

# Farmington Observer

Volume 94 Number 42

Monday, March 7, 1983

Farmington, Michigan

28 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## Teens nabbed as suspects in burglaries

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Two Farmington teen-agers were arraigned Wednesday in connection with a burglary ring being probed by the Farmington and Farmington Hills police departments.

Not guilty pleas were entered for Robert Earl Berry, 17, and Kevin Francis Daum, 18, by 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer. Each was released on a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

Pretrial examinations were scheduled for both on March 11.

Daum, a Farmington High School graduate, is charged with two counts of breaking and entering in Farmington Hills and one count of possession of stolen property valued in excess of \$100.

Berry, a student at Farmington, is charged with burglarizing a home on Arundel in Farmington last month.

The maximum penalty for breaking and entering is 15 years in prison. Possession of property valued at more than \$100 is punishable by five years in prison or a \$2,500 fine.

The police investigation snowballed after two youths were arrested during a recent burglary at Fairmont Apartments. Interviews conducted by Farmington Detective James Madigan and Farmington Hills Detective Paul Cavan turned up the names of several other youths and led to the recovery (largely from Daum) of \$2,000 worth of property.

Last week, Farmington Police recovered gold Seiko watch, a gold cross, tiger-eye ring, silver dollar collection, turquoise cross and foreign coins.

Other property, including some jewelry and a camera, have been kept by the youths or given by them to friends at school, Cavan said.

Other property, mainly jewelry, may be impossible to recover, he said. "It appears one boy is quite well-versed in jewelry, and he'd smash (rings) up for any gold of silver value, discarding the costume jewelry." Tracing the metal to pawn shops will be difficult because "what jewelry they sell would be difficult to identify," Cavan said.

Seven burglaries, two in Mulrond Apartments and five in Fairmont, have been attributed to the burglary ring. All the burglaries occurred since last December.

The burglary ring was "informal" — they'd wander through the apartment complexes until they came upon an apartment that looked vacant at the time. Then they'd break in," said Cavan.

Taken in the seven break-ins were a home computer, money, jewelry, three guitars, an expensive (shooting) bow, and other easy-to-carry items.

One juvenile involved participated in each burglary, Cavan said. Cavan said Friday he'd hold out until Tuesday to petition the Oakland County Probate Court for warrants for several other youths in the hopes that another implicated youth will come forward to day to be interviewed.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Beating the brush

It took 17 firefighters several hours to battle a blaze Wednesday afternoon at 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads that charred a four-acre field. The fire was started by three teen-agers playing with matches. No one was hurt.

## Brushfire sweeps near subdivision

A brush fire started by teen-agers playing with matches on their way home from school left charred a four-acre field at 14 Mile and Middlebelt Wednesday afternoon.

Aside from one of the three youths who was singed by flames, there were no injuries in the blaze. Seventeen firefighters using three engines and as many mini-pumpers fought the fire.

Driven by westerly 12 mph winds, the fire crawled dangerously close to a fence bordering the backyards of several homes.

At no time was the fire out of control, however, said Lt. Richard Marinucci of the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

"We knew what was going to happen — that the fire would stop at (Middlebelt). And we had enough water there (that nearby) homes never were threatened," said Marinucci, who called out firefighters from three stations to fight the fire.

THE FIRE, which sent rabbits and gophers scampering from the flaming brush, coincided with a National Weather Service grass fire warning issued the same morning.

Abnormally dry conditions, warm temperatures and low humidity prompted the action by the weather

service. It will remain in effect until substantial amounts of rain or snow have fallen, said Walt Zaleski of the National Weather Service at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The fire was hot enough to singe trees in the field, but not to ignite their trunks. Nor was any property damaged, Marinucci said.

Whether the 14- and 15-year-old youths, all Farmington Hills residents, started the fire "with an intent of mal-

ice, or just experimentation, I don't know," said Marinucci.

Their names are being withheld because they're juveniles, he said.

Fire-gazing motorists on Middlebelt ended up in a minor accident when one Cadillac was rear-ended by a second Cadillac. A third vehicle, traveling behind them, was unable to stop and slammed into the second Cadillac. No one was injured.

Several recent brush fires in the city

have occurred "unusually early, and more than the normal amount are possible this spring," Marinucci said. "Posting warnings" is something we'll certainly look into because of the minimal amount of snow and the dry conditions."

A four-acre brush fire near I-696 and Inkster Road last year, most likely caused by a motorist discarding a cigarette, was the last large grass fire in the area.

## On Spicer property

## Park settlement nears

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

The city of Farmington Hills is close to obtaining an option to purchase a 211-acre park site, currently owned by Birmingham attorney Nicholas Spicer.

"The major points we agree upon, but there's some wording and conditions that have to be worked out. We've been passing back and forth copies of

the options but have not yet come to complete agreement," said Farmington Hills City Manager Lawrence Savage.

City officials decided to seek an option to purchase the land last December, contingent upon the granting of state land trust funds.

"(Details yet to be agreed on) have to do with what happens if we entered into the option, and an act of God would

happen — where are the responsibilities.

"We'll be coming down to the wire within the next week or so," he said.

Savage refused to disclose how much the city has agreed to pay for the land, but said it's below Spicer's original \$2.85 million asking price.

Please turn to Page 6

## K mart eyes spot for new designer outlet

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Where area residents once purchased produce, kosher meats, fish, ice cream, baked potatoes and socks, they may soon be buying discounted designer clothes and linens from K mart.

Sales far below projections prompted the Broadway Market at 14 Mile and Middlebelt to close its doors, making way for the Designer Depot, a division of the K mart Corporation. The store features "off-price specialty apparel for all ages and both genders," said K mart's Susan McKelvey.

The leasing arrangement, effective June 1, will be signed today or tomorrow, said Bernard Schrott, part owner

of the Broadway Plaza shopping center.

The surviving businesses, Whata Potato, the Sock Shop, Quality Cuisine and a butcher shop will pull out of the market March 31. When it opened last March, about 10 stores were operating.

Though K mart currently has only one other Designer Depot store, "it projects to open up an awful lot of them," said Schrott.

"It (the existing Designer Depot) is a prototype store in St. Clair Shores. It opened up December 1 last year and it's doing very well," said McKelvey, who emphasized Thursday that K mart is negotiating but "does not yet have a definite agreement" with Franklin

Farms Partners, the shopping center owners.

THE DESIGNER DEPOT will differ from Taggs, Lochman's and other discount designer shops in that "they won't be buying last year's run, close outs, or seconds," said Schrott.

"They're buying first-rate merchandise, and significantly discounting it." Customers will find labels like Calvin Klein and Christian Dior, he said. Only designer name brand clothing will be carried at Designer Depot, and labels will not be cut out, McKelvey said.

Asked whether T.J. Maxx, Taggs, and other discount clothes located nearby on Orchard Lake Road will

prove to be strong competition, McKelvey said there's a important difference in the stores' marketing strategies.

"Designer Depot is part of that genre, but there are things we think are very strong selling points. We sell clothes for all ages, infants to adult, and for males and females.

"All merchandise is first quality, current season, and ranges in price from 20 to 70 percent off the manufacturer's suggested retail prices."

K mart can afford the discounts because of its size, experience in the discount business and its buying network, she said. The Troy-based corporation now operates 2,100 stores in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

Farmington Hills' demographics, population density and income level as well as "the factor in convenience" attracted K mart to the 30,000-square-foot location, McKelvey said.

"If you ever drove down Orchard Lake at 4 p.m., you never want to do it again," said Schrott.

"This location has access, parking, and it doesn't have the traffic congestion (the commercial strip off Orchard Lake has.)"

SCHROTT SAID the failure of Broadway Continental Foods, the produce operation, brought about the decline of the other businesses.

## what's inside

Community Calendar . . . 3B  
Inside Angles . . . 3A  
Obituaries . . . 2A  
Oral Quarrel . . . 4A  
Shopping Cart . . . 1B  
Sports . . . Section C  
Suburban Life . . . 3B

## "OAE DOES A TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE JOB."

and I commend them for their civic-mindedness. I was able to find the owner of a cockapoo dog through a free found ad in the paper. The classified staff is doing a tremendous job.

THANK YOU, D. Zukowski for your editorial regarding the Observer's Economic Classified ads!

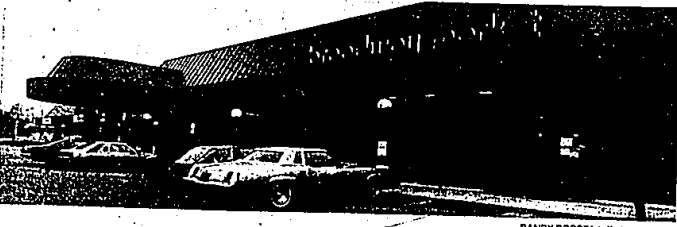
Remember...

One call does it all!



591-0900

Use your MasterCard or Visa



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Discount designer clothes soon will be sold by a K mart division called the Designer Depot at the current site of the Broadway Market. Once occu-

pled by independent dealers in produce, meat, fish and baked goods, the market was unable to reach projected sales goals. It closes March 31.