

# Suspect arraigned in armed robbery of local store

A 24-year-old Southgate man has been charged with robbing a women's clothing store in Farmington.

John Wittersheim was arraigned Friday before 47th District Court Judge Margaret Schaeffer on charges of armed robbery and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

He was released after posting 10 percent of a \$5,000 bond. Schaeffer scheduled a pretrial hearing for 2 p.m. yesterday.

Wittersheim was arrested by two Farmington Hills police officers at 6:51 p.m. Thursday. The arrest came moments after the officers overheard a

Farmington police report of a robbery at Designs on You, a women's clothing store at 35157 Grand River in the Drakehire Plaza shopping center.

Designs on You owner Rosemary Prain told police a man came into the store between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday.

"He spoke in a low voice and asked me to turn over the money. He said if I did as he said no one would be hurt," said Prain.

"My initial reaction was I didn't believe it. My second reaction was to get a description of him. We went to a Chamber of Commerce thing they had on stealing, and they said always get a

description. So mentally I was going over him," she said.

The man pulled open his jacket revealing a large revolver, added Prain. Two clerks were in the back of the store and unaware of what was happening. No customers were present.

"I was calm, and he was calm. He took the money (\$132) in his hand and walked out," said the owner, who promptly called the police.

"When my employee Theresa Suchal ran outside and said 'We've been robbed,' a young fellow named John Turner was coming up on his bike. They both proceeded to chase him across the street.

"It was very commendable of both of them to go after him since he did have a gun."

Farmington Hills patrolmen said they spotted a man fitting the suspect's description running in a drainage ditch shortly after overhearing the Farmington police dispatch.

"The man turned and ran into the Bob Saks Oldsmobile parking lot (across from Drakehire Plaza) where officers ordered him to stop at gunpoint. Police said the man had large number of bills in his left hand and a loaded, nickel-plated 38-caliber revolver. He was taken to the Farmington Police Department for processing.

## Museum celebration is planned

Continued from Page 1A

Until all the bills are paid, Koning said won't know how much profit on the affair will be turned over to the Farmington Historical Museum.

In March, when the benefit was announced, Koning said 400 persons could

be accommodated at the banquet and ball but said a more realistic figure would be 200 persons.

"I am not disappointed," Koning said Tuesday. "We had no idea what to expect. We've met our goals. We are putting on an event the community should be proud of."

Before referring a reporter to direct all questions about the benefit to Koning and Don Adams, co-chairman of the event, Walker said the affair "has been hurt, unfortunately." Asked to elaborate, she said she preferred not to say any more and asked that comments made earlier not be printed.

THE BANQUET is to be served in the style of an 1870 dinner hosted by the governor, with three types of meat, pastries, appetizers and a punch. Liquor is not being provided.

Three historically refurbished horse-drawn carriages will transport banquet guests about.

## Tupper calls it quits

Continued from Page 1A

lated on issues. He'd come around, but he always stuck by what he thought was right."

The City Council decision to build Farmington Place senior citizen center despite heated opposition to the idea, Tupper said, is his proudest accomplishment in 10 years of city government. Yoder agrees with the assessment.

"I DON'T BELIEVE any of us on the council had any doubts about it (senior citizen housing)," Yoder said. "I don't recall any wavering on the council. We all wanted it, and wanted it bad. But Tupper wanted to sell the concept to the public."

A similar assessment of Tupper's contribution to the council comes from Robert Deadman, city manager.

"His style was to tell it exactly as he perceives it," Deadman said. "You never had to wonder what Dick was thinking, because he'd tell you. He doesn't have any hidden agendas."

Deadman pointed to Tupper's work in developing a plan for orderly growth and the establishment of a central busi-

ness district in the downtown area as two accomplishments that have his mark on them.

In resigning the \$800-a-year post, Tupper left the door open for a possible return to local life when business demands lighten.

## Congressman resigns post

Continued from Page 1A

"He was one of the better Congressmen. He is informed on economic issues and has real integrity. We in Michigan are losing a lot."

Brodhead, an attorney, former teacher and prison counselor, said he doesn't know where he'll end up working.

"I would hope I get some job offers. I'd consider working in private sector or in law. Anything but government. There's a lot of pressure being put on Congress."

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