

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

CAR RECOVERED

A 18-year-old Livonia man faces a felony charge in the discovery of a stolen car early Saturday in Farmington Hills, police said. Arraigned Saturday before Magistrate James Brady of Farmington, Henry Brettschneider pleaded not guilty to one count of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100. Brady set cash or surety bond at \$7,500.

The defendant faces up to five years in prison if convicted. According to a Farmington Hills police report:

Brettschneider was arrested at 1:50 a.m. Saturday when police found him sleeping in a car parked in the rear lot at Country Lanes, 30250 Nine Mile.

The 1984 Pontiac Sunbird 2000, valued at \$1,500, was reported stolen from Lincoln Park the day before.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT

A man eastbound on Grand River in Farmington Hills was threatened by a passing motorist who wielded a tire iron Monday night.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

A 25-year-old Redford Township man drove past two cars eastbound on Grand River at Farmington Road at 11:30 p.m. As he passed them, the occupants began to shout.

The cars then turned around and began to follow him. After sandwich-

ing his car, the others continued to shout at him.

At Middlebelt, the front passenger of a Grand Am produced a tire iron and hit the rear of the Redford man's car. The attacker then raised the tire iron, causing the Redford man to fear for his life.

The Redford man veered, inadvertently hitting the Grand Am. He then drove onto the Grand River median, near Waldron, as the others continued eastbound.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Farmington Hills police cited a party store owner, under state Liquor Control Commission laws, for allegedly selling beer to a minor Saturday.

Police officer Craig Hurt said he saw a 19-year-old Novi man enter the Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, 38441 Grand River, empty handed at 9:40 p.m. but walk out with a 12-pack and two cases of beer valued at \$41.

Owner Dawood Toma Sarokh was cited under LCC laws. The teenager was ticketed for possessing alcohol, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

BURGLAR STRIKES

A cordless telephone and cash valued at \$125 were reported stolen from a house on Willowcreek early Friday.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

While asleep on the living room couch about midnight, the homeowner heard someone enter through the unlocked garage door. Thinking it

was a family member, he went back to sleep.

In the morning, he found the door to the garage open. He also found the telephone and cash, taken from a purse, missing from the kitchen.

CARS ATTACKED

Personal property was stolen from at least 15 cars in Farmington Hills last weekend.

Cars were attacked at Country Ridge, Mulwood and Boisford Terrace Apartments as well as on Purdue, Crestforest, Stockton, Wildwood Trail, Briar Hill, Woodridge and other streets, detective Duane Fox said.

Among the property taken were a camera, a radar detector, flashlights, briefcases, tools and a micro-cassette recorder.

Farmington Hills police are working with police in West Bloomfield, where some recovered property was taken from.

Two teenagers have been questioned, Fox said.

TEENS TICKETED

Two teenagers from Wayne County were ticketed when alcohol, rolling papers and marijuana stems were found in their car during a traffic stop at 10 Mile and Haggerty Saturday, Farmington Hills police said.

An 18-year-old Redford Township woman was ticketed for possessing two bottles of malt liquor. A 19-year-old Livonia woman was ticketed for possessing narcotics paraphernalia, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing narcotics paraphernalia and contributing to the delinquency of minors when a water bong, a marijuana pipe and a baggie of marijuana were found in their car, parked at Wooddale School, 28600 Peppercorn, Saturday. Also in the car were a 14-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy, both from Farmington Hills, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

SALON BURGLARIZED

Part of a tanning bed taken in a break-in at Beach Club Tanning Salon, 31122 Haggerty, July 20-21 was found in the parking lot at Sheffield Measurement, 38455 Hills Tech Drive, Friday morning.

The recovered property was valued at \$2,000.

Taken in the break-in was \$3,685 worth of equipment: a radio, a telephone, a fan, a facial tanning unit and a tanning bed, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

THEFTS REPORTED

A whirlpool valued at \$1,600 was reported stolen from a house under construction on Fox Club, Farmington Hills, July 3-21.

An alarm box, a sewing machine and a computer valued at \$3,795 were reported stolen from a house on Briarcrest Knoll, Farmington Hills, July 15-21.

A moped valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a garage on Peppercorn, Farmington Hills, July 17. About \$1,100 was reported stolen

from an apartment on Strawberry Lane, Farmington Hills, July 18.

Fishing equipment valued at \$550 was reported stolen from a garage on the 37900 block of Rhoadwood, Farmington Hills, July 19-20.

Electronic equipment was reported stolen from an apartment on Spring Lane in Spring Valley Apartments, Farmington Hills, July 21.

A VCR, a bottle of cologne, two magazines, clothing and two Canadian \$1 bills valued at \$373 were reported stolen from a house on Brookdale, Farmington, July 21-23.

A VCR and a color TV were reported stolen from a house on the 21800 block of Inkster, Farmington Hills, July 22.

A cable TV box valued at \$200 was disconnected and stolen from a portable TV in the family room of a house on Westmoreland, Farmington Hills, July 24.

A camera, liquor, golf clubs and a color TV valued at \$1,530 were reported stolen from a house on Saxony, Farmington, July 24.

Farmington won't enter lawsuit on court funding

By Casey Hana staff writer

The city of Farmington will not participate in a class action lawsuit that requests the state of Michigan to pay for district court operations.

"Legally, these plaintiffs are not in a strong position to prevail," said city attorney John Donohue in making his recommendation to the city council Monday. It would end up in the hands of the state Supreme Court, he said, where they "would have to jump a lot of legal hurdles."

"I think it would be a waste of the city's money to participate in this litigation," he added.

The lawsuit was started recently by Newaygo, Ottawa, Saginaw and Westford counties, requesting state funding for future district court operations and to reimburse cities for expenses incurred during the 1988-87 fiscal year.

It alleges that the state has an obligation to fund operations for the entire judicial branch. It also states that Michigan has not adopted an an-

nual accounting system for court operations, as required by the state Constitution.

IF THEY win, future district court costs in all areas would likely be paid by the state anyway, say city officials. Those who do not participate will receive no back money, but that isn't really a concern.

"There is little likelihood that the city would collect from the state for past court expenditures," explained city manager Robert Deadman in his council report. "The operational costs of the 47th District Court are typically very close to the revenues produced... therefore, there may be no costs to recover."

"I, further, cannot imagine an award which would only include funding of the court system for those who participated in this class action."

The 47th District Court, on 10 Mile in Farmington, handles cases for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. There are currently two judges and two magistrates; the hir-

ing of a third magistrate was recently approved. Money for the courts is paid by both cities, using a formula based on the number of court cases from each city.

The budget for the new fiscal year is slightly more than \$1 million, with \$384,400 going to salaries (less state payments), \$207,400 for fringe benefits, \$223,000 for supplies and services and \$54,250 for computer system improvements. Farmington pays 16.1 percent of the cost, with Farmington Hills paying the remainder.

A COMMITTEE for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has recommended the county board also opt out of the suit. Municipalities must officially remove themselves from the suit, or they will be automatically included, Donohue added. Donohue also serves as attorney for the county commissioners.

He told the city administration he is apprehensive about the suit because the issues are complicated and the solutions would be best handled by the state Legislature.

Minister proposes peace walk

Continued from Page 1

The Successes see the fence as a way to deflect harassment, if only while in the privacy of their backyard. "I'm boxing myself in," Success said. "But I have to do it."

"Daddy, my life is threatened," he told the Farmington City Council last week, while seeking approval to erect the fence. He said passersby have hurled stones, bricks, papers and firecrackers at him.

Even on the tennis court at Shilawasee Park, Success said he has had to explain to his children why people of all ages call him nigger.

His family also has had to endure doorbell-ringing and obscene calls at

night. "It's not fair," said one neighbor. "It's not fair that a wonderful family can move in but not be able to live in peace."

EVEN THOUGH the police have increased patrols and city leaders have vowed to aggressively prosecute anyone who harasses the family, Success doesn't feel the city council knows "what I feel. I just don't think they're taking in what I'm saying."

Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper said he truly sympathizes with Success' plight.

"We certainly are concerned about the harassment that Dr. Success is having to endure," Tupper

said. "He has as much right to live in Farmington as anybody else."

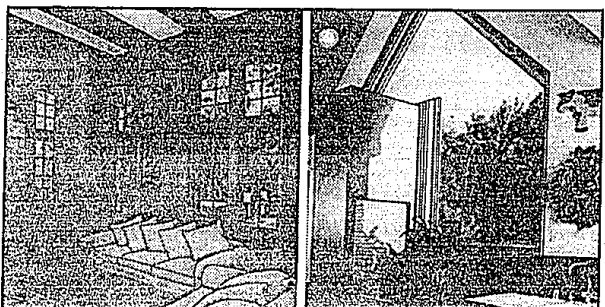
"In no way does the city treat the Success family any differently than any other family in our community," the mayor added.

One of the problems, he said, is that "to punish anyone, we have to catch them in the act. And it's very difficult to do that."

Two years ago, after vandals spray-painted obscenities and racial slurs on his home two days before Christmas, Success hired a real estate agent. He planned to move his family to Ohio while he attended a seminar.

But the house didn't sell. "God intervened," he said. "He said, 'Derwin, you have to stay and fight. You can't run.'"

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