

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

CAR FIRE

A 1984 Mercury Topaz sustained \$1,500 in damage May 23 when it caught fire as its owner was driving to a repair shop.

The fire occurred on M-102 near Farmington Road shortly after 4 p.m., according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report. When firefighters arrived, the engine was fully in flames and smoke had filled the seating area. The owner, a Detroit resident, said he was told the car needed repairs and was driving it to a shop when it burst into flames.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills firefighters responded. No one was hurt.

THEFTS REPORTED

Building materials valued at \$320 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Ramble Hills May 16-17.

A 1989 Chevrolet Camaro valued at \$5,500 was reported stolen from Fairmont Park Apartments May 16-20.

A computer system, tools, business machines, office equipment and company records valued at \$9,340 were reported stolen during a break-in at Midwest Mechanical, 28830 Eight Mile, May 19-20.

A 1988 Acura valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Green Hill Apartments May 19-20.

Two purses and their contents valued at \$450 were reported stolen from an employee locker area at Oak Hill Care Center, 34225 Grand River, May 20.

Lawn maintenance equipment valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from Cutters Landscaping, 30165 14 Mile, May 21-22.

A TV, two shotguns, a rifle, a microwave oven and jewelry valued at \$2,000 were reported stolen from Spring Valley Apartments May 22-23.

Jewelry and sterling silver of undetermined value were reported

stolen from a house on Glenmuir May 23.

TICKETS ISSUED

A 19-year-old Novi man was ticketed for possessing beer during a traffic stop on Grand River near Hathaway May 20.

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle when a bottle of champagne was found during a traffic stop on Drake near 12 Mile May 20.

A 37-year-old West Bloomfield man was ticketed for open burning outside a house under construction on Ramble Hills May 21.

A 36-year-old Birmingham man was ticketed for Sunday construction while working on a house under construction on Power near 10 Mile May 22.

A 23-year-old Farmington Hills woman was ticketed for possessing marijuana when a baggie of it was found during a traffic stop on Drake near Freedom May 23.

Chief urges vigilance against preying rapist

Oakland County's serial rapist didn't strike last summer. That doesn't mean he won't strike this summer. "Don't take anything for granted," warns Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer. "Keep up your guard."

Dwyer warns women to be observant while driving and to vary routes. He advises them to lock their car, house and garage doors. He urges them to notify police immediately when anyone suspicious is seen. "And don't ever," he said, "enter a dark house alone."

Dwyer says the investigation is still "very active." "We're still following up leads, but there's nobody we've classified as a prime suspect," he said.

SINCE APRIL 1987, 11 women at homes in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham and Independence Township were raped or nearly raped by a ski-masked, knife-wielding assailant.

Blood samples taken from the 11 crime scenes indi-

cate at least two rapists, one perhaps a copycat, are on the loose. But police believe the same man may be involved in the six Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township cases.

Police have received more than 400 tips since the last assault March 31 in Farmington Hills. Two weeks ago, Farmington Hills officers Charles Hubbard and Duane Fox spent a few days in western Michigan tracking leads.

The rapist appears to stalk victims, studying their habits and lying in wait until they're alone at night — and vulnerable. Victims have ranged in age from 13 to 53.

"Whatever it takes, we'll do," Dwyer vowed. "We're exhausting all efforts to solve these crimes."

Rewards for tips leading to an arrest and conviction of the rapist or rapists total \$10,000. Tips can be called in to the Farmington Hills Police Department: 473-9655.

City OKs school guard cost review

By Casey Hens staff writer

Farmington officials support changes that would require school districts to share responsibility for financing, training and supervising school crossing guards.

City council members recently took action supporting the city of Birmingham, which has been soliciting support from other cities to change state laws.

"We believe the city of Birmingham raises a legitimate question of equity," said city manager Robert Deadman in a recent report to city council. "Both the school district and the city have the responsibility for the safety of children to and from the schools."

Municipalities have paid the full cost of hiring and training school crossing guards since a 1976 court

decision mandated it. Locally, Farmington Public Schools paid for the service until 1976, Deadman said.

The Farmington City Council voted unanimously May 2 to support efforts to change the law. But Farmington school officials stand by the court ruling.

"Obviously, we believe in and support the court decision, which indicated it was a municipal responsibility," said deputy Superintendent Michael Flanagan.

FLANAGAN SAID in cost sharing areas — such as tax collection — the cities and schools have worked out amiable solutions that benefit both taxing authorities. "I believe in the larger picture, things tend to work out if we follow the court decisions," he added.

There are three public and private

elementary schools in Farmington, and one crossing guard who works at Power and Marblehead. It costs the city about \$2,000 per year to operate the program.

In Farmington Hills, the issue was not brought before city council, and discussion "is not planned at this time," said city clerk JoAnn Reynolds.

The decision to place guards is based on a formula that includes a variety of traffic patterns and consideration of the environment. "It's only where the children cross, and (when) a certain number of children cross," explained Farmington director of public safety Frank Lauhoff.

A recent request to place a crossing guard at Gill and Arundel was considered, but "there were sufficient gaps in traffic," so it was determined a guard was not needed, Lauhoff said.



HANDY BOSTON/staff photographer

Horsing around

Redford Township resident Terri McKee and her 3-year-old daughter, Meg, found more than they expected when they visited Farmington's Shiawassee Park on a recent weekday. Meg found a friendly horse to pet and

share a few fun moments with. The horseback riders were passing through the park, at Shiawassee and Power, on the sun-splashed afternoon.

election '88

News and notes from the Election '88 campaign trail:

WOLF ENDORSED

U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, has endorsed former Farmington Hills mayor and councilman Donn Wolf in his bid for the GOP nomination for the 27th Oakland County Commission seat.

The seat, now held by Jack

McDonald, R-Farmington Hills, represents Farmington and much of Farmington Hills. McDonald has announced his candidacy for the GOP nomination for Oakland County prosecutor.

The endorsement of Wolf is one of the few times in his 28-year congressional career that Broomfield has supported a candidate in a Republican primary.

"I am taking this unique step because he has been and continues to be one of the key leaders in the Republican Party," Broomfield said about Wolf. "He has a very keen mind and his proven experience in local government is unparalleled."

"We are continuing to gather support every day, from grassroots Republicans to our elected representatives in Washington," Wolf said.

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