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Woman taken from station

By Karen Hermes Smith
staff writer

Detroit police arrested a man early Friday morning suspected of trying to abduct a woman in Farmington Hills and possibly abducting and raping a woman from West Bloomfield.

Suburban officers had few details of the Detroit arrest before presstime Friday, but Lt. Norman Kilmer of Farmington Hills Police Department said, "It's probably the same guy we had out here."

A Farmington Hills detective was en route to interview him at Detroit's 16th precinct, Kilmer said.

According to Kilmer, a man matching the suspect's description tried to abduct a female attendant from the Union 76 service station near Middlebelt and 10 Mile about 5:45 a.m. Friday.

That was just hours after a female attendant from a Union 76 station in West Bloomfield was abducted by two men, sexually assaulted and released in Detroit. However, in the West Bloomfield case, two men were involved and their descriptions differed from the Farmington Hills case.

IN THE FARMINGTON HILLS incident, a customer walking into the station interrupted the abduction, Kilmer said. "The man came in with a gun of some type, tried to get the attendant working there to leave with him. She resisted. A customer came in and he stuck the gun in his pocket and left."

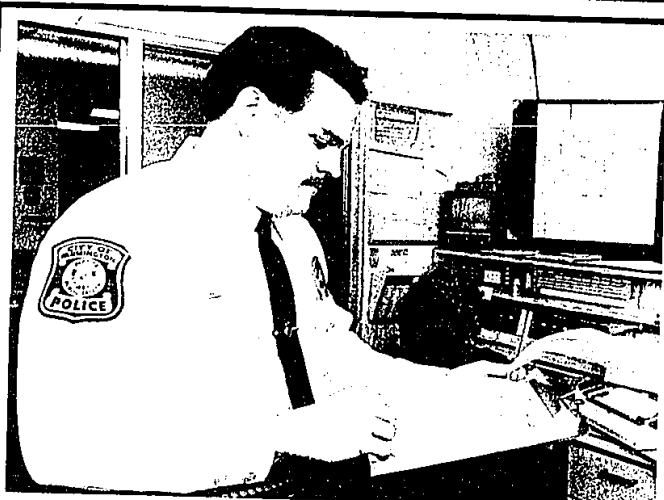
The attendant and customer described the man as white, 6 feet, 200 pounds, in his 30s, with dark hair, mustache and dark-colored clothes.

The man was driving a 1978 Chevrolet two-door, Kilmer said.

IN THE WEST BLOOMFIELD incident, two men abducted a female attendant from the Union 76 station on Pontiac Trail at Haggerty about 2:30 a.m., raped her, then released her 45 minutes later near Telegraph and Schoolcraft in Detroit. She walked to the 16th precinct.

The attendant described one of the assailants as white, 22-23 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches, 150 pounds, with dark collar-length straight hair, a smooth complexion and no facial hair. He was wearing a black, down jacket and blue jeans. The other man was described as white, 5 feet 7 inches, 185 pounds, with sandy brown curly hair, no facial hair and wearing blue jeans.

They were driving an older model, white, four-door.



John Coyle: "I really enjoy Farmington. This community, the government, is just a well-run organization."

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer



2 city officers promoted

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Michael Wiggins went into police work because he wanted to help people.

John Coyle was attracted to a career in law enforcement because of the chance to always be doing something different.

Both Farmington public safety officers recently climbed a rung on the department ladder with promotions to shift commander. Wiggins will supervise the midnight to 9 a.m. shift and Coyle the 3 p.m. to midnight shift. As shift commanders, Wiggins and Coyle will be in charge of the officers and dispatchers working on their respective shift, including both police and fire activities.

Wiggins, 28, a Dearborn Heights native, joined the Farmington public safety department in September 1979 after being laid off from the Westland Police Department.

"I was laid-off for fiscal reasons," said Wiggins, who lives in Farmington with his wife and 6-month-old daughter.



Michael Wiggins: "It's just the sense of accomplishment by helping people who need your help."

Please turn to Page 4

Council set to discuss surplus funds

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills officials prefer using the words reserve funds rather than surplus when it comes to talking about city finances.

And talking about the money that over the years has been pigeonholed in various funds for various reasons will be one of council's topics of discussion at 7:30 tonight.

The city's surplus is often a sore subject with council members when budget time rolls around in June. But Councilman Charles Williams didn't wait until budget time this year before raising the issue.

IN EARLY January, Williams asked City Manager William Costick to provide council with a report of the city's reserve funds — both those that legally can and cannot be used for purposes other than originally established.

In Costick's report to council, which is to be discussed tonight, he indicated that up to \$630,000 can be reallocated from some of the city's reserves for

capital improvements.

Williams' request for the report came during a discussion of the city's six-year capital improvements plan and how city officials planned to fund the listed projects.

At that time, council members passed a resolution showing their "williness" to raise taxes to finance capital improvements in 1985-86.

"Rainy day funds are nice. But the rainy day is here," Williams said in early January.

Williams suggested checking into using money from the Farmington Community Library's endowment fund and the Economic Development Corporation. He also asked whether money from some of the drain and road funds could be used.

Costick's report was available Jan. 14 but discussion was postponed because Williams was absent.

"Although major reserves and fund balances are primarily dedicated or legally restricted, the attached report does indicate that minor adjustments to some reserves can be made," Costick said in his report.

The city's surplus is often a sore subject with council members when budget time rolls around in June.

what's inside

- Amusements 3C
- Cable Connection 4A
- Classifieds C-D
- Community Calendar 8B
- Crossword puzzle 5C
- Editorial page 6A
- Inside Angles 3A
- Obituaries 2A
- Oral Quarrel 6A
- Shopping Cart 1-2C
- Sports 1-3B
- Suburban Life 5-7B

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Torch results in blaze

Warming up exterior pipes with a blow torch has been blamed for a fire which caused an estimated \$6,000 damage to two units in the Green Hill Apartment complex in Farmington Hills last week, according to fire officials. Firefighters were called to 2134 Green Hill at 3:32 p.m. last Wednesday — almost 24 hours after workers used a blow torch to warm the pipes on the outside of a building which houses eight apartments. The complex is on Nine Mile Road, a half-mile west of Drake.

When a blow torch was used on the pipes, the heat was transmitted to the inside walls of the apartment building, said Fire Chief Richard Marinucci.

THE HEAT caused a smoldering fire between the interior dry wall and the exterior brick that later ignited, Marinucci said.

"It ran up the wall from the first floor to the second," he said, adding most of the damage was confined to the

Please turn to Page 4



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A bulldozer is used to clear debris from the rear of an Farmington Hills apartment damaged by fire caused when a torch was used to warm pipes.