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Man, 79, killed by recycling truck



A recycling truck backed over a man out walking his dog Tuesday in Farmington Hills. The man, 79, was dead at the scene. Tags on the dog, who remained faithfully at his master's side, helped identify the victim.

Only one vehicle was involved in the death of a 79-year-old man hit by a recycling truck Tuesday afternoon, said Farmington Hills police.

Wolfgang Helmut Mueller, who lived on Willow Creek, was walking his dog on Lake Park Drive at its intersection with Northmont, in the 13 Mile and Farmington Road area, when the truck backed over him, police said.

Officers found him lying on the curb

side of the vehicle, between the truck's dual axles. He was dead at the scene.

His dog, a black-and-white collie named Lexie, was not injured and stayed at his side.

It was the address on Lexie's tag that helped police identify Mueller and notify his wife, Hilla Lt. Dennis Green said. No other vehicle was involved, Green said. The truck's driver was backing the vehicle before turning left onto

Northmont after making a pickup, the lieutenant said.

The driver, a 31-year-old Dearborn man, ran up to a house and asked its resident to call 911. He has not been charged.

There was no indication of drug or alcohol use by the driver, Green said, and police weren't sure what alerted him to the situation.

The truck, impounded for the investigation, was equipped with a rear-mounted television camera and a monitor on the driver's dashboard.

With the flashing strobe light on the rear of the truck and the loud, beeping back-up signal, police wondered how

Mueller wouldn't have been aware of the vehicle.

The camera, lights and beeper were all working at the time.

A call to the truck's owner, Waste Management of Michigan, was not returned.

"He may have tripped and fallen" under the wheel, Green suggested. There was no sidewalk, but police believe Mueller probably wasn't walking on the grass because of a misty rainfall.

Two of Mueller's neighbors said they knew little about him. He was quiet.

Please see FATAL, A1



Message to Mom

Why is your mother special? Tell us in 50 words or less and you may win lunch or dinner for your mom (and three other people) at a local restaurant. Mail, fax or e-mail entries by noon Friday, May 1.

MAIL:
Community Editor Dava Varga
33411 Grand River
Farmington, MI 48335

FAX:
(248) 477-9722

E-MAIL:
dvarga@oo.homecomm.net

Be sure to include your name, your mother's name, your address and telephone number. You may send a photo, however, judging will be based on your message.

We will print as many entries as possible on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. The contest is open to readers of all ages.

THE NEWSPAPER TODAY

Honored: Meet the artist in residence for 1997's Farmington Festival of the Arts./B1

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Residents set a city vision

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Farmington needs more upscale shopping and dining, easier pedestrian access around town, a "ring road" linking Grand River to Farmington Road and more parks.

It also needs a large, destination retailer, a cultural arts center and a simpler way to get to Shiawassee Park.

Those "visions" and many, many more were gathered by a group of 80 or so city residents and officials who took part in a process over the past five months, before presenting them March 28 at a city conference.

While the final report on "Downtown Farmington: A Community Vision" isn't complete, presentations by four task forces showed the areas being targeted: Parking, Traffic and Pedestrian Friendliness; Greenspace and Parks; Cultural, Entertainment and Community Activities; and Business and Restaurant Mix.

However, many ideas of the task forces overlapped. Several talked about the need for more upscale shopping in the downtown. "The business mix doesn't reflect the affluence of Farmington and the surrounding area," reported the Business/Restaurant group.

Another feeling shared by many participants and expressed with plenty of passion was that the main strip of the Downtown Center Mall - from Shoe Carnival and Farmer Jack on one end to the Big Apple Bagel and 99 Cent Store on the other - was

Please see VIBES, A8



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No dampening this spirit



Rain relay: Mercy High School senior Jackie Segue cheers on her teammates as she keeps statistics under a plastic cover as Tuesday's rain made for soggy going at the team's track and field meet at the Farmington Hills school.

Man faces charge in ATM murder

Antonio McKelton could get the death penalty if he's convicted for the November 1996 Farmington Hills murder of ATM serviceman Everisto Duncas Bosley, following Tuesday's federal indictment.

McKelton was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts for his role in the Nov. 14, 1996, armed robbery and subsequent murder of the 25-year-old technician who was servicing a Comerica ATM machine on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer is confident in the case.

"There will be a federal trial," said Dwyer, following Tuesday's indictment of McKelton, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. "I'm confident the evidence is there to convict."

About a potential death penalty, Dwyer said, "There's a good possibility that there will be a request for the death penalty by the U.S. Attorney here."

The ultimate decision would have to be made, after a hearing, by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, Dwyer said.

McKelton could receive the death penalty because, according to the indictment, the deposits stolen from the Comerica ATM were insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. "It was a federal crime," Dwyer noted.

Dwyer credited the two lead investigators in the 1 1/2-year joint case, Farmington Hills Police Detective Dave Leo and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Scott Wilson.

"The last year and a half they had to live with this investigation," Dwyer

Please see MURDER, A4

Hills boasts serious crime drop in '97

Citing a third straight year of decline in "serious criminal activity" in Farmington Hills, police Chief William J. Dwyer said 1997 "may be the best year in the history" of the department.

In his annual report to the city council Monday night, the chief declared "serious crime is significantly down" compared to 1996 and "the city is a safer place to live, work and visit."

He also noted his department received both state and national awards in 1997 for its community policing program.

He called the report itself "the greatest" he's presented in his 13 years as chief.

Dwyer attributed improvements to a departmental reorganization authorized by the council early in 1997, the interactive community policing program itself and the effects of the 1995 public safety millage increase, which boosted the department's staff and increased the number of drug and weapons arrests.

Please see CRIME, A4

Farmington Hills Crime Statistics

1996-1997 Comparison

DESCRIPTION	1996	1997	PERCENT CHANGE
GROUP A	GROUP A	GROUP A	GROUP A
Forcible Sex Offenses	34	41	+20.8
Robbery	30	33	+15.4
Burglary	499	372	-25.5
Larceny	2,021	1,998	-1.1
Vehicle Theft	226	221	-2.2
Malicious Destruction of Property	1,021	700	-31.4
Narcotic Drug Law Violations	285	333	+16.8
GROUP B	GROUP B	GROUP B	GROUP B
Operating Under the Influence	293	275	-6.1
Household Offenses	00	60	+100.0

Rolling down the river

Remember the tale of the river guide who lost his arm to a rogue hippopotamus while guiding a tour down the Zambezi River? Tour guide Paul Templer's harrowing adventure was featured in the Farmington Observer in December when he came to town to raise money for a spring expedition that will raise awareness for land mine victims in Africa.

Farmington businessman Dave Williams is a director of Make a Difference, a non-profit organization established last year to help victims of land mines in Africa. The foundation wants to raise international awareness of thousands of Africans who lose limbs to land mines each year, and to provide them with prostheses, clinics and therapy.

Now, Internet cruisers can follow the expedition, which began earlier this month down the length of the Zambezi River, learning about African wildlife,

FARMINGTON FOCUS

different cultures and the dangers facing the team. Visit at www.ZZAM.org.

The group is accepting lower leg prostheses in good condition for amputees in Harare at: Make a Difference, P. O. Box 160, Farmington, 48392-0160.

Oh, Happy Day

The new list of approved tree species and other vegetation that can be planted in city of Farmington rights-of-way is out, and Bill Hartscock says fellow city council member Jim Mitchell is one happy guy. Not because of what's on the list, but what's off of it.

"He got a kick out of the Buckeye being banned,"

says Hartscock.

Mitchell is a University of Michigan graduate, and, of course, the Buckeye is the symbol for U-M's arch-rivals, Ohio State University.

Farmington recognized in South Africa

The city of Farmington got a long-distance thanks last week from Ayinde Yakubu.

The South African resident e-mailed Bill Richards, assistant city manager, to congratulate the city on its Web site. "For someone outside the U.S., it is a wonderful source of information. I am coming to Farmington Hills to work as a system developer for an IT firm, and I need all the information I can get on the culture, environment, living, etc. Your site provided that," Yakubu wrote.

The city's Web site can be reached at www.ci.farmington.mi.us