

TIME

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meetings but agreed the policy should be equally applied. Bates last year reactivated the long dormant policy when a resident kept speaking even after being given a warning to wrap up her comments. Councilman Chris McRae, the former mayor pro tem, had the responsibility of keeping track of the time limit, but admitted he couldn't concentrate on what the person was saying and keep track of the time as well.

Officials agreed to have administrators investigate bringing in a mechanical device with green, yellow and red lights to keep track of the time limit. The council also agreed to allow five minutes per person or group to address the council in the public comment portion of the agenda. No follow-up date was set. At the council's most recent meeting, Bates announced the time limit has been lifted until further action by the council.

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VOLUNTEERS

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division's Historic Preservation Program. JoAnn Browning, associate planner with the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division who devotes part of her responsibilities to administrative and program tasks. Michelle Bishop, technical assistant with the Oakland County Planning and Economic Services Division who handles promotion. The assessment team visited Farmington Nov. 18 and 19. They interviewed DDA board members, volunteers, city leaders, downtown merchants, property owners, residents and representatives of downtown and community organizations. The report will be reviewed and discussed by the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, according to Ron Oglesby, president. His last DDA meeting is at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Farmington City Hall. Oglesby resigned recently after serving 17 years on the board. "We need to get more involved in the process," said Brent Morgan, who was appointed DDA executive director last year. "We're looking for volunteers." The city and its DDA last year were awarded a county Main Street grant, which offers technical assistance, but no funding. The application process was competitive. Planners recommended a

number of actions; among them, establishing a new Main Street committee and volunteer development program, developing an effective calendar of promotional activities and events and encouraging more pedestrian-oriented development. Design, promotion, economic restructuring and organizational reform the Main Street Four-Point Approach. Planners recommend that each DDA board member volunteer to serve on one of the four committees. In meetings conducted last year, residents talked about both the assets and challenges posed by Farmington's downtown configuration, which includes both "main street" type stores and strip malls. "The Farmington community showed remarkable consensus about the major issues and obstacles facing the downtown," planners said. The community voiced concerns about diversifying downtown businesses, improving traffic flow, developing residential and office use, improving the appearance of buildings and promoting a pedestrian-oriented environment. Planners suggested partnering with Farmington Hills, because it has expressed an interest in working on transportation and traffic issues. Farmington Hills residents value the downtown's long-term viability because it is their primary "traditional" district as well. The Farmington Downtown Center on Grand River has had changes in its tenant mix and does not promote pedestrian

FATAL

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Court, before Judge James Brady. Dressed in black jeans and a T-shirt, he had a bruised right eye. He stood mute to the charges; a not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Police said Semak crashed his Camaro into a tree around 4:45 a.m. and drove the vehicle a few blocks away before abandoning it and leaving the victims trapped. The fire department had to use extrication tools to free the two men.

circulation to the historic core, planners said. Residents described speeding traffic issues, which pose both a safety hazard and a deterrent to shopping. "There isn't on-street parking to create a safety buffer between fast-moving traffic and pedestrians on the sidewalk," planners said. Also suggested by the department for the Civic Theatre, in addition to showing movies. "In an era when many communities are struggling to keep their downtown theaters open and viable, the Civic represents a true commitment by the community and the municipality to maintain this downtown anchor for future generations," planners said.

More restaurants and other businesses that would complement the theater can also help. The planning report also recommended recruiting businesses, rather than waiting for building owners themselves to fill vacant retail spaces. "The DDA has not undertaken any recent cohesive or active efforts to support the retention and recruitment of retail businesses," planners said. "A current retail market analysis will need to be conducted to determine downtown Farmington's market strengths and opportunities to recruit new businesses." Contact DDA Director Brent Morgan to obtain copies of the complete report or to volunteer for a committee at (248) 473-7276.

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Livonia Police captured Semak on foot in Livonia, less than a mile from the abandoned vehicle. Semak was charged with operating under the influence causing death; homicide-manslaughter with a motor vehicle; and failure to stop at the scene of an accident when at fault. Each carries a maximum 15-year sentence. He was also charged with two counts of operating under the influence causing serious injury, failure to stop at the scene of an accident resulting in serious impairment or death. Each involves up to a five years in prison.

Farmington Hills police officer Michael Ciaramitaro told the judge that Semak has four previous traffic accidents in which he was cited for being at

fault. Three involved injuries. Brady set Semak's bond at \$50,000 cash/bailee. He stated if Semak posts bond, he cannot drive or consume alcohol and must be under supervision to make sure he does not harm himself. He is to continue counseling and medication. Semak's attorney, Mayer Morganroth, said Semak suffers from depression. He stated after the arraignment that Semak did not know the Johnson brothers before the night of the accident. He added his client will be cleared of the charges when the case is discussed in court. "The fact is he did not do it," he said.

The attorney said the roadway was partially to blame for the accident.

He said the intersection has been the scene of accidents in the past, one in which a car ran into a house, he said. Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said the road is not accident-prone. "There could have been crashes there in the past, but I think the defense attorney trying to bring that up as the problem is kind of ludicrous." Police said Semak had a .22 blood/alcohol level - more than twice the legal limit - and cocaine in his system from blood samples taken the night of the accident. James and Daniel Johnson were released this week from Botsford Hospital, police said. Semak's preliminary exam is set for March 17.

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PITA

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Johnson & Johnson, said he and his co-workers are having a good time with the contest. They record their weight on Fridays to gauge their progress. They're also serious about exercise as a component of the program. Some contestants who tried to park close to the office building recently found a sign on their cars that informed them Big Brother was watching. "Now we all park in the back," Woodhouse said. "It's all done in fun."

Woodhouse said one worker lost 30 pounds over the summer and that's helping with motivation.

The winning office will win a year's worth of Mr. Pita's workplace lunches, delivered once a week. The sandwich maker will also donate \$10

per pound lost to the charity of the winner's choice. For the Farmington Hills workers, it is the Karmanos Institute.

"There was a lot of interest to jump in and give it a shot," said Woodhouse. He said Mr. Pita's sandwiches are "surprisingly good and low in fat. Everyone has their particular favorite."

Team members also receive a complimentary membership to Bally Total Fitness and Weight Watchers.

The monthlong contest concludes Feb. 14. The other offices competing are Adaptive Technologies in Troy; Ford Motor Co./Supply Chain Management Group in Dearborn; E/M Engineered Coating Solutions in Shelby Township; Livonia Ophthalmologists; and ThyssenKrupp in Detroit.

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SENTENCE

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Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Rue Lee Chabot last week sentenced the 17-year-old boy to probation with a review after six months. He is not allowed to drive until his review and must perform 200 hours of community service, continue counseling and tour the Oakland County Jail.

Arnie Cohl, son of Barbara,

said he thought the sentencing "was a joke."

"The whole family was in shock," he said. "We had no idea the judge was going to this. She sent a message out there that if you're a juvenile you're not accountable for your actions. What kind of example is that to send?"

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Robert Zivian said he was also disappointed with the judge's sentence.

"I wanted him to be incarcerated for some period of time

so the gravity of the offense would sink in," he said. "I am concerned he has not shown enough remorse."

He said the judge could terminate the boy's probation at his July review.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said he believed the sentence was too lenient.

"It was a senseless tragedy that could have been prevented," he said.

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ROMA SPOSA

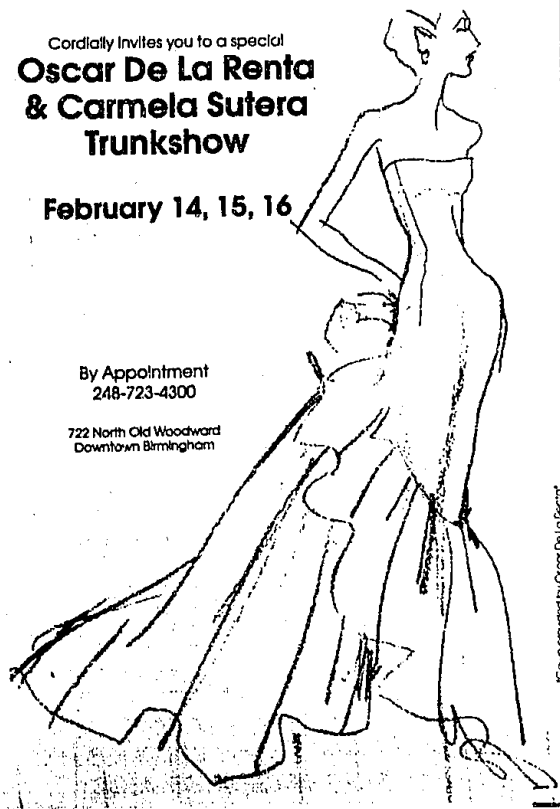
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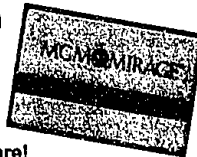
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