of the new school would likely not be ready for school this fall.

Abernethy appeared upset at the double whammy. "How can I have any confidence at all in this document, if you are off 50 percent in two weeks?" he asked McCarthy.

Abernethy said he would call for a special meeting of the committee this month to further discuss the situation, which he called "critical."

The new elementary school is being built on 11 Mile, just east of Halsted, in Farmington Hills.

Bloodmobile schedule listed

The following is a list of bloodmobile locations scheduled for this month in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area:

• Tuesday, April 17 — Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 17 — K mart, 27175 Grand River, Farmington. Hours are noon to 8 p.m.

• Sunday, April 22 — Adat Shalom Social Hall, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Hours 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

• Monday, April 23 — Trinity Episcopal Church, 26880 LaMueira, Farmington Hills. Hours 3-9 p.m.

Generally, people between 17 and 65, in good general health and who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood.

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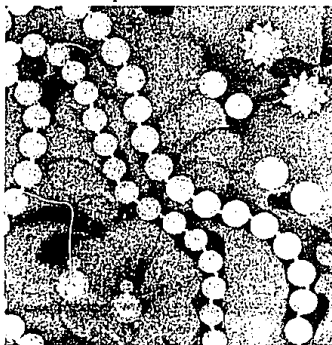
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