

Farmington Observer

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Incognito gunman holds up carpet store

Police are looking for a gunman who robbed Ray Interiors of \$1,900 recently.

Det. John Coyle said Ray employees will be asked to attend a lineup to see if they can identify a man whom police suspect may have pulled off the robbery.

Police said saleswoman Cheryl Sauer, 31, was in the store about 3 p.m., Aug. 21 when a man holding a carpet sample and a silver revolver confronted her and said, "Get all the money you have, or I'll shoot everyone in the store."

Sauer said she walked to the store office, removed cash from a money box and handed the money over to the gunman without anyone else in the store knowing about the hold-up.

The gunman reportedly asked about the contents of a safe and was told there was no money in it. He then instructed her to leave the building.

Detectives think the man used the carpet sample to open a rear door. The door handle was dusted for fingerprints after the robbery. The owner and two other employees told police they saw nothing.

Det. Coyle said a man will be put into a lineup who is also a suspect in a shoplifting case.

Hills wins in cities' tug-o-war

By Ron Gerbinaki
editor

John (left) Farland, the top choice of the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission to become its new director, failed to reach contract terms with the commission and declined the position Thursday.

The parks personnel committee now will interview its second choice, Joey Spano, sometime this week.

Spano, 30, has been parks and recreation director for Delhi Township near Holt since 1976.

She was one of four finalists interviewed by the three-member parks personnel committee for the post, which has been vacant since the forced resignation of Fred Woelkers in May.

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Jeff Farland

Confirmed: more ultra homes in Hills

Statistics of the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) confirm that Farmington Hills has a greater percentage of expensive homes than the other Farmington.

According to community profiles compiled by SEMCOG — based on the 1980 census — about 8 percent of Farmington Hills houses and only .6 percent of the Farmington homes are valued at more than \$150,000.

About 30 percent of the Hills homes and 12.6 percent of the Farmington houses are in the \$100,000 to \$150,000 range.

Twenty percent of the Hills homes

and 18 percent of the Farmington houses are valued at \$80,000 to \$100,000 and 26 percent of the Hills dwellings and 18 percent of the Farmington homes are in the \$50,000-\$80,000 range. Houses in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range are 13.6 percent of Hills' houses and 18.5 percent of the homes in Farmington. Another 1.1 percent of the homes in Farmington valued at under \$25,000.

HOUSING units totaled 21,550 in Farmington Hills and 4,595 in Farmington. The population in Hills was 58,056

with 49.5 percent male and 50.5 percent female. Farmington's population was 11,022 with 45.7 percent male and 54.3 percent female.

In Farmington Hills the most populous age group are the residents 30-44 with 6,252 male and 6,320 female.

People in their twenties comprised the second most populous group in Farmington Hills at 5,131, followed by 8,089 children aged 5-13. Other age groups and their population totals: 45-54-year-olds — 7,733; 14-17-year-olds — 4,760; 55-59-year-olds — 3,755; children under 5 — 3,178; 18-20-year-olds

— 2,755; 65-75-year-olds — 2,707, and persons 75 and older — 1,778.

The 30-44 age group was also the most populous in Farmington with 1,817, followed by those aged 45-54 — 1,512.

OTHER AGE groups and population totals: 21-29-year-olds — 1,402; 65-75-year-olds — 1,855; children aged 5-13 — 892; persons aged 55-59 — 874; those over 75 — 943; 14-17-year-olds — 742; 18-20-year-olds — 460, and children under 5, 423.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Michigan Humane Society members volunteered their time to take part in the pet therapy program for the benefit of senior citizens in the area. They are (from left) Mary Dubrull, Ronald Blauet, Geoff Krause, Ronnie Blauet and Shirley Cox.

New pals pay seniors a visit



Phyllis Salisbury enjoyed the time she spent with the puppy.

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

You've got to be as hard-hearted as W.C. Fields not to like petting a puppy or a cuddling a kitten.

Fields, as you may recall, once exclaimed out of the side of his mouth, "Anyone who hates dogs and children can't be all bad."

The Michigan Humane Society takes the opposite approach with its Pet Therapy program. Through the program, the society brings animals to persons in retirement homes, jails, hospitals and other places where residents aren't allowed to keep pets.

Last Thursday Ronald Blauet, director of education and public relations for the Michigan Humane Society, took his two sons, four puppies and one kitten to Farmington Hills Inn, a retirement home with 110 elderly residents.

Nearly 60 of the home's residents came to the activities room on Pet Day, a twice-monthly occurrence during the summer. Most who came to see the animals remembered a favorite pet from their childhood. Irl Bagley, 83, former resident of Caro now living at the retirement home, remembers a big dog named Duke.

"One night my brother and I were coming back from church; we'd been practicing for confirmation," Bagley related while petting a mostly black, mostly spaniel puppy lying in his lap.

"We'd watched these peaches ripen all summer. We come in through the iron fence, and that farmer heard us shaking the peaches from his tree. He said, 'Go get 'em, Duke.' And that dog Duke came running up. I said 'What the hell you doing out here, Duke?' He knew me."

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Cops recover van full of guns, knives

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Farmington police arrested four Detroit men and confiscated a loaded sawed-off shotgun and a .25-caliber automatic pistol early Tuesday after stopping a van with a stolen license plate.

The men told police they were returning to Detroit from Brighton after deciding against the planned robbery of a Brighton drug dealer.

Police also confiscated ammunition for the guns, four knives, karate sticks, rubber gloves and nylon stockings.

Douglas J. Fuller, 21, the van's owner; Thomas J. Horn, 19; and Michael L. Kriner, 22, were arraigned before District Judge David Cunningham in Pontiac Wednesday. Each was charged with two counts of carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

Kevin J. Kwasnick, 20, was arraigned before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer in Farmington Tuesday on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a short-barreled shotgun.

All four men pleaded innocent to the charges.

Officers said Horn is wanted by Detroit police in connection with a charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

The men are being held in Oakland County jail in lieu of bond. Judge Schaeffer set Kwasnick's bond at \$10,000 while Judge Cunningham ordered a \$25,000 bond for each of the other three men.

Police said Kwasnick was charged with only one count of carrying a concealed weapon — the shotgun — because he, unlike the other three men, did not know the .25-caliber pistol was in the van.

Det. Charles Lee said patrolman Michael Wiebert and his partner stopped the van after a check showed that the license plate was reported stolen from a car owned by a Detroit man.

Fuller gave police permission in writing to search the van, officers said.

Lee said the men told police they had gone to the drug dealer's house but called off the robbery because there were too many people in the house.

The four men are due to attend a pre-examination conference Wednesday in 47th District Court in Farmington.

Bicycle thefts rampant

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Two Detroit men snared during a police attempt to catch bicycle thieves have been sentenced to 15 days in jail by 47th District Judge Michael Hand for stealing two bikes from the downtown Farmington Center.

Hand also fined Raymond Strong, 34, and Charles Clay, 35, \$105 each in sentencing last week.

The pair were arrested Aug. 6 after taking two bikes from in front of Harmony House record store.

Police had baited a trap in a planned crackdown on downtown bike thieves, said Det. Charles Lee.

Lee said he and Det. Thomas Cox set two unlocked "target bikes" in front of Maple Village Pharmacy.

Lee watched from an unmarked car in the shopping center while Cox watched from a semi-marked car in a National Bank of Detroit parking lot.

Lee said he saw two boys — a 14-year-old and his 10-year-old brother — park their bikes in front of the record store and a few minutes later saw two men walk from Grand River to the bikes, then jump on the bikes and pedal away.

The detectives followed the pair and stopped them in a parking lot behind a gas station at Mayfield and Grand River. The detective said the men were waiting to be picked up by a third man in a van.

BIKE THEFTS are running about even with last year, which was a big year for such thefts, according to the detectives. Residents reported 14 bike thefts in the first three weeks of August. This compares with 13 in July and 17 in July 1981.

Farmington Hills may also have just as serious a bike theft problem.

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Tests complete on chemicals

Results withheld on golf club investigation

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Franklin residents and officials probably won't know before the end of this week whether they have anything to fear from chemical waste buried for 3 1/2 years on the grounds of nearby Franklin Hills County Club.

That was the word late Friday from Tom Laird, an investigator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Substances suspected of being herbicides, fungicides and pesticides were

found in four decaying barrels dug up Aug. 11 from a burial pit near the maintenance building of the club on the northeast corner of Inkster and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Homeowners in the southwest corner of Franklin are waiting anxiously to find out what those chemicals are, their toxicities and whether they may have leaked into the wells that supply their water.

LAIRD said certain chemicals have been identified in tests already completed on samples taken from the barrels.

"We're now working on interpreting the data to tell what the possible hazard potential might be if it has gotten into the ground water,"

LAIRD said the DNR does not yet have any ground water samples, only samples taken from the barrels. He said it will be up to the Michigan Health Department to test the water if it looks like any hazards exist.

"We're not releasing the specific results that we have so far — not until the toxic substance office completes its work," continued Laird. "They're short-handed, so it probably won't be

until the end of next week," he added Friday.

LAIRD said the DNR will also be

studying the case to determine whether or not civil or criminal violations

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Bus schedules appear Thursday

Those interested in this fall's school bus schedules for elementary, middle and high school students can save themselves the cost of a phone call by

waiting for Thursday's Observer. The schedule, which appeared in last Thursday's paper, will be reprinted in our next edition.

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