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Pair arrested in jewelry store armed robbery

By MARY GNIEWEK

when he posts bond.

A call from a confidential informant led Farmington police to the arrest of two suspects in the Dec. 11 armed robbery of the Diamond Boutique jewelry store, 37105 Grand River.

Arrested were Steven Michael Novak, 19, of Detroit, and Kenneth D. Maxwell, 23, of Southfield. They were arraigned before Judge Michael Hand in 47th District Court Tuesday morning.

Both are being held on \$25,000 bond. Police also recovered an undisclosed amount of jewelry in raids on two houses over the weekend. It is not known whether all of the jewelry has been recovered. Store manager Robert Miller reported \$50,000 worth of stolen merchandise.

Acting Police Chief Robert Deadman, Lt. John Santomaro, Detectives Thomas Daniels and Joseph Schornack participated in the raids along with Detroit and Southfield police units.

The first raid occurred at Novak's Patton Street residence in Detroit's Brightmoor district at 11:20 p.m. Saturday.

Maxwell was arrested at his Inkster Road residence in Southfield at 3:30 a.m. Sunday.

Police believe other suspects may be involved. The robbery is still under investigation.

After his arraignment, Novak was turned over to Farmington Hills police for investigation of an armed robbery in that city.

Maxwell, a U.S. Army Corporal, will be turned over to military authorities

THE ROBBERY was the second this year at the Diamond Boutique. The first occurred on Aug. 3 when \$120,000 worth of goods were taken.

Similarly, it was a call from an anonymous tipster which led police to the arrest of three suspects in that robbery.

In last Tuesday's diamond heist, two suspects reportedly entered the store at 8:30 p.m., firing shots into the ceiling and a display case. Miller returned fire, but no one was injured.

The suspects fled on foot through the Kmart shopping center parking lot.

Meanwhile, police still have no suspects in the \$18,000 robbery of Wilson's Jewelers, 33165 Grand River, in the Downtown Farmington Center. That robbery also occurred Dec. 11.

Program would help unemployed

By LORAIN MCCLISH

All Oakland County businesses are asked to be alert to a new program designed to increase the hiring and training of long-term unemployed individuals by private employers.

The alert comes from Alice Johnson

(Continued on page 2A)



Detectives Joseph Schornack (left) and Thomas Daniels examine some of the jewelry recovered from the recent Diamond Boutique theft in Farmington. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Council ponders radio antenna height increase

By MARY GNIEWEK

Should licensed amateur radio operators be allowed to install maximum 75-foot antenna towers on their property?

That was the question facing the Farmington City Council at Monday night's meeting. Aesthetics and safety are the main issues of the debate.

Council hopes to draft an ordinance at its Jan. 7 meeting that will remove any ambiguities from the current city

ordinance which restricts the height of antenna towers to no more than the height of the house.

That would limit radio towers to 30 feet on most of the city's residential lots. The ordinance is unclear on whether chimneys are a part of the definition.

Radio operators have asked the city planning commission to waive the ordinance to allow the 75-foot maximum

(Continued on page 2A)

Council ratifies police contract

The Farmington City Council unanimously approved a new three-year work agreement with its public safety officers last Monday.

The contract averages out to a 7 percent salary increase annually for the 16-member Farmington Police Officers Association Local 214 Teamsters unit.

The pact is retroactive to July 1 and expires June 30, 1982.

The first year of the contract represents a \$22,000 increase for fringe benefits and salaries, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

He said public safety expenditures account for 32 percent of the city budget.

"We believe the contract is an equitable one, providing wages and benefits which are comparable to other similar agencies," said Deadman.

Further, the contract was negotiated within the guidelines established for wages and fringe benefits by the City Council.

The agreement calls for a wage increase of 6.6 percent the first year, 7.5 percent the second year, and 7.3 percent the third year.

In the second year of the agreement, the city will pay the employee's portion of his retirement contribution in lieu of a portion of the 7.5 percent wage increase.

(Continued on page 2A)

Hills seeks to stem alcohol-related traffic deaths

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington Hills will benefit from a \$1.2 million federal grant to be used in Oakland County over the next four years to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths.

The city nearly tripled its traffic fatality rate this year with eight deaths recorded through November. Three were drinking related. That's up from three road fatalities in 1978.

The county has experienced a similar increase in traffic fatalities. Ac-

cording to figures compiled by the county Traffic Improvement Association (TIA), there were 13 traffic deaths in October compared to 10 for the same month last year.

Of 179 fatalities in 1978, 95 were related to alcohol. Approximately 4,000 injuries were alcohol related.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning recently awarded the \$1.2 million grant to the county to combat its mounting fatality rate. The grant will be administered jointly by the TIA and the Oakland County Sher-

iff's Department.

Both agencies will receive \$150,000 for each of the four years of the grant.

TIA spokesman Jerry Foddersen said his organization will conduct information workshops for driver education teachers, judges, prosecutors and other enforcement officials.

According to TIA, young drivers are more involved in fatal alcohol related traffic accidents than any other group. Sixty percent of all drivers involved in such accidents in 1978 were under 24 years of age. As a group, they account

for only 25 percent of the county driver population.

"OUR GOAL is to reduce the number of alcohol related deaths and injuries," Foddersen said. "And we hope for more intensive enforcement of the law."

The sheriff's department has already begun a series of alcohol detection classes for law enforcement officers. Four officers from the Farmington Hills traffic division have attended those classes.

In addition, special alcohol law enforcement teams will hit the roads countywide in January. Patrols will be dispatched to areas where high alcohol related traffic deaths and injuries occurred in the past.

"There's no particular bad area or

(road) engineering — just driver irresponsibility," said Farmington Hills Police Lt. George Maier.

He attributed the increased traffic deaths this year to disregard of traffic control devices and drinking.

"What we have is negligence behind the wheel," Maier said. "Until we get those minds changed, we will continue to have fatalities."

The key is enforcement. Maier recounted some of the traffic deaths which occurred this year. Two were double fatalities. One at Grand River and Haggerty involved teens who had been drinking, ran a stop light, and plowed into a truck hauling steel.

ANOTHER DRINKING related accident involved a pedestrian hit while attempting to cross Grand River.

"Drunk driving arrests are on the rise," Maier said. "There's more awareness on the part of the officer to get them before the accident."

Maier attended four days of alcohol awareness classes sponsored by the sheriff's department.

"It was a very effective program," he said. "Officers are trained to look at manner, attitude and appearance of the driver stopped for a minor traffic violation — to observe the driver who is an alcoholic and can handle booze."

Drunk drivers account for well over 50 percent of all traffic accidents, according to TIA.

TIA was founded in 1967 to deal with traffic problems countywide. It relies on an extensive computer bank of information on traffic accidents, trends, and engineering in Oakland County.

Farmington Hills offers new recreation classes

From disco to dog obedience, the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring myriad classes for teens and adults this winter.

Monday classes at Eagle Elementary School, 25410 14 Mile, include:

• Disco I — for the beginner, starting with the first easy steps. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 28 through March 24.

• Dance of Today — brush up on the cha-cha, waltz, polka, etc. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 28 to March 24.

Monday classes at the Shiawassee Recreation Center, 30415 Shiawassee, between Nine Mile and Orchard Lake, include:

• Slimnastics — join-in and shape-up. Exercises set to music. 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Jan. 28 to March 24.

• Painting for Dabblers — for novice artists who want to brush up on techniques, oils and watercolors. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Jan. 28 to March 24.

Tuesday classes at Gill Elementary School, 21195 Gill, south of Nine Mile, include:

• Disco for teens — learn the latest disco steps for singles or couples age 13-17. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 29 to March 25.

• Disco I — for the beginner teen or adult. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 29 to March 25.

Wednesday classes at Forest Elementary School, 34545 Old Timber,

west of Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads, include:

• Disco for Teens — 6:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 30 to March 26.

• Disco II — now you're ready for the dance floor. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 30 to March 26.

• Dance of Today — 8:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 30 to March 26.

Thursday classes at Shiawassee Recreation Center include:

• Slimnastics — for teens and adults. 7-8 p.m. Jan. 31 to March 27.

• Drawing — learn the basics of drawing, sketching, shading, color and perspective. 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 31 to March 27.

• Painting for Dabblers — for the novice who wants to brush up on techniques, oils and watercolors explored. 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 31 to March 27.

• Dog Obedience — ten week session. Beginner, dog must be at least six months old. 8-9 p.m. Jan. 31 to April 3.

• Stained glass — an introductory class with instruction in the fundamentals of design and working with glass. 8:30-10 p.m. Jan. 31 to March 27.

• Fencing — 7-8 p.m. Jan. 31 to March 27.

For more information on registration or fees call the recreation department at 474-4115.

All residents of the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and outlying areas within the Farmington School District are eligible for classes.



Helping others

These students and Scouts at Forest Elementary School in Farmington Hills are busily trying to make sure that a little holiday joy wings its way toward their counterparts among the Cambodian refugees. Busily packing the gifts (from left) are: Sherise Jolicoeur, a second grade student and

Brownlee; Laurie McKinnon, a sixth grade student and Scout; Dino Zambelli, a sixth grader; Jennifer Abel, a second grade student and Brownlee; and Suzanne Neugart, a second grader and Brownlee. For a closer look at their project, see inside. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

inside

Sports Section B
Suburban Life Section C
Business Section D
Entertainment Section E
Classified Sections E, F
The Inside Angle 3A
Obituaries 4A
Editorial Page 18A
Community Calendar 2C

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