

Bad boy image comes with job, 1D



North tops Falcons, 1C

Campaign heats up for library issues, 3A

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WISH list. Farmington Hills councilman Paul Sowerby last Monday suggested the city buy equipment necessary to plow snow from sidewalks along major roads.

He also suggested the city pursue a bike path along the south side of I-696, where Detroit Edison is expected to install new power lines. He envisions such a path meeting the bike path along I-775.

City manager William Costick will look into both ideas.

WHICH way?

"I've been going downstream ever since I got on this council," two-year councilman Aldo Vagnoni quipped when it was pointed out during a Farmington Hills City Council discussion last Monday that he lives upstream from Lincolnshire Estates subdivision, which floods in heavy rains.

Memory lane

50 years ago:

Enrollment in Clarenceville schools has risen 670, up 69 from last year and the highest ever.

Any course that might lead this nation into war will be strongly opposed by the Michigan Education Association, announced Farmington superintendent Orville E. Duncel.

— Farmington Enterprise, Sept. 29, 1939

This week

FARMINGTON Democratic Club will host the first candidates night of the campaign for Farmington Hills council hopefuls. The forum begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, in the council chambers of the city hall, 31555 11 Mile.

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Thrown objects hurt 2 motorists

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Two motorists were cut when projectiles smashed through their windshields and spewed glass fragments as they drove westbound on I-696 through Farmington Hills Wednesday night. Neither was hurt seriously.

Their cars were two of at least seven vehicles hit by thrown chunks of rock, brick or concrete as they traveled along I-696 between 10 p.m. and midnight Wednesday.

"We have absolutely no idea what the motive was," said Trooper Richard Percy of the

Michigan State Police-Northville post.

"Whoever was doing it was looting or dropping bombs, hoping to hit something," he added.

A 24-year-old Northville woman cut on the arm by flying glass as she traveled between I-275 and I-696 drove herself to Providence Hospital, Novi. Police think a rock was thrown over the median, from the north side of the freeway that's now under construction.

Flying glass cut a 29-year-old Wilcox man's hand as he traveled under the Orchard Lake Road overpass, police said.

MICHIGAN STATE Police took four of the reports and Farmington Hills police took the other three. Four of the cars were eastbound and three were westbound — between I-275 and just east of Orchard Lake Road.

Police theorize more than one person inflicted the cracked windshields, dented hoods and two injuries.

One man thought he had been shot at. He didn't realize projectiles had been hurled until he got home and assessed the damage, Percy said.

One man who had his windshield smashed told Farmington Hills police he thought a rock

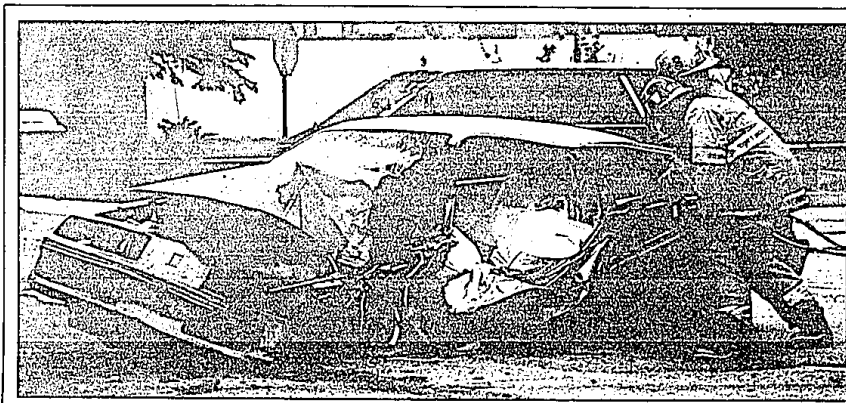
was dropped from the Oakland Community College pedestrian walkway over I-696.

Projectiles also could have been thrown from the ditch on the south side of the freeway, Percy said.

Farmington Hills police checked the overpasses and Michigan State Police scoured the freeway, but no clues surfaced.

More vehicles could have been hit during the barrage, but the drivers might have attributed any damage to stones kicking up, Percy said.

This was the first such incident reported since the I-696 widening began last year.



Farmington Hills firefighters Don St. Clair (left) and Wally Kurzeja use their department's Jaws of Life extrication tool to cut the door from the victim's car in a fatal accident Friday afternoon on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington.

Man dies when car strikes truck

By Bob Sklar
and Casey Hans
staff writers

A 66-year-old Detroit man was killed when his car crossed the center line on Orchard Lake Road, south of 10 Mile, and struck a semi tractor-trailer Friday afternoon, Farmington police said.

Clarence William Leverett died of multiple injuries, the Oakland County Medical Examiner determined. Toxicology results, which will reveal any substances in his bloodstream, aren't expected until next week, said officer Carl Swanderski.

Witnesses said the victim's car drifted over the center line of Orchard Lake Road near Lamar just before the accident.

"We have no idea whatsoever why Mr. Leverett drifted over the center line," Swanderski said. "Speed wasn't a factor, and no alcohol odor was detected."

Leverett was not wearing a seat belt.

Witnesses told Swanderski that

Leverett's 1982 mid-size Oldsmobile drifted over the center line near Lamar and was straddling both lanes at the time of the crash at 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Leverett's northbound car ran into the second-from-last rear dual axle of a southbound Holland Motor Express tractor-trailer driven by Daniel J. Durly, 39, of Westland.

THE TRUCK was hauling 1,000 pounds of cargo. The impact bent both the axle and framework, forcing the trailer to be towed, Swanderski said.

One of the outer truck tires that was hit broke free and bounded

southeasterly into the left front fender and door of a car driven by Florence MacNellis, 58, of Farmington Hills. She was behind Leverett. The fire came to a rest on the west shoulder.

Neither Durly or MacNellis was hurt. Both were wearing seat belts.

The truck driver saw the car cross the center line and drove toward the west shoulder in a futile effort to avoid it, Swanderski said.

Orchard Lake Road from Shiloh to north to Lamar was closed for two hours after the crash.

It was the second fatal accident in the city in the past two weeks.

Intruder rapes woman

A 29-year-old Farmington woman was raped in her apartment late Wednesday by a man who broke in, claiming to be a maintenance worker.

The attack occurred between 11:30 p.m. and midnight on Sept. 20 at Drakehire Apartments, Grand River and Drake, police said.

The Farmington Department of Public Safety was notified shortly after 2 a.m. Sept. 21 and began to

investigate immediately.

Detectives are following several active leads, said Gary Goss, deputy director. It is believed the man entered the apartment through a bedroom window.

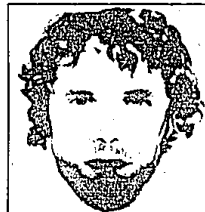
According to a police statement, the man confronted the victim, first asking to see her former roommate, who had moved away several days before, then telling her he was a maintenance worker.

He then sexually assaulted her.

Later, she was treated at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

The attacker is described as white, 22-24 years old, about 5-8 and 150 pounds. He was "dirty looking," with a one- to two-week beard growth and smell of alcohol. He has brown, wavy hair extending just below the ears.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Farmington police at 473-7262.



Composite drawing of rape suspect.

Farmington Road sidewalks OK'd

By Susan Duck
staff writer

Residents who walk, jog and bike along Farmington Road between 12 and 13 Mile will have more secure footing next spring, when sidewalks are installed along that route.

The majority of Farmington Road residents who spoke at last Monday's public hearing were against installation of the sidewalks. Residents within bordering subdivisions were in favor.

The Farmington Hills City Council approved 3-2 a motion by councilwoman Joy Soronen, supported by councilman Ben Marks, for the city manager to instruct staff to do engineering for sidewalks to be built

'I'm not sure that we need sidewalks. We are not ready for sidewalks along Farmington Road. I don't think the street is ready for it.'

— Councilman Paul Sowerby

along Farmington Road. The exact alignment will be decided when placement of a new storm sewer is known. Council members Paul Sowerby and Jean Fox opposed the motion.

Money to install this and three other sidewalks will come from

\$250,000 in excess revenues, mostly from unanticipated interest earnings from the city's cash management investment program.

"I'm not sure that sidewalks are needed," said Ronald Tipping, a Farmington Road resident. "I think the key to this are the crossing

points from the west side to the east side. I will not attempt to cross Farmington at my house."

Tipping complained of traffic that causes a lot of time loss when he tries to leave his driveway and the need to circumvent traffic at peak hours.

OTHER RESIDENTS blamed the speed limit on Farmington Road as a contributing problem.

Currently, 1,800 feet of sidewalks exist on the east side of Farmington Road; 160 feet on the west side. An additional 3,000 feet of sidewalk would be needed if the city decides placement should go on the east side

School panel argued Will review boundaries

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington school officials may have ignored a sector of the community when they selected a committee to review elementary school boundaries this fall, a school trustee said last week.

Trustee James Abernethy is concerned because the committee includes only those residents who can meet during daytime hours. He also said that, because the group's meetings are not covered by the state's Open Meetings Act, residents might feel prohibited from attending.

"I'm very troubled by that combination," Abernethy said last week. "I continue to be concerned that those who work during the day are excluded."

"I'm concerned that other viewpoints will never be present."

But acting superintendent Michael Flanagan, school board members Helen Frutwin and Janice Rohlsiek, and other school officials said the 14 residents serving on the committee are a group that has been under-represented over the years.

And they said residents are welcome to attend all meetings, including several "town meeting" sessions that will be held in the evenings.

THE GROUP is expected to address attendance areas for the new Hillside Elementary and boundaries for other elementary schools, as well. Issues for discussion will include transportation, enrollment

Please turn to Page 4

12 Mile forum set

Ideas are taking shape for 12 Mile as a four-lane boulevard with a potential for bike paths, sidewalks and landscaping.

Farmington Hills City Council supports a conceptual plan calling for a combination of five lanes of pavement and a four-lane boulevard from Farmington Road to 800 feet west of Drake.

Preliminary engineering and landscape design work began when money was recently approved. The project, financed by a grant from the Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund, is a joint effort of the city, county, state and abutting property owners. A task force is coordinating the project.

A public hearing is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28 in Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 11 Mile. The hearing will focus on the environmental assessment as well as proposed landscaping, right-of-way and road improvements.

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