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HEROIC deeds.

Farmington Hills police plan to nominate for civilian citations two Livonia men who aroused residents asleep next to a burning model home in southwest Farmington Hills last week.

Joe Fryer, 30, and Mike Wilkie, 16, were on the way to work in Farmington Hills Aug. 15 when they saw flames to the east of the Haggerty-Nine Mile area shortly past 4 a.m. Finding a two-story house at 22275 Heatheridge in Meadowbrook Park subdivision in flames, they quickly awakened the Guth family living next door.

The Guths called the fire department, gathered outside to assure their safety and awakened the family living on the other side of the burning house.

EASY does it.

The Farmington Hills City Council has approved signs requiring westbound Verona traffic to stop at North Park, southbound Bycroft traffic to stop at Springvale, and eastbound Regency traffic to yield at North Park.

QUOTE of the week

"She came home one hour ago, and we're on cloud nine. We're going day by day and counting our blessings along the way."

— Karen Cowen, Tuesday, as her daughter Janet returned home from the hospital this week. Janet was injured when a rock was thrown through a car window.

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Reminder...

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.

Marks, Costick say 'sorry' to city

Critics still vent anger at outcome

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mayor Jody Soronen called it the incident that "crowded our minds and troubled our hearts."

But public apologies from Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks and city manager William Costick Monday did little to soften the anger or defuse charges of corruption and conspiracy at city hall.

One-by-one Monday residents and council members took turns venting their anger about Marks' bounced checks and delay in paying a 14-year sewer tap-in fee and Costick's failure to put the debt on the former mayor's 1987 tax bill.

Some of those who were angry demanded further investigation of the incident while others simply reprimanded the two city officials, particularly Marks. Others, some associated with Marks in the early years of the city, stood in support of him while acknowledging his errors.

Perhaps the strongest admonitions came from Paul Sowerby, zoning



Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks made a public apology to his constituents Monday, and explained his past-due sewer bill owed the city for 1 1/2 years.

resident Al Rosen. "Mr. Marks has done so voluntarily or otherwise," Rosen said he holds Costick "culpable" and that "a follow-up must be made notwithstanding the apology."

IN THE PAST three weeks many residents have argued that Marks should be criminally charged because it's a felony to bounce a check for more than \$100.

"There's got to be the intent," city

attorney Paul Bibeau said. "There was never any intent to avoid paying the obligation." He said he doubts a prosecutor would seek a warrant in light of Marks' payment of the debt.

Bibeau also said he didn't believe there was any attempt to cover up. "It was all in records."

City council members had their own opinions of the Marks incident.

Tap-in bill miscues admitted

For a related opinion, 12A.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

It was an evening of public apologies many have awaited since disclosure of Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks' failure to pay a long overdue sewer tap-in fee.

Both Marks and city manager William Costick, who failed to follow city procedure and put the 14-year overdue debt on the tax rolls, apologized to the city council and the public. Both apologized for failing to inform the city council before public disclosure by angry southeast Farmington Hills residents three weeks ago.

"Because this was a business transaction between my building company and the city, I failed to recognize the need to inform the members of council," said Marks, a local builder and four-year council member.

Alliances, not disunity, spring from 'Temptation'

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

The controversy surrounding "The Last Temptation of Christ," a film that reportedly portrays Christ imagining human sexual urges, has created a curious alliance between two members of the clergy in Farmington Hills.

A humanist minister with the religiously liberal Universalist Unitarian Church and a charismatic pastor with Restoration Christian Fellowship, a fundamentalist group that interprets the Bible literally, say focus on the film is entirely misplaced.

"It's much ado about nothing. There are other more critical issues concerning the social welfare of people, like homelessness, unemployment and racism," said the Rev. Suzanne Paul, a recent graduate of the Humanist Institute in New York City who assumed ministerial duties at the Farmington Unitarian Church Aug. 1.

The Rev. Tim Bersche of Restoration Fellowship, "called" to the char-



Suzanne Paul, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Farmington Hills, believes we should focus more on the human condition, not on controversial movies.

ismatic ministry in 1984 following graduation from U-M, Dearborn, said focus on the film's controversy is "a plan of the devil."

The focus should be on what God

wants us to do, taking care of the widows, feeding the poor, things that affect the world around us."

"TEMPTATION" PREMIERED in metropolitan Detroit last weekend, shown at the AMC Americana 8 theater in Southfield where a small group of protesters carried signs and handed out Bibles.

Based on the book by Nikos Kazantzakis, the film is described by critics as a mix of stark reality and theological musing, a harsh, realistic portrait of the man on whom Christianity is based.

The movie shows Christ as fully God and man, subject to the temptations of man, including sexuality, in a dream sequence. In one scene, he is shown in carnal embrace and in another he reaches inside his chest and takes out his heart.

Neither Paul nor Bersche has seen the film nor do they intend to, Paul because it "ranks up there with Rambo in violence" and Bersche

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Joseph Hage of Westland carries a crucifix to protest the showing of "The Last Temptation of Christ" in Southfield last week.

Rape threat persists despite 5-month reprieve from terror

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The so-called Oakland County rapist hasn't struck since late March but police aren't dismissing the possibility that the rapist may strike again.

But police are without substantial leads in the 11 rapes and attempted rapes after an Ohio man brought in for questioning in connection with the assaults passed a polygraph test three weeks ago.

Farmington Hills police are waiting to determine if the serial rapist develops a pattern after not striking since March 31 when a Farmington Hills woman in her 30s was assaulted.

"Last year, after the one that occurred in West Bloomfield May 6, the assaults discontinued until Sept. 18 (in Bloomfield Township)," Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said. "We're not sure there's going to be a pattern. But there's speculation you might be seeing more assaults."

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

POLICE ARE certain the three rapes in Farmington Hills and three in Bloomfield Township were committed by the same man, based on physical evidence, such as blood tests. Because of inadequate physical evidence gathered in the other assaults, it's difficult to link the

others to those in Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township, Dwyer said.

Dwyer said he used to be "cautiously optimistic" as evidence and information led to the West Lake man who submitted to a polygraph three weeks ago.

"He passed the polygraph and is no longer suspected," Dwyer said. "We have no new substantial leads to go on as far as the investigation."

But police aren't giving up and still consider the sexual assaults a priority investigation. "We receive a few calls a week, but nothing of any significance," Dwyer said.

Police are still working on the Ohio connection because personal belongings of the rapist's last Farmington Hills victim in March were found in dumpster near a large retail store in West Lake.

"We've looked at other persons associated with the West Lake area. We're looking for someone who probably lives in the (Michigan) tri-county area and who traveled to the West Lake area the weekend of April 1," Dwyer said.

While Farmington Hills police and an informal task force of police agencies in the affected communities continue their investigations, police are still asking for help. Anyone with information should call the Farmington Hills detective bureau at 473-9660.

Dwyer also urges women to remain cautious though the serial rapist has not struck since March. He cautioned women to be aware of anyone following them and to notify police immediately.

Victim hit by rock now home to rest

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A Farmington Hills woman returned home from the hospital Tuesday, while Oakland County Sheriff's deputies continue their investigation of a rock-throwing incident that severely damaged the side of her face.

Janet Cowen, 18, a 1988 graduate of North Farmington High School, left Pontiac Osteopathic hospital Tuesday after reconstructive surgery and more than a week of hospitalization, according to Robert Aranosian, director of emergency trauma.

"She came home one hour ago, and we're on cloud nine," said Janet's mother, Karen Cowen. "We're going day by day and counting our blessings along the way."

Friends arrived at the Cowen home at 7 a.m. Tuesday, decorating it for the homecoming. According to her mother, Janet will continue her convalescence there, with a daily dose of antibiotics and two

weekly visits to the doctor.

Meanwhile, detectives continue to follow up clues near Clarkson's Pine Knob Music Theatre, where the incident occurred after an Aerosmith rock concert Aug. 13.

According to detective Steve Parker, witnesses were scheduled to accompany police to the scene of the crime this week on Pine Knob Road. Janet Cowen was injured as she left the concert with friends. She was hit with a grapefruit-sized rock that came through her open car window.

"We've interviewed some possible suspects in the case," he said. "We're checking out any and all leads."

Hopefully, we'll be able to come up with something soon."

Up to \$5,000 in reward money is being offered in the case.



Janet Cowen