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\$150.00  
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## Hills officer gets probation

A Farmington Hills police officer has been sentenced to one year probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor domestic violence charge.

Judge Gail McKnight sentenced Gary Brandemihl to probation at a hearing in Westland 18th District Court Sept. 4. He also has to attend a 26-week group domestic violence program stemming from a June 16 incident where his former fiancée

said he assaulted her.

Brandemihl is set to appear before McKnight on charges that he violated his bond by having contact with the victim. The hearing is 2 p.m. Oct. 14.

On July 22, he entered a no contest plea under advisement to the charge. A person does not admit guilt pleading no contest under advisement.

At sentencing, Brandemihl's attorney asked that the no con-

test plea be withdrawn but later withdrew the motion, a court administrator said.

Brandemihl had been suspended with pay pending an internal investigation. A department trial board subsequently found him not guilty of misconduct.

The victim failed to appear at the trial board hearing, Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

## Lightning strikes Hills house

Lightning struck a Farmington Hills home, causing damage early Labor Day morning.

At 7:45 a.m., Farmington Hills firefighters from Stations No. 1 and 5 arrived at the home on the 2600th block of Surrey Lane to find lightning hit a metal vent

pipe on the roof.

The homeowner told firefighters that the strike knocked out power to electrical outlets on the home's first floor. There was minor damage to a bathroom mirror above one outlet.

Firefighters also smelled natu-

ral gas and contacted Consumers Power, which found a found a leak in a line. Consumers workers shut off the gas and tagged the line.

Damage is estimated at \$3,000.

## Dispose of hazardous items Sept. 12

Farmington Hills residents have another chance to properly dispose of hazardous materials Sept. 12.

Novi Department of Public Works will host a second hazardous materials drop-off event 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event allows residents to dispose of over and drain cleaners, solvents, antifreeze, gasoline mixtures, strippers and removers, adhesives, pesticides, wood stain and other household hazardous waste.

Latex (water-based) paints, compressed gas cylinders, radioactive material (including some smoke detectors), explosives, shock sensitive compounds and medical waste are not

acceptable. If an item is unacceptable, it will be repackaged, properly labeled and returned.

City environmental technicians will help residents unload their cars. Single containers are limited to five gallons of liquid or 40 pounds of solid material.

When packaging hazardous materials, remember to:

■ Properly label each container.

■ For solid materials, place each container in its own plastic bag and close tightly.

■ For liquid materials, make sure the cap is secure. If the cap is not secure, or is missing, put the contents into a secure container and label properly.

■ If the container is leaking, put the contents in a nonleaking container and label.

■ Place containers in a box with a sturdy bottom.

■ If containers are made of glass, put paper between them.

■ Put the box of hazardous waste on the floor or in the trunk of the car. Do not carry it on the front seat.

Farmington Hills residents will be required to bring a driver's license as proof of residency. The Novi DPW is at 26300 DelWal Drive, which is north of 11-Mile, between Mendowbrook and Town Center Drive.

For information, call Farmington Hills DPW at 653-8580.

## Fire blamed on cans of combustibles

Farmington Hills fire officials urge residents to remove old cans of stain, paint, or varnish, which may also be combustible or flammable.

Case in point: A fire on the 36000 block of 13 Mile Sept. 2 that was caused after rusted cans of combustibles ignited from the heat produced by a water heater.

The homeowner told firefigh-

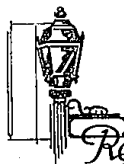
ters that after returning home after working a double shift he smelled smoke throughout the house. Also, walls and furniture had a light soot on them.

When he went to his basement, the homeowner found 16 inches of water that gushed from a broken pipe.

Investigators surmise heat from the fire under the workbench caused the pipe to burst.

The gushing water, though, did put out the fire.

Old cans of stain, paint and varnish should be dropped off on hazardous waste day or evaporated outside, said Mike Kish, Hills fire inspector. If they have questions, residents should contact the Farmington Hills Fire Prevention at 426-4403.

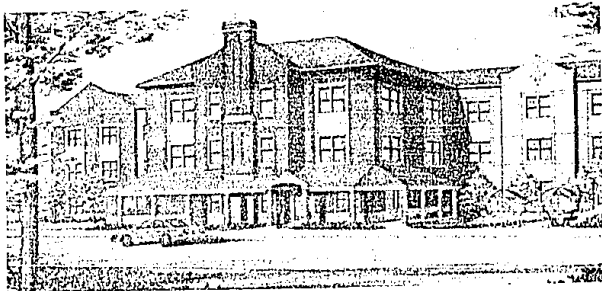


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