

Home offices are big business, 1B



Gager nets record, 1D

Non-union school staff to get pay raise, 10A

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THEY'RE winners.

Farmington Education Association members Peg Culver and Tom Chrzanowski accepted the E. Dale Kennedy award for Public Relations in February. The award is presented each year by the FEA's parent group, the Michigan Education Association.

Mary Christian, MEA vice president, presented the award during a statewide bargaining and public relations conference in Dearborn. Culver is a Harrison High School teacher; Chrzanowski is current FEA president and a kindergarten teacher at Kenbrook.

YOU'LL now have to pay a fee if you want city council or planning commission agendas or minutes in Farmington.

The city council Monday voted to charge \$15 a year for agendas and \$25 a year for minutes to cover the cost of handling and mailing. The city's mailing list includes 16 people or groups that want the council agendas, 28 that want the planning commission agendas and 17 that want council or planning commission minutes.

Government agencies, city board or commission chairman and the news media are exempt.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Oakland County prosecutors were ordered to retry John Merlo, 45, convicted of first degree murder in the 1967 shooting death of his 18-year-old estranged wife, Sharon, as she was working in a beauty shop on Eight Mile near Inkster in what then was Farmington Township.

what's inside

- Business 1C
- Cable connection 6B
- Classifieds Secs. C,E,F
- Index 6F
- Auto 10C
- Real estate 2E
- Employment 6F
- Creative living 1E
- Crossword puzzle 11E
- Entertainment 5C
- Obituaries 10A
- Opinion 12A
- Police/life calls 8A
- Sports 1C

The CLASSIFIEDS

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Franklin Detective Sgt. Ben A. David (right) is escorted into 47th District Court by his attorney, Jerome Sabbota.

Police sergeant faces 17 criminal charges

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Franklin police Detective Sgt. Ben David — the officer considered by many the most likely to become chief if Edward Glomb ever decided to leave the post — was arraigned in two district courts Wednesday on criminal charges ranging from neglect of duty to obstruction of justice.

David stood mute to the charges in the 48th District Court in Southfield and 47th District Court in Farmington and pleas of not guilty were entered for him. He is free under personal bonds totaling \$27,000, pending the outcome of the case.

"As far as I'm concerned, he's innocent and the facts will establish that," David's attorney Jerome Sabbota said in an interview following the arraignments.

Warrants against David, an eight-year veteran with the department, were issued Tuesday following an investigation by the Oakland County prosecutor's office. Among the charges are ticket fixing, destruction of public records and the unlawful

use of the Law Enforcement Information Network.

LEIN is the state police computer network that connects with a national computer system and gives access to criminal histories and general information such as driver's licenses, traffic violation points and vehicle ownerships.

David, who lives in West Bloomfield, is accused of accepting payments ranging from \$10 to \$50 from private detective Marc Baskin to use the LEIN for unauthorized purposes and turn over the acquired information to Baskin, according to the warrants.

Chief assistant prosecutor Richard Thompson said Tuesday that Baskin was not being charged in connection with the case, but "we'll be turning all of this information over to the state police to see what they want to do with it."

Baskin's name appears as one of the witnesses providing information on some of the eight warrants and 17 counts leveled against David.

Asked if Baskin would appear as a witness against David, Thompson

said, "He may want to cooperate." Attempts to reach Baskin, a resident of Farmington Hills and the son of prominent attorney Henry Baskin, were unsuccessful Wednesday.

THE INVESTIGATION by the prosecutor's office cleared the rest of the Franklin Police Department, said Thompson.

Chief Glomb sat beside Thompson Tuesday at the press conference held to announce the charges.

"This was an extremely unfortunate set of circumstances," said Glomb in a later interview. "Dick Thompson covered the subject pretty well. This was an isolated incident. I think we have a tremendous amount of support from the residents in both Franklin and Bingham Farms and I see no reason for that support to dwindle."

Village president John Verdun said, "Before the press conference Dick Thompson and his investigator assured me they had not found any other evidence of this kind of thing in the department . . . I'm pleased with that."

Please turn to Page 10

Vigilant crusader

Drunk-driving accident strengthens store owner's resolve

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Julie Hardesty knows about drunk drivers. One almost destroyed her.

"I was badly injured. I was thrown out of the truck. But I feel very lucky," said Hardesty, 24, owner of the 7-Eleven convenience store at Nine Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Months of hospitalization, plastic surgery and extensive dental work greeted Hardesty after the incident. Her friend, the driver of the truck, didn't fare as well. He is blind and paralyzed. But the drunk driver who rammed into them was released that night.

The incident made Hardesty acutely aware of America's penchant for drinking. As the owner of a store that sells beer and wine, drinking and its effects never leave her mind.

"I realize what kind of hell I went through. And I realize what I, as a business owner, must do," said Hardesty, who urges liquor licensees and the public to recognize their responsibilities in selling and consuming alcoholic beverages.

"It's really important to me. I guess everyone has their pet peeves . . . And this one is mine."

Please turn to Page 4



Julie Hardesty, owner of the 7-Eleven at Nine Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

Hills plans to keep undercover sweeps

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Liquor licensees have a promise from Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer:

Undercover liquor law violation operations will remain a part of the Farmington Hills police scene, as will the frequent, unannounced liquor inspections.

The police department's undercover

liquor violation sweeps in June, October and November 1988 and again in June 1987 may bring memories of anger to many licensees. But Dwyer said the sweeps were, and will continue to be, successful.

"Awareness is definitely there as the result of the sweeps," Dwyer said. "Licensees had become lax in informing their employees of the

Please turn to Page 4

Hills suspect served time in prison

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The man charged in the slinkup of three Farmington Hills Inns has prior convictions for robbery armed and assault to rob while armed.

William Wheeler, 30, of Detroit was discharged from parole on Jan. 7, 1984. He was convicted in Detroit Recorder's Court in 1974 on two counts of assault to rob while armed and in 1980 on one count of robbery armed.

He was sentenced to 4-12 years for each assault conviction and 1 1/2-2 1/2 years for the robbery conviction, a Michigan Department of Corrections spokesman said.

At his arraignment Sunday, Wheeler told District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington he was a crack cocaine user "and hoped to get some treatment." Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said.

Police from Canton Township, Bloomfield Township, Southfield, Hazel Park, Monroe, Bloomfield



Suspect William L. Wheeler

Township, Romulus and Warren are among those who plan to investigate Wheeler in connection with slinkups of Inns in their communities since Feb. 13. More than 31 Inns have been robbed. The haul typically has been

\$100 to \$200 per robbery.

"Our main job at this point is to assist other agencies with information crucial to their cases," Farmington Hills Sgt. Charles Nebus said. Wheeler, married and father of two young children, worked as a hand-dresser in Highland Park until January, when he was laid off, Nebus said.

THE FAIRFIELD Inn in Canton Township was robbed of \$129 at 11:10 a.m. Saturday, one hour before Farmington Hills police arrested Wheeler. Tuesday, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office recommended that a warrant be issued charging Wheeler with that holdup. A 35th District judge in Plymouth was expected to sign the warrant Wednesday, Canton Township Public Safety detective Keith Lazar said.

Arraigned Sunday on the Farmington Hills charges, Wheeler stood mute to three counts of armed robbery in connection with the slinkups of the Quality Inn Feb. 20, the Dillon Inn Feb. 23 and the Envoy Inn Feb.

29. Innocent pleas were entered on his behalf.

In each Farmington Hills robbery, typical of the other Inn robberies, the robber, wearing dark sunglasses, approached a desk clerk and implied he had a gun. He often ordered his victim to lie on the floor after handing over money. More than \$800 was netted in Farmington Hills. No gun was found in Wheeler's car, Chief Dwyer said.

Wheeler is being held at the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$180,000 cash or surety bond pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court in Farmington March 10. He faces a penalty of up to life in prison if convicted.

FARMINGTON HILLS uniformed and undercover officers arrested Wheeler and a woman companion on I-496, near Orchard Lake Road, at 12:10 p.m. Saturday, shortly after the two left the Skylight Inn, 31100 Haggerty, Dwyer said.

While the woman waited in their car, Wheeler went into the Skylight

Inn lobby at 11:55 a.m. but he soon returned to his car and drove away, Dwyer said.

Four days earlier, a Skylight Inn employee reported seeing a man who fit Wheeler's description in the lobby. He left shortly after buying a bag of chips at 9:25 p.m., police said.

Wheeler was arrested because he matches the description of the robber in several recent Inn robberies. His 28-year-old companion was released Sunday, pending investigation. A woman was seen in the getaway car used by the man who robbed the Quality Inn, police said.

WHEELER'S ARREST resulted from the work of a department task force of uniformed and undercover officers that stalked out several Farmington Hills Inns. Special Patrol Operational Team officers had the Skylight Inn under surveillance when Wheeler drove up Saturday.

At least eight of the recent Inn robberies in metro Detroit have been on weekends. Slinkups have been reported from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.