

## police/fire calls

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

### MAN CHARGED

A 32-year-old Detroit man faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of possessing crack cocaine with intent to deliver it.

Arraigned Wednesday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, the man stood mute one count of possessing a controlled substance with intent to deliver and one count of possessing a stolen car. An innocent plea was entered in his behalf.

Bond was set at \$10,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

Ernest Anthony Wagner was arrested at 1:30 a.m. Aug. 3 near Eight Mile and Orchard Lake Road after officer Al Soderlund noticed that he was driving suspiciously and that the Law Enforcement Information Network indicated the car was stolen. Nearly 60 packets of crack cocaine were found inside the car, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

A 16-year-old Farmington Hills girl on a work break was forced into a van and sexually assaulted in the parking lot at Park Place Plaza on Orchard Lake Road Aug. 3.

According to Farmington Hills police Lt. Gordon Ross, the girl, who worked at the plaza, was on the sidewalk when she noticed a man standing next to a van parked near a curb at 2 p.m.

The man, thought to be in his 20s, asked her for a cigarette. When she gave him one, he asked her for a light. When she said she didn't have one, he reached inside the van and handed her a lighter.

"As she was returning it, he grabbed her arm and forced her into the van. After a brief conversation, she tried to get out. But he held her to the floor and sexually assaulted her. As she screamed and struggled, she managed to get loose, climb out the door and run from the van. She was not raped nor seriously hurt, Ross said.

### ROOFER HURT

A roofer at a condominium complex under development in Farmington Hills was shocked by an overhead utility line and fell to the ground Wednesday morning.

Richard Pomerville of Houliwell was working on the roof of a building at Ashford Hollow, on Middlebelt, north of 12 Mile, at 8 a.m. when he accidentally came in contact with the

power line, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report. Pomerville was listed in stable condition Friday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

### KNIFE BRANDISHED

A 27-year-old Farmington Hills man westbound on Nine Mile Aug. 3 reported that he was threatened by another motorist who approached his car and brandished a knife.

According to a Farmington Hills police report, the Hills man and a passenger saw the motorist in front of them make gestures toward them through a rear view mirror at 1:45 p.m.

At a red light at Middlebelt, the Hills man was approached on the driver's side and ordered out of the car at knifepoint. When he refused to comply, the knife-wielding man stabbed his front tire twice, then drove away.

### COCAINE DELIVERY

An 18-year-old Detroit man was arrested Aug. 2 after a small amount of cocaine was sold in the parking lot of a Farmington gas station where he worked, officers said.

According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, seven grams of cocaine were delivered in the transaction.

The Detroit man was arraigned Wednesday on charges of delivering less than 25 grams of cocaine. An innocent plea was entered in his behalf.

Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington set bond at \$2,500 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court Aug. 12.

### KITCHEN FIRE

Damage was estimated at \$5,600 when a stove heating element left on caught a butcher block cover on fire in a 2-story house on the 23200 block of Livingston Circle Aug. 3.

No one was home at the time of the 4:30 p.m. fire.

The heating element may have been left on after the loss of power in the area the night before; power was restored the day of the fire, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

Damage was estimated at \$5,600 when a stove heating element left on caught a butcher block cover on fire in a 2-story house on the 23200 block of Livingston Circle Aug. 3.

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A lawnmower valued at \$2,800 was reported stolen from Echo Valley Condos Aug. 3.

Camera equipment valued at \$800 was reported stolen from Shana Corp. 3403 4 Eight Mile, Aug. 4.

A 1985 Chevrolet Camaro valued at \$9,000 was reported stolen from a construction site at Grand River and Drake Aug. 4.

A 1988 Porsche valued at \$40,000 was reported stolen from Bill Cook Buick, 3791 Grand River, Aug. 4.

A 1987 Pontiac Trans Am valued at \$18,000 was reported stolen from Inverary Condos Aug. 5.

### TICKETS ISSUED

Three Novi teens and a store employee were ticketed Aug. 3 after the employee sold beer to the minors, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report.

A complaint in connection with the incident will be filed with the state Liquor Control Commission, officers said.

The three males, one 17 and two 18, said the female clerk at the Savings Spot, 3182 Grand River, did not ask for identification; the employee said she did ask, officers said.

Damage was estimated at \$150 during an attempted burglary at a house on Colgate Aug. 2.

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By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council is expected to ask the state Legislature to increase the Homestead Tax Credit.

A resolution asking the Legislature to consider increasing the maximum \$1,200 tax credit for taxpayers, particularly senior adults, will be considered this month. Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi drafted the resolution.

Action was postponed at the request of councilman Ben Marks, who wanted more time to consider the resolution.

Vagnozzi's resolution followed the presentation of a report by city assessor Dean Babb on the property tax assessment system and how to make it more equitable. Vagnozzi sought the report following the council's annual budget adoption June 13.

The issue of property tax assessments surfaced at the city council's budget public hearing June 6. Senior citizens and residents who bought homes before the age of inflated prices told the council that upwardly mobile young couples able to pay top dollar for homes were making it difficult for them to keep pace, particularly with property assessments and tax bills.

Vagnozzi's resolution asks that the Legislature increase the maximum amount of the state property tax rebate "to a figure that is based on the increases that have taken place in

property values and assessments."

**INCREASING THE tax credit** is one of the specific items suggested for improvement in Babb's report to the council.

"This ceiling has never been increased throughout the history of the program. Most hard hit by this are senior citizens whose fixed incomes are such that the \$1,200 is not enough to offset the property tax bill. The ceiling should be increased and indexed to keep pace with rising taxes," Babb said in his report.

"For the average person out there, the \$1,200 is sufficient because it doesn't maximize," Babb said. "It's the senior citizen who's got the problem."

THE 1973 Homestead Property Tax Relief provides a way for taxpayers to link property tax to household income as a means of making the tax system fairer.

Known as the circuit breaker, it is a device through which taxpayers can receive credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain percentage of household income for the year. Senior adults, 65 and older, are among those eligible for the credit.

Under the homestead act, senior citizens can be granted a credit when property taxes exceed 3.5 percent (if household income exceeds

\$6,001) of their household income, with a maximum rebate of \$1,200.

For example, the senior citizen with a household income of \$10,000 and a \$100,000 house assessed at \$45,000, would have an average tax bill in Farmington Hills of \$2,300. Even with the \$1,200 rebate, the senior citizen must still pay \$1,100 in property taxes.

**VAGNOZZI'S RESOLUTION** also asks the Legislature to consider legislation providing for "front-loading," or deducting the anticipated property tax rebate when summer tax bills are issued.

"Though the city offers a tax deferral program, I'm afraid some people are being missed in this process," Vagnozzi said.

Councilman Joe Alkateeb suggested sending the resolution as a letter because of concern about the lack of hard facts and dollar figures for a maximum rebate. Some council members wanted to know how much it would cost the state if an increased rebate was given.

But with other council members' help, Vagnozzi stuck to his intention that the request remain in resolution form.

"They'll pay a lot more attention to a resolution coming out of your elected officials," councilwoman Jean Fox said.

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He or she has no need to seek out alfalfa, selenium, zinc or copper. Nor is there any reason to avoid beef, tomatoes, or fish fruits. A good example of an unsubstantiated claim is the statement that ingesting fish oil capsules will cure rheumatoid arthritis.

Animal studies indicate that fish oils may be metabolized in the body to produce substances that chemically are close to, but not as active as, the irritants of inflammation. However, experiments with patients have failed to show improvement in the arthritis of individuals taking even large amounts of fish oil. Since a known side effect of fish oil is susceptibility to stroke, it is not true that a trial of its use is worthwhile since: "It may not help, but it can't hurt."

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