

police/fire calls

Listed below are highlights of Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

ABDUCTED
A 25-year-old Farmington woman abducted at knifepoint from the Holiday Inn parking lot managed to flee when a witness diverted the suspect's attention.

Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Dennis Hochford gave the following account:

After parking her car in the north parking lot at the Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile, about 12:35 a.m.,

the woman walked toward the main entrance when a man appeared. He pulled a red ski mask over his head as he approached her.

Grabbing the woman around the neck with one hand and holding a steak knife to her throat with the other, the man dragged her back to the car. After she unlocked the driver's door, they both got inside. A witness approached the car, but was assured by the suspect that he and the woman were only arguing.

The woman managed to flee through the passenger's door when her abductor started the car. Realizing what had happened, the witness reapproached the car and banged on the driver's window as the suspect started to back out.

While the man's attention was diverted, the woman, uninjured, climbed out of the passenger side.

The abductor drove north through the parking lot to westbound 10 Mile. He had two to contend with now," Rochford said. "It appeared that all he wanted to do was get out of there."

Novi Police recovered the car about 1:45 a.m. It apparently had become stuck in loose dirt in an unfinished parking lot near Hagerty and 10 Mile. The car, a 1984 Dodge Daytona, was not damaged.

The woman's abductor was described as white, in his early 30s, 6 feet tall and 180 pounds with brown hair and a heavy build. He was wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and dark shoes.

Rochford wasn't sure what the motive behind the abduction was.

PILFERED
Four Farmington High School students are suspected of breaking into the high school's concession stand on the south side of the football field at about 7 p.m. Friday, according to police reports.

The same teen-agers are suspects in a similar concession stand break-in the previous weekend, a Farmington Department of Public Safety report said.

School officials are pursuing prosecution, department Deputy Director Gary Goss said.

TORCHED
Playground equipment and a moped were the targets of arsonists last weekend, Farmington Hills fire investigators said.

About 5 p.m. Saturday, someone poured gasoline on the wooden playground equipment behind Wooddale Elementary School, 28600 Peppermill, then ignited it.

A passerby called the fire department after noticing flames. "We were fortunate," said Lt. Paul Baldwin of the Farmington Hills Fire Department. "Some of the surface area was scorched. That was about the extent of the damage."

The arsonist also was lucky, Baldwin added. "The person could have burned himself or others. There's always that danger when you ignore a flammable liquid."

A 2½-gallon, plastic gas container was found nearby, according to Baldwin.

Shortly past midnight Sunday, firefighters were called to Ravine, east of Orchard Lake Road, where a moped was in flames. It was destroyed by fire. Gasoline was the accelerant, Baldwin said.

If caught, the arsonists would face counseling or prosecution, depending on their age and backgrounds, Baldwin said.

Tips involving either fire should be called to the fire department: 853-0744.

THEFTS
Farmington Hills Police report the following thefts:

• From Grand Hagerty Auto, 25060 Hagerty, cash, sometime Oct. 10-11.

• From State Fabricators, 30350 Eight Mile, \$2,800 worth of plywood, sometime Oct. 13-14.

• From Pacific Mutual Insurance Co., 30833 Northwestern, a color TV, a VCR and camera equipment, worth \$1,800 total, sometime Oct. 12-14.

Farmington Area Jaycees wish to thank all the residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills for making this year's Muscular Dystrophy Association fund-raiser a financial success.

As a result of the communities' compassionate spirit and generosity, the Jaycees were able to donate \$1,399.20 to "Jerry's Kids."

This money, along with the thousands of raised nationwide, will be used to support a vast number of program services to Muscular Dystrophy patients at no cost.

The Jaycees have a busy schedule for the remaining months of the year. On Oct. 18 through Halloween Night, they will sponsor their Haunted House, located this year at Muirwood Center.

In November, "Developing Your Leadership Skills" is the topic of the Fall Individual Development Workshop to be held on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop leaders are Dave Kozmar, account manager with Lewyisms, and Celeste Gilmore, account manager with Creative Universal. This dynamic workshop will help participants develop their leadership skills.

For December, a two-nighting service is planned for the community at Warner Mansion to promote holiday spirit between area residents, business people, and community leaders.

The Jaycees look forward to a very successful quarter working in conjunction with the community and pledge to be the very best they have ever been. For more information about the Jaycees and the program listed above, call 477-7033.

Louise Coleman
Farmington Area Jaycees

Farmington readers' forum

Letters must be signed, original copies and include the address and telephone number of the writer. None can be returned. Names will be withheld from publication only for sufficient reason. Letters should be limited to 300 words in most cases. We reserve the right to edit them. Send letters to Readers' Forum, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River Ave., Farmington 48024.

Jaycees say thanks

To the editor:

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Louise Coleman
Farmington Area Jaycees

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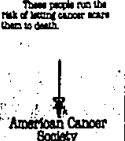
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