

Arson investigated in East Junior High fire



By DIANE HUBEL
FARMINGTON HILLS — The fire which damaged a classroom in Farmington's East Junior High School, Sunday evening was caused by a Molotov cocktail which was thrown into a room that had been covered with a combustible liquid, according to the Hills police.

"There is absolutely no doubt that it was the work of an arsonist," a police spokesman said, "our investigation is proceeding with that assumption."

The police said the arsonist apparently pried off some boards which had been used to cover a broken window, threw in a flammable liquid and then tossed in the molotov cocktail.

THE DAMAGE from the fire was confined to one classroom. East principal Gil Henderson

said, "Only one classroom was damaged. To the best of my knowledge, the fire did not cause any structural damage. The fire just sooted up the whole room. We are in the process of cleaning it up right now. Classes which were held in that room, have been transferred to other rooms in the building."

The Farmington Hills volunteer fire department is still trying to determine the actual cost of the damage to the room.

"We are trying to pin-point the costs right now," the captain of the volunteer force said. "However it is very difficult because of the different materials that were in the room."

"Also, the acoustical ceiling in the room apparently received quite a bit of damage, and I believe that it is quite expensive. At this point we are still trying to determine the

actual costs."

Volunteer fire stations one and three responded to the call which was placed at approximately 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

The fire took approximately one-half hour to extinguish.

Five vehicles, two pumps, the 85 ft. Ariel, the mini-pumper, and the rescue van were used by the firemen.

Although there was a small field fire on the school grounds the night before the classroom fire, the police do not believe there is any connection between the two fires, at this time.

According to the police a witness saw three juveniles start the grass in the school yard on fire with a lighter, then attempt unsuccessfully to extinguish it.

That field fire is currently being investigated by the police juvenile department.

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Hills council OKs apartments

FARMINGTON HILLS — Twenty acres of land on the northwest corner of Drake Rd. and Grand River has been rezoned from planned residential to multiple family residential by the Farmington Hills city council.

The land is located on a corner of a large tract of land which was rezoned multiple family as a result of a court case.

The 20 acres which the council rezoned Monday evening was not included in the court-ordered rezoning.

The planning commission recommended to the council that the land be rezoned to conform with the rest of the quarter mile section of land.

Earlier this year a developer had requested that five acres of that 20 acre tract be rezoned for a shopping center.

That request, however, was denied by the council.

Monday night the council also rezoned land on the east side of Pearl street between Grand River and 8 Mile from single family residential to general business.

The request for the change came from Vladimirs Hall, which wished to use the land for additional parking for their hall.

Vladimirs has agreed to build a wall around the parking lot which would prevent their customers from exiting onto Pearl Street and increasing the traffic flow on that residential street.

Under a new city ordinance Vladimirs will also be responsible for landscaping the area around the parking lot fence.

The additional parking space will accommodate 60-70 cars.

Farmington police add 2 to the force

FARMINGTON — There are two new police officers out on the streets of Farmington.

James Patrick Madigan and Frank Joseph LauHoff were sworn in as officers of the Farmington Police department, Friday, Sept. 13 by police Capt. Daniel Byrnes.

Both Madigan and LauHoff come from police-oriented families.

Madigan's brother, a former Farmington auxiliary force member, is now an officer in West Bloomfield, and LauHoff's brother is an officer in Clinton Township.

Capt. Byrnes said, "These two men placed the highest on the tests which were given to all the applicants. The tests included, written and oral examinations, background checks, physical agility tests, and physical examinations, and a polygraph (lie detector) test."

According to Byrnes approximately 150 people applied for the positions.

"The men, he said will both be replacements, one for an officer who is no longer with the force, the other for an officer who went into the "saturation patrol."

"The men have just completed seven weeks of training at the Southeastern Regional Criminal Justice Training Center in Ann Arbor.

Madigan, a seven year resident of Farmington, graduated from Farmington High school.

He has served on the Farmington Auxiliary force for the past two years.

He was a draftsman, involved with survey work before joining the Farmington force.

LauHoff is a resident of Redford and a graduate of St. Louis high school in Mt. Clemens.

He has attended Oakland University, and was working at the Chevrolet Plant in Livonia, prior to joining the Farmington police force.

Both men are married.

Farmington bands plan tag day

FARMINGTON — The Farmington High Schools Band and Orchestra Boosters are planning a tag day sale Friday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



JAMES MADIGAN



FRANK LAUHOFF



Opening day

Football began this weekend in area high schools, and Observer & Eccentric photographers caught the mood. Right: Marty Popp sits on the sidelines. Above: Maureen Koye leads a cheer.

Farmington council balks Krishna sect is denied permit

By DAN MCCOSH
FARMINGTON — "The answer lies in the nature of bhakti as a function of the bhakti sakti, which, as we have already seen, energized both Bhagavan and the bhakti."

The Farmington city council pondered the mystery of the bhakti Monday and decided the followers of the ways of Hare Krishna would not be allowed to distribute literature and solicit funds in the city.

"We are all fathers," Councilman John Allen said. "I know what I would feel if my child were influenced by this propaganda."

A letter from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Inc., asked for permission to distribute literature and collect funds for the Iskon Food Relief fund.

Allen complained that the request did not specify what the money would be used for, or indicate whether the group would be recruiting new members. Also challenged was the length of time requested, a six-week period including the Christmas holidays.

THE FOLLOWERS of Hare Krishna wear saffron robes, shave their heads except for a pony tail, and are frequently seen on the streets of downtown Detroit, chanting and playing Indian musical instruments.

Capt. Daniel Byrnes, of the Farmington police, said sources in the Detroit police department indicates little trouble with the organization, which maintains a temple downtown.

"There have been some reports they have kept converts through the use of hypnosis," he added.

Literature submitted to the council described the sect as a group with spiritual base near New Delhi, India, following the teachings of "Krsna," who is said to have appeared on earth 5,000 years ago.

Lawn statue grows long legs

FARMINGTON — Sometimes you just can't win.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Tedesko, Farmington Hills residents, used to have a little coach man statue on their front lawn.

A while back the little coach man was stolen.

When they reported the loss to the police they found that another resident had called the police because he found a little coachman statue on his front lawn that did not belong to him.

Hearing this, the Tedeskos went to the home and picked up their coachman, and returned him to his place of honor on the front lawn.

However, last week, they found that he had been stolen again.

THIS TIME Tedesko drove down to the Farmington Hills police station to personally report the loss, hoping that someone had found it on their lawn again.

While driving home from the police station, he noticed his little coachman on another lot on 11 Mile and Barwell.

He stopped to pick it up. However, before he took it, he went over to a man who was working on the lawn to explain who he was, and why he was taking the statue.

During the course of their conversation, a blue and white car drove up to the lot and a stranger jumped out and picked up the coach man.

TEDESKO TURNED around just in time to see the car drive away with his coachman.

Now they're right back where they started from, and they still want their coachman back.

If anyone sees a strange coachman sitting on their front lawn, just call the Farmington Hills police. By now they're sure to know who it belongs to.

The Observer & Eccentric

index

News	Section A
Obituaries	6
Editorial	13
Columns	18
Letters	18
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section C
Club Circuit	5
Community Calendar	5
Business	Section D
Today's investor	2
Dining and entertainment	4-6
Classified ads	Section E