

Rapists sometimes switch to adjacent communities

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The man suspected of raping three women in Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township hasn't crossed Haggerty Road — yet.

"There's no iron wall along Haggerty Road," Novi police Chief Lee BeGole said. "Just because it hasn't happened here does not mean it won't happen here."

Giving Novi residents reason for pause, BeGole said: "What can happen in these cases is that the rapist will leave an area where people are looking for him and very much alarmed and move to another area where people aren't as alarmed and not as cautious."

"People need to be particularly cautious and use common sense as long as this fellow remains at large," he added.

As tips pour in, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer remains "cautiously optimistic."

"We've identified several suspects, we've talked to several suspects and we've eliminated several suspects," Dwyer said. "But there isn't anyone who we can classify yet as a prime suspect."

SUSPECTS COME from the Detroit and Cleveland areas. Items stolen from the latest Farmington Hills victim March 31 turned up in the Cleveland area Easter weekend. Police believe the rapist spent the weekend there visiting relatives or friends.

Bloomfield Township Chief Donald Zimmerman and Birmingham Chief Edward Ostin have each assigned a detective to work with Farmington Hills detectives in tracking more than 320 tips relating to the ski-masked, knife-wielding serial rapist.

The rapist appears to stalk his victims, studying their habits and lying in wait until they're alone at night — and vulnerable.

Since April, 11 Oakland County women have been

raped or attacked at homes in Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield Township and Independence Township. Victims have ranged in age from 13 to 53.

Blood samples taken from the 11 crime scenes indicate at least two rapists, one perhaps a copycat, are on the loose, but police believe the same man may be involved in the Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township cases.

BASED ON blood type and other physical evidence, police confirmed that the same man raped the three Farmington Hills victims. It appears the same man may have raped the three Bloomfield Township victims, Dwyer said.

Insufficient blood samples or different methods of operation prevent Dwyer from linking the other five attacks.

Tips relating to the Independence Township rape, which police don't believe is related to the Farmington Hills-Bloomfield Township rapes, were turned over to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

According to an FBI psychological profile, the rapist probably is of above-average intelligence and may have been a "mama's boy" or a "Peeping Tom" who graduated to violence. His motive may be anger or a yearning for power. His actions are well-planned, not spontaneous.

He is described as soft-spoken, even apologetic, to his victims.

Police expect an updated psychological profile this week.

Rewards for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of the rapist or rapists top \$8,000. Tips can be called in to the Farmington Hills Police Department: 473-9695.

The Novi News contributed to this report.

Speech, religion focus of forum

Freedom of speech and religion will be the focus of the second "We the People" Constitutional forum, at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, 14800 at Farmington Road, just off 12 Mile.

The dramatization centers on a minister, the Rev. Walter Jergens (played by William Brinley), who, in addition to guiding the local evangelical church, is also director of the Northfield Right to Life organization.

The plot centers on his attempt to avail himself of a charity provision of the local city bus company and display a poster on the buses. When the mayor, played by David Stader of Farmington, sees the poster, he changes his removal as "offensive."

Herewith the drama of the trial.

In this, as in all "We the People"

dramatizations, the film is unwritten. The audience is the jury and, following a discussion of issues brought out in the drama, will vote on the guilt or innocence of the Rev. Jergens, according to the U.S. Constitution.

The performance is the second to be sponsored by the Farmington Area Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to the dramatization of a current controversial issue, the afternoon will also offer an exhibit, "The Blessings of Liberty," which focuses on the art and documents of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Also on display will be a half life-size sculpture, "The Signing of the Constitution," featuring five historic figures, as well as a replica of the American duelling pistols.

Parking is available, but seating is



Seniors return to school books after sun and fun on vacation

The writer is a Farmington High School freshman.
By Kara Kurtz
special writer

With some reluctance, Farmington High School seniors returned from "Spring Break '88" tanned, relaxed and brimming with exciting stories and lots of great memories.

Some ventured to the sandy beaches of Daytona, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Springs and Myrtle Beach, while others headed for the snow-tipped mountains of Colorado for some spring skiing.

The largest bunch of seniors escaped to the clear, blue waters of the Bahamas for 10 days on a cruise through the Italian "Costa Riviera" cruise line.

Many returned just in time to make their debut into stardom in Farmington High's annual variety show. Among the most popular acts were the "Top Jimmies," Bill Lindbert, Joe Johnson, Dave Dunn, Pat Bernhardt and Matt

Walter, who did a lip sync to hit songs by the band Van Halen, and the dance routines performed by the pom-pom squad and J.V. and Varsity cheerleaders.

Another favorite was the "Chesnuts," seniors Tom Smith, Jeff Brandt, Jim Stevens, Tom Hansen and Tom Krupka, who did a lip sync to "We've got the beat" by the Go-Go's.

Seniors Doug MacLeod and Wayne Russell were MCs for the production and added to the quality of the show.

Currently, Farmington High SADD members (Students Against Driving Drunk) are busy spreading an important message during "Say No To Drugs" week April 17-23. Many students will at-

tend a large rally at North Farmington High School; students and faculty will sport red ribbons to show they support the cause.

Other SADD members have been traveling to local elementary schools warning fifth graders of the consequences of drinking alcoholic beverages.

Spring sports are in full swing at FHS with the beginning of the boys tennis, boys baseball, track, girls softball and girls soccer seasons.

Upcoming events include class office elections, prom and, of course, senior graduation.

Before long, finals will be here, and then, at long last, a much-awaited, much needed, summer vacation.

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