

Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 7

Thursday, November 3, 1983

Farmington, Michigan

62 Pages

Twenty-five cents



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

A tall order

It's not easy posing as a Crayola crayon. While passing candy out to kids during a "Halloween Howl" party at the Farmington Area YMCA Monday, Optimist Club volunteer Jim Johnson needed a little costume reinforcement from bumbly helper Lisa Merritt. The two volunteered their time and efforts to provide kids an alternative to traditional trick or treating. The two-hour party was sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation department, Farmington Community Center, Farmington Community Library and YMCA.

Wrong-way drive ends in tragedy

A woman driving the wrong way on the I-696 expressway west of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills and the driver of another car were killed in a head-on collision Sunday morning.

Michigan State Police, who closed a section of I-696 for about two hours as a result of the accident, said that Laura Lee Burrell, a 22-year-old Northville resident, was headed east in the west-bound lanes of the expressway.

Her auto, a 1980 Buick LeSabre, collided with a 1980 Oldsmobile Toronado driven by Clarence Wesley Burrell, 49, of Farmington Hills. The drivers, both the only occupants of their cars, were dead at the scene, according to state police accounts.

Also involved in the accident — but unharmed — was 58-year-old Harold Adler of Oak Park. The 1980 Lincoln Continental he was driving was struck by Burrell's car after it hit the Burrell auto.

After the Burrell car hit the Burrell car, Burrell's car spun off and hit the Adler car which had been driven to the shoulder to avoid the accident, said State Police Trooper David Luhmann.

The crash ended a wrong-way journey by Burrell of at least 10 miles over suburban expressways, according to police.

"We had reports of her on I-275 going north in the southbound lanes down by the Jeffries (about 10 miles southwest of the accident scene)," Luhmann said. "So she went up I-275 and then started going east on the west-bound lanes of I-696."

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oral quarrel

What's your feeling about election day?

On Tuesday registered voters will have a chance to exercise their right to vote in the Farmington and Farmington Hills city elections. Historically, voter turnout in local contests has been low.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

To answer this question call 477-5498. You have until 1 p.m. on Friday to answer this question. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

If you intend to vote, why? If not, why?

Businessman mourned after shooting death

By Diane Gale
staff writer

Funeral services were held yesterday for Paul Trabulsy, a 1978 North Farmington graduate, who was murdered early Sunday morning in Detroit.

The 22-year-old manager of family-operated furniture stores in Plymouth and Southgate died in the emergency room of Grace Hospital. He had been shot in the chest about 1:30 a.m. in a parking lot near the Virgo bar on West Eight Mile.

"He was a brave kid, and he didn't back down from anyone," said Trabulsy's father, Joseph. "He told his friends to duck because he didn't want him to get hurt."

With Trabulsy at the time of the shooting was Glen Wahrman, 22, also of Farmington Hills. He was unharmed in the incident.

Former North Farmington football coach Ron Holland, for whom Trabulsy played, remembered Trabulsy as a popular student.

"I think his teammates and coaches

thought of Paul as a young man who involved himself with all of us," said Holland, now the district's athletic director.

"HE WAS a highly spirited, motivated young man. He found him fun to be around, because he was always up to something or doing something a different way."

Holland recalls Trabulsy picking up his date for the senior prom in a rented antique car and wearing a "different kind of tuxedo."

Barry Muscato, Trabulsy's high school counselor, said, "He was a kid that everybody liked, and he was very nice."

The shooting took place after Trabulsy and Wahrman had pulled into a parking lot to wait for friends, according to Wahrman.

Wahrman was in the driver's seat of Trabulsy's Cadillac Eldorado when the incident happened.

Two men came up to the passenger's window, identified themselves as police officers and asked them to get out of the car, said Wahrman.

"Paul asked for identification, and they said they didn't have any."

"Paul asked if they wanted money, the car or what, and then they started shooting," said Wahrman. "Paul was shot in the center of the chest."

WAHRMAN DUCKED down, started the car and sped away. He called for an ambulance at the Virgo bar.

Wahrman said the assailants came up to the car on foot and that he never saw them in a car. Witnesses described one man as being around 24 years old and the other about 30.

Investigators found a .45-caliber pistol belonging to Trabulsy in the car. He was carrying about \$1,000, most of it in \$100 bills, police said.

Trabulsy's pistol hadn't been fired.

Trabulsy and Wahrman, friends since junior high school, were at the bar "celebrating because a friend was leaving for Chicago the next day," said Wahrman.

Trabulsy is survived by his father, Joseph; mother, Lily; and sisters Teresa and Dona.



Paul Trabulsy

Funeral services were at the McCabe Funeral Home. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Election candidates talk money

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Taxes, a proposed police building, park development and capital improvements dominated the third debate this week between incumbents and challengers vying for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council.

Six of the seven candidates met at the invitation of the West Bloomfield-Farmington branch of the League of Women Voters Tuesday to outline their political ideas.

Candidates participating in the debate were incumbents Jack Burwell, Fred Hughes and Donn Wolf, and challengers Melissa Levine, Joan Dudley and Terry Sever. Joe Alkateeb was absent.

Dudley tossed out the first reference to the city's tax rate.

"Doing everything. Doing nothing. Doing something. That is the issue in this election. To say we will never raise taxes without a vote of the people is to do nothing," said Dudley, a former councilmember and charter commissioner. He noted the city's tax rate does not come close to that allowed in the city charter.

BUT WOLF, a supporter of Richard Headley's voters' choice amendment, urged taxes not be increased without a vote of the people. He pointed to his part record of stopping tax increases in Farmington Hills.

"Somebody has got to say 'stop,'" said Wolf, who is winding up his first four-year term on the city council. "I want to continue to run efficient government on the money people provide to the city council."

In a prepared statement, Alkateeb said he questioned the stand of candidates who claimed they were for low taxes.

"I and the people of this city want to know what 'low taxes' means," wrote Alkateeb. "I am opposed to tax increas-

es period. And that is plain English."

SOME OF the approximately 25 residents who attended the debate asked whether certain city projects, such as the proposed police building, should be paid for on an "as-you-go" method, or through bonds.

Bonds, Hughes replied, would be the best method of financing the estimated \$3.5 million police facility. He said current and future residents who benefit from the facility would pay the bill.

The pay-as-you-go method, Hughes said, would require levying at least an additional mill each year. While bonds, he added, meant levying only a fraction of a mill each year to pay off the debt.

Sever, who said he is against building a facility with three-times the space the police department now has, backed paying for the building as it expanded to meet space needs. Interest on bonds is higher than the inflation rate, so bonding would, in the end, cost taxpayers more, Sever maintained.

CLAIMING "everybody is jumping to conclusions that we are going to build a Taj Mahal tomorrow," Burwell said the building can be constructed in an "economic and judicious way." But he offered no specific opinion on how to pay for the building.

In his statement, Alkateeb wrote that the proposed police building "is an example of poor fiscal responsibility" because, at \$90, the cost per square foot is too expensive.

Referring to Alkateeb's cost estimates, Dudley said, "We are not building any basic two-story office building." She pointed to sophisticated and technical needs in a police station, such as dispatch and lock facilities.

"Do the job now and do it right," Dudley said. She said she opposed building a structure that can only accommodate immediate needs and wanted one which could be expanded later.

Levine believed the structure should

be built as soon as possible because it would only end up costing more in the future.

DISCUSSION of the Spicer property near 10 Mile and Farmington Road centered on how the city would pay for it, particularly if a state grant the city has applied for falls through.

The city has proposed building a park on the site.

Dudley, optimistic the city would get the state grant, said, "There are times

"We are going to have to spend money. And I probably lost 250 voters. But I have never lied to you and I won't start now."

"Folks, we haven't had any public hearings on the property," she continued, referring to questions of how the property would be used.

If residents decide later they don't want the more than 200 acres, "then we'll sell it," she promised.

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Woman missing; worst suspected

By Doug Funke
staff writer

Where is Carol DeArment?

While police search for the 36-year-old Troy woman who disappeared without a trace just over a week ago, persons who know her well fear she's been the victim of foul play.

DeArment, the great-granddaughter of the founder of the S.S. Kresge Co., lives on Wentworth in west-central Troy with her three children and husband.

The couple is in the process of getting a divorce, said Troy police Sgt. William Tullock.

DeArment was last seen leaving the apartment of Albert Connor, an acquaintance who lives in Farmington Hills, the night of Oct. 28, Tullock said.

"At this point in time, (the case is) a missing person. We're not ruling out anything," Tullock said.

But a friend of DeArment who requested anonymity, DeArment's lawyer, Hanley Gurwin, and Connor all said the girl wouldn't disappear and leave her children behind.



Friends fear foul play in the mysterious disappearance of Carol DeArment.

One of DeArment's daughters went to the home of a neighbor after school on Oct. 27 inquiring whether the neighbor knew of her mother's whereabouts, Tullock said.

"She (neighbor) did some investigating on her own and later (10:45 p.m.) reported to police that her good friend and neighbor was missing," Tullock said. "That's when we got involved."

POLICE wouldn't confirm that the clothing DeArment was last seen wearing — tan slacks, a maroon blouse and a navy blue sweater — was found at her home.

"Investigators have spoken to her husband, family members and acquaintances and are continuing to do that," Tullock said. "We're continually getting information from friends, family members and acquaintances."

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