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RANDY BOST/Traffic photographer

The tables are turned

Jody Soronen, Farmington Hills City Council member, lost her job for a day to students from North Farmington and Harrison high. It was all part of an exercise designed to give the students an idea of what it's like to make the decisions the mayor and other members

of the council are faced with. During the meeting Soronen played the part of a rate taxpayer demanding that the city put an end to its lavish spending practices. For the story and more photos, please turn to Page 3A.

Woman awaits armed robbery, stabbing trial

A 37-year-old Detroit woman with 34 different aliases faces trial in circuit court on felony charges of armed robbery and assault with intent to do great bodily harm in connection with the Oct. 20 stabbing and robbery of a Farmington Hills jeweler.

The defendant, Theresa Burnett was bound over for trial on both felonies following her preliminary examination in 47th District Court before Judge Michael Hand. Hand reduced the original charge of assault with intent to murder to assault with intent to do great bodily harm before setting \$25,000 bond. Police state that in the robbery two women entered Imperial Jewelers, 27863 Orchard Lake Road, and one asked to see a ring. As the salesperson was quoting a price, one of the women was observed emptying an entire tray of rings into her purse.

Store owner Hagop Karadollan ran after the woman who was attempting to escape, according to police. The woman turned and stabbed Karadollan

eight to 10 times with the sharp end of a metal tack puller, according to Det. Sgt. Al Havner of the Farmington Hills Police.

Because the man was wearing several layers of heavy clothes, Havner says, the wounds were superficial.

THE CHASE CONTINUED down Orchard Lake with Havner and Inspector Miki Spence joining Karadollan in the pursuit of the woman.

Burnett was arrested in an office above the Roman Terrace restaurant by police. Twelve rings, valued at a total of \$800 were recovered.

Records show Burnett has been arrested 66 times since 1963 — mostly on larceny charges. She has been convicted at least 16 times, with some cases still pending.

Fingerprints were used to determine the woman's true identity, according to police who say they have 34 different aliases on file for the suspect.

Teen pleads guilty to negligent homicide charge

By M.B. Dillon Ward staff writer

A juvenile has pleaded guilty to a charge of negligent homicide in the deaths of two Farmington Hills youths in an auto accident last April.

Michael Martinez of West Bloomfield, a senior at North Farmington High School, made his guilty plea last week in Oakland County Probate Court. Martinez will be sentenced by Judge John J. O'Brien Dec. 2.

Martinez was charged in a head-on collision in which Lynne Elizabeth Hamlett, 19, and Alan Edward Dinsler, 20, were killed.

Hamlett and Dinsler were westbound on 13 Mile Road at about 12:30 a.m. April 4 when their vehicle was struck head-on by Martinez's car, police said. Hamlett was pronounced dead on arrival at Botsford General Hospital. Dinsler died at 3:15 that morning at

Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Though Martinez was hospitalized in serious condition following the accident, his recovery is now nearly complete, police said.

Often, proceedings in juvenile court are closed and court personnel barred from discussing cases. However, Farmington Hills police officer William Edgar and Bruce Hamlett, father of one of the victims, did comment on the case.

IT WAS ESTABLISHED during the court proceedings that at the time of the accident Martinez was under the influence of alcohol and driving over the

center line of 13 Mile Road, Edgar said.

Exact results of blood-alcohol tests administered to Martinez were not presented in court, added Edgar.

At his sentencing next month, Martinez could be ordered to perform community service and undergo psychiatric counseling; placed in a boys' home; or be dismissed with a warning. He will lose his driver's license until his 19th birthday, Edgar said.

Before sentencing, Judge O'Brien will receive recommendations from Assistant County Prosecutor Henry Hastings and the social worker investigating the case.

Misdemeanors and felonies are reffered to only as "offenses by or against the child" in juvenile court. Adults found guilty of negligent homicide can be sentenced to up to two years' imprisonment and/or fined a maximum of \$2,000.

BOTH THE HAMLETT and Dinsler families will file civil suits against Martinez once the criminal matter is settled, Hamlett said.

Their action, however, is not due to dissatisfaction with Probate Court's handling of the case, Hamlett said.

"Our first reaction was that he (Mar-

tiniz) was being let off on a lesser charge. But after talking with the judge and prosecuting attorney we were very well satisfied.

"The attitude of the court is that if there's a chance to rehabilitate him (Martinez) with the result that he will live a productive life, straight incarceration wouldn't accomplish that," Hamlett said. (When a juvenile commits a serious felony, the court may choose to ignore the child's age and order him or her to be tried as an adult in circuit or recorder's court. Martinez could have been imprisoned had he been tried in either.)

THE VICTIMS in the accident had planned to marry following their college graduation in two years.

Hamlett earned enough credits to graduate from North Farmington High School in June 1980 following her junior year and was studying fashion and retail management at Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

Dinsler, a 1979 North Farmington graduate, was enrolled in a landscape architecture program at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

The two are buried together in Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia.

Victory isn't cheap Customer beats city hall by reading fine print

By Craig Piechura staff writer

John Kolasa, 36, of Farmington

found some satisfaction in beating city hall — briefly — and knowing he's saved himself \$418 in sewer treatment fees he didn't legally owe.

But it appears that in pressing his complaint against an unfair assessment, Kolasa will wind up paying at least \$2,000 to connect his home to the

city sewer system. The owner of a house at 32230 Nine Mile still serviced by a septic tank, Kolasa has successfully contested three years' worth of sewer charges but lost a much costlier question of law.

Kolasa argued that a city ordinance stated that only property owners whose homes are connected to sewers are required to pay for sewage treatment. He requested a \$418 refund on his water bill and city officials promise to pay him.

The issue came up after the city ran a legal ad in August in the Farmington Observer notifying residents of a rate increase for water and sewage disposal.

Few persons ever take time to read the tiny type in the legal ads city governments are required by law to run. As a commercial loan officer at Manufacturers Bank of Southfield, Kolasa makes it a point to read legal ads.

"You find things like tax liens, mortgage foreclosures, lawsuits and sometimes I find some of our customers in there," Kolasa explains.

THE ORDINANCE states property owners "connected with" the city

sewer system will be charged 1 1/2 times the amount they pay for water. The words "connected with" jumped off the page when Kolasa read the legal ad because his home's waste is discharged through a septic field.

He contacted City Manager Robert Deadman to see about getting a refund. Deadman sent city workers out to the area of Nine Mile and Brookdale to determine if Kolasa's home connected to the sewer. Having a septic tank alone isn't enough proof, said Deadman, because some persons in the community have a line leading from their septic tank to the city sewer system.

Kolasa's home indeed isn't hooked up to the sewer line, said Deadman.

"The DPW pulled a manhole and discovered there was no connector leading into the system," said the city manager.

But — here's the catch — Deadman said there's another city ordinance on the books which states that residents living in areas where sanitary sewers are available must connect their homes to the system if the city sewer is 100

House fire probed

Arson is suspected in the raging blaze that destroyed a vacant house across the street from William Grace Elementary Nov. 11.

"I can tell you this," said Fire Marshal Bill Gearhart. "It was an empty house and there was no reason for it to go up in flames. You can draw your own conclusions from that."

The house is located at 21874 Whittington, at the corner of Whittington and Shiawassee. Farmington Hills Fire Department received the alarm at 8:27 p.m. and arrived four minutes later, according to Gearhart.

The fire started in the kitchen area, he said, with flames shooting out from the roof when firefighters arrived. Sixteen firefighters, two engines, a mini-pumper and an ambulance responded, along with three cars belonging to the fire marshal and two investigators.

District Chief Robert Rebozo received five stitches in his hand, Gearhart said, after cutting himself on a piece of glass. He was treated and released at Botsford Hospital.

The home was previously listed by B.F. Chamberlain Real Estate at an asking price of \$88,000, according to real estate agent Val Greenburg. The home has a built-in swimming pool in its back yard but was in need of repairs. Greenburg said the house was listed for "three or four months" and negotiations were under way to put the house back on the market. The real estate agent refused to release the name of the homeowner and fire officials said they didn't know the name of the current owner.

The fire marshal said it doesn't appear that the home can be rebuilt because the interior is so badly gutted. "The building was pretty nearly completely destroyed," Gearhart said.



RANDY BOST/Traffic photographer

John Kolasa's sharp eye on the legal ads notted him a \$418 refund from the city of Farmington.

Senior programs escape axe

By M.B. Dillon Ward staff writer

Reaganomics is flexing its muscles in Farmington Hills, and so far the city is holding its own.

The Farmington Hills City Council voted 5-1 to allocate \$8,115 from the unappropriated surplus to two programs for senior citizens and the handicapped last week. Council member Charlie Williams opposed the action intended to offset federal cutbacks.

In favor of it were Mayor Jack Burwell, and council members Fred Hughes, Jan Dolan, Donn Wolf and Jody Soronen. Mayor-Pro-Tem William Lang was absent.

Among the services provided by the Home Chore and Outreach programs to

the area's nearly 10,000 senior adults are raking, painting, yardwork, tax and energy assistance, grocery shopping, telephone reinsurance, homebound meals, adult day care, minor home repairs and indoor cleaning. Most of the work is performed by teen-agers who earn the minimum wage.

A shortfall in federal funding confronted the council with a choice of eliminating, reducing or subsidizing the services. For the 1982-93 budget year, the Home Chore program requested \$18,841 in total funds — 80 percent to come from the federal government and the remainder from the city.

Though the grant was approved, only \$10,228 (\$8,415 less than requested) was received. The cut would have forced the reduction of services by

half, said Director of Social Services Doug Gaynor.

The Outreach program received \$1,117 less than its \$4,880 request, a cut which would have decreased services 17 percent.

CURRENT FUNDING enables the city to service approximately 23 percent of eligible citizens.

"I feel we're serving all (qualified senior adults) we're aware of," Gaynor said.

"We're identifying and meeting 100 percent of the needs we know of." In light of shrinking federal funding for social programs, Williams said "the question is when do you bail out?"

"Back a few years when the feds had

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what's inside

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NEWSLINE . . . 477-5450
HOME DELIVERY . 591-0500
CLASSIFIED ADS . 591-0900

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