

# Farmington Observer

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## Phone tip foils armed robbery

An anonymous phone call foiled the kidnap and robbery of a Clark gasoline station manager by two Farmington Hills teenagers Friday afternoon.

Greg Hill, 17, was arraigned in 47th district court Saturday on charges of kidnaping and armed robbery. Bond was set at \$45,000. A 19-year-old companion was released without charges.

Farmington Hills and Livonia police were watching a teenager who was waiting for station manager Orville Christie, 29, as he drove into the Manufacturers Bank on Eight Mile and Farmington roads. The bank is next to the gas station Christie manages.

Police had notified Christie of the plan to rob him. He wasn't carrying the station's money as he started to leave his car and walk toward the outdoor night deposit box.

Police said a young man with a 20-gauge sawed-off shotgun tied underneath his jacket with a rope approached Christie and told him to get back into his car, a red late-model Vega.

Christie got into the driver's seat

with the gunman seated directly behind him in the back seat, according to police. The car drove westbound on Eight Mile for about 400 yards before two police officers in unmarked cars forced the Vega into a ditch.

NO INJURIES were reported.

A second man drove the suspected kidnapper to the bank and was waiting in a 1970 or '71 Mercury Montego, according to police. Farmington Hills police described the Montego as "beat-up."

Farmington Hills Sgt. Al Havner described the capture and stakeout as "one of the smoothest operations I've seen in a long time."

A bad moment came for the Hills and Livonia police waiting around the bank when a Livonia squad car untwined in the stake-out drove into a nearby doughnut shop. Hills police rushed over to the marked Livonia car and chased it out of the area.

Police say they were tipped off at about 3 p.m. Friday. The kidnaping occurred about an hour later.

## Police capture man with a gun

A 29-year-old Farmington man armed with a .357-caliber magnum pistol was committed to Clinton Valley Hospital after he barricaded himself in his house at 23535 Whitaker and kept police at bay for an hour Friday afternoon.

No one was injured and police haven't ascertained a motive.

According to Farmington police, Brian Patrick Wayne attempted to break into a neighbor's house by kicking in

the front door. Unsuccessful in his attempt, he returned home and armed himself.

At that point, Wayne's parents left the home they share with their son and called police from a neighbor's house.

Farmington police cordoned off the street, south of Grand River between Gill and Drake roads, between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

No shots were fired. Seven police officers were on the scene.

## Robbery suspect arraigned

A 24-year-old Inkster man was arraigned in 47th District Court Friday on charges of armed robbery of two women's clothing stores in Farmington.

Timmy Andrew Gillihan, of 572 Tebin, is being held in Oakland County jail on \$50,000 bond. He was arraigned before District Judge Michael J. Hand.

Gillihan was arrested Feb. 5 in Dearborn by Farmington Police Detective Thomas Daniels.

He is wanted in connection with the Jan. 26 holdup of Brands, 33027 Grand River, in the downtown Farmington center.

According to police, \$400 was taken in that early evening robbery. The suspect was armed with a revolver.

Gillihan is also being charged with the Feb. 1 holdup of Mariamans, 37073 Grand River, in the Kmart shopping plaza.

## Wanted: Germans from Russia

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Descendants of Germans who lived in Russia untangle a web of lost or unclear documents as they research their family tree.

Wars, prejudice and the passage of time hamper their efforts as they look back to the time Empress Catherine II of Russia invited Germans to settle in her new land. Catherine was a 16-year-old girl in Germany when she married Peter III of Russia in 1745.

Another wave of German settlers came into the country at the request of Czar Alexander I in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Descendants of these Germans who are looking into their family histories have grouped together in the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

The metropolitan Detroit chapter of the group is being formed with the help of members such as Susan Hoffman of Farmington Hills.

Mrs. Hoffman's grandfather escaped from Russia in 1913. For the past four years, she has been retracing her family's steps from Germany to Russia to America.

Along the way she's discovered her Norwegian great-grandparents but has yet to learn a substantial amount about her father's family.

There were 12 children in the family. They separated when her grandfather, Herman Plaumann, now 84, managed to leave Russia.

SOME OF his nephews and nieces who stayed behind were relocated to Siberia by the Russian after 1915, when the country's policy dictated that the Germans should be moved there.

Until four years ago, Plaumann refused to discuss his family's years in Russia. When his children were young, he refused to teach them Russian or German, preferring that they become totally immersed in American culture.

(Continued on Page 6A)



Three for the road

It's a long way to Lake Placid but passers-by on Farmington Road before Eight Mile couldn't be blamed for thinking twice Thursday afternoon as these three marathon runners hopped it from 12 Oaks Mall to Fairlane Mall in Dearborn. Their run took them through the cities of Novi, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Livonia, Redford and Dearborn. The run, part of the malls' public relations program touting

the Olympics, was accomplished in four hours. The run included Boston marathon veterans Vic Foster, 55 (left), Bill Carey, 55, and Bob Kiess, 50. The 26-mile run was concluded with an Olympic-style torch passing at which Farmington Mayor William Hartsock, Mayor Joanne Soronen of Farmington Hills and Livonia Mayor Edward McNamara participated. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Bandits plague local jeweler

By MARY GNIEWEK

Bulletproof glass and video cameras have been installed, but Diamond Boutique jewelry store manager Robert Miller is still thinking about moving the business out of Farmington.

The small shop near Grand River and Halsted has been plagued by a rash of crimes which have cumulatively cost the business more than \$250,000 in lost merchandise in the past seven months.

"Protection has been good but the unluckiness has been too much," said Miller, who lives in Farmington. "I think we're going to move out soon."

In the wake of last Wednesday's \$105,000 breaking and entering, Miller admitted the shop has a direct line to the Farmington police department and that a steel gate is in order for the store front.

Thieves smashed out the glass front door in the latest effort.

"We've done all we can do," said Farmington Police Lt. John Santomauro.

"It's pure speculation, but maybe what's going against them is proximity to the freeway (I-96)."

A combination of hard work and luck brought arrests and a partial recovery of goods in the August and December 1979 armed robberies, Santomauro said.

TWO SUSPECTS were scheduled for appearances last Monday in Oakland County Circuit Court on charges of armed robbery and pos-

session of a firearm in the Aug. 3 \$120,000 holdup.

If convicted, possession of a firearm carries a maximum two year prison sentence and armed robbery a maximum life prison term for the offender.

A bench warrant was issued for Detroit Holcomb, 23, of Westland, who failed to show. Pamela Schanault, 18, also of Westland, withdrew an earlier guilty plea and a pretrial exam was scheduled March 3 before Judge Francis O'Brien.

A pretrial exam is set Feb. 29 for a third suspect, Mark Pogusko, 25, of Grand Rapids. Police believe Pogusko was the driver of the getaway car.

Steven Novak, 19, of Detroit, and Kenneth Maxwell, 23, of Southfield, waived pretrial exams last week on charges of armed robbery in the Dec. 3 heist.

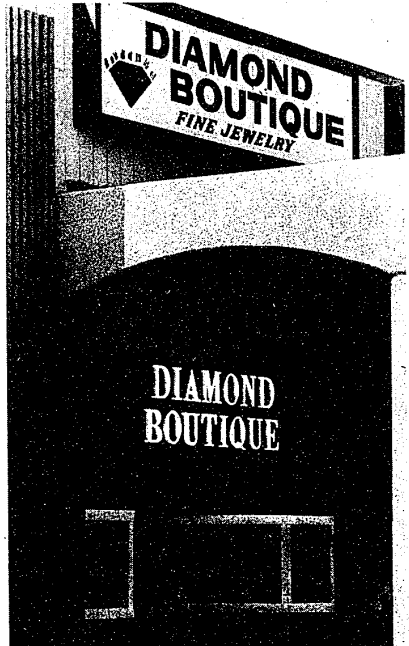
Store manager Miller reported \$50,000 worth of goods lifted in that pre-Christmas holdup. No trial date has been set yet for Novak and Maxwell.

According to Farmington Police Detective Thomas Daniels, there are several strong suspects in the Feb. 6 pre-dawn breaking and entering.

"We're working with Southfield and eight to 10 other departments who've experienced similar breaking and entering," he said.

"We have physical evidence, but we must get names to go with it," Santomauro added.

Police believe more than one suspect was involved in the latest attack on the Diamond Boutique.



Steel gates will change the front of the Diamond Boutique, site of three robberies in the past seven months.

## Council to decide on housing architect

The Farmington Hills City Council will decide today if they should retain a Southfield architect hired by the city in 1978 to devise yet another senior citizen housing plan.

Daniel Tosch of Progressive Associates, the architect who drew plans for a five-story building once proposed to be built on city property at Freedom and Drake roads, may be asked to return to the drawing board.

City council is determined to provide some type of senior citizen housing in Farmington Hills, provided that it is a self-supporting venture and that it is not a mid-rise building, since some residents vehemently opposed those aspects of the now defunct government backed Freedom and Drake plan.

No decisions were made by city

council last week at a public study session held specifically to address the long debated senior citizen housing issue.

"Various views were expressed," said freshman councilman Donn Wolf.

Wolf supports the creation of an ad hoc committee to develop an independent plan. Such a committee would include representatives of the housing commission, the commission on aging, as well as housing experts.

A three-story building of garden type apartments was one suggestion discussed last week.

NOT ALL council members favored the creation of a special committee to study the housing issue from square one again.

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### GOOD ART

Volunteers who are leading art enrichment classes in nine local elementary schools are making the appreciation of good art a fun experience for the youngsters. The story of the area's Picture Ladies can be found in Suburban Life, Page 1B.