

police/fire calls

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

WOMAN CHARGED

A 27-year-old Redford Township hitchhiker is charged with stealing the van of the man who picked her up and drove her to a Farmington Hills inn because she said she had no place to stay.

Arraigned Friday before District Judge Michael Hand of Farmington, the woman pleaded innocent to unlawfully driving away an automobile, a felony, and to resisting and obstructing a police officer preserving the peace, a high misdemeanor. The judge will take under advisement her guilty plea to driving with a suspended operator's license, a misdemeanor.

Cash/surety bond was set at \$2,500 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court. She faces up to five years in prison if convicted of the felony and up to two years in jail if convicted of the high misdemeanor. Conviction of the misdemeanor brings a penalty of up to 90 days in jail.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

A 26-year-old Livonia man picked up a female hitchhiker on eastbound M-108 near I-96 at 12:35 a.m. Friday. When she said she needed help and had no place to stay, he drove her to the Red Roof Inn, 24300 Sinclair Court, Farmington Hills, to rent her a room for the night.

When he got out to register her, he left the key in the ignition. She then

drove off.

Officers spotted the \$12,000 van at Grand River and Rockwell in Farmington Hills. It was stopped and the driver was arrested on southbound Inkster at 7 Mile in Livonia.

LARCENY BY TRICK

A clerk at PJ's Donuts, 38427 Grand River, was tricked out of \$20 by a man who made a 95-cent purchase Dec. 8.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

When the man got nine singles in change after handing the clerk a \$10 bill, he said he didn't want so many singles.

He asked for the \$10 bill back, but instead of returning the singles, he asked \$1 and asked if he could exchange what he had for a \$20 bill.

DAY CARE FIRE

A sprinkler head activated and doused a fire in the utility room of Kinder-Care Learning Center, 38620 Nine Mile, at 7 a.m. Monday.

Light smoke was detected throughout the building but flame damage was limited to the utility room. The building was evacuated and no one was hurt.

A buildup of lint in the back of the dryer was the probable cause of the fire. Once ignited, the fire spread to paper goods stored in the room. A fire alarm alerted the fire department, according to a Farmington Hills Fire Department report.

DECORATION INCIDENTS

Damage and thefts were reported at two Farmington houses Dec. 11 in incidents involving Christmas decorations.

One house on Birchwood had a string of lights cut. A house on Larkspur had Christmas lights stolen, according to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports.

THEFTS REPORTED

A 1988 Chevrolet Caprice valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from the Clarion Hotel, 31523 12 Mile, Dec. 8.

A camera valued at \$400 was re-

ported stolen from Diamond Automation, 23400 Haggerty, between Nov. 30 and Dec. 9.

A VCR and jewelry valued at \$1,000 were reported stolen from a house on the 27000 block of Nine Mile Dec. 9.

Two color TVs and a VCR valued at \$900 were reported stolen from a house on the 27000 block of Nine Mile Dec. 9.

Lease papers and cash were reported stolen from the leasing office at Chatham Hills Apartments on Grand River in Farmington Dec. 10.

Would-be car thief fires shot

A would-be car thief fired a shot, apparently into the ground, as he ran to a waiting car after unsuccessfully trying to steal a 1988 Mercedes-Benz from a Farmington Hills office building parking lot Tuesday.

The incident occurred outside Century 21 Realtors, 28544 Orchard Lake, at 2:30 p.m.

No one was hurt, said Lt. Gordon Ross of the Farmington Hills Police Department Detective Section.

According to Farmington Hills police:

A 26-year-old woman had just parked her Mercedes-Benz and was walking toward Century 21 when a man thought to be in his mid-teens approached.

He asked about the location of Ameritech and Cellular One, then asked if he could use the phone. The woman said probably, then quickened her pace.

The man ended up chasing her to the front doors.

There, he grabbed her shoulders and, at gunpoint, demanded her car keys. She threw her keys, purse and flowers she was carrying to the ground as she ran inside.

The gunman, meanwhile, took the car keys. As he was backing out of the parking space, several people ran from the building. A 35-year-old man got in the passenger side of the car, but got out when the driver said he had a gun.

As the gunman tried to leave the lot, he spun the car in snow, striking a parked car. Several people tried to intercept him as he ran from the lot. A 20-year-old man tried to tackle him but the gunman laughed and fired a shot, apparently into the ground.

The gunman ran across Orchard Lake Road, where an accomplice was waiting in a Mazda parked outside Pace.

Most block grant money set for downtown projects

As it has since 1985, the city of Farmington has proposed using the bulk of its Community Development Block Grant money for downtown revitalization.

More than \$30,000 has been earmarked to support Downtown Development Authority and other projects; about \$7,500 will go into an ongoing "housing rehabilitation" fund.

A public hearing was held Dec. 5, at which no residents voiced complaints or concerns about the city's handling of the CDBG federal money, which filters down to local communities from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through state and county governments.

The 1989-90 money earmarked for downtown would be used to encourage economic development and pro-

vent blight in the central business district.

It would support the DDA operations, employ consultants as needed for engineering and marketing, provide parking and needed environmental improvements and assist property owners and merchants.

Housing rehabilitation funds would be administered through Oakland County with its home improvement projects for low-income residents. According to city manager Robert Deadman, three Farmington residents received home improvement loans totaling \$21,000 in 1988 through the program.

Although the block grant program has been lower on the federal priority list, local officials still expect money, as they have received it since the program started in 1975.

"It's a lower priority under the current administration," said Deadman. "But there's every indication it will continue."

SINCE 1975, the city has received more than \$500,000 in CDBG money. According to a city report, it has been spent as follows:

- \$190,100 for street improvements.
- \$80,000 for sidewalk improvements.
- \$45,380 for the housing rehabilitation program.
- \$150,506 for the city's central business district.
- \$43,147 for administration and other small projects.
- \$47,328 for barrier-free improvements.



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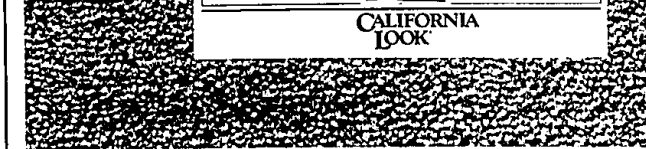
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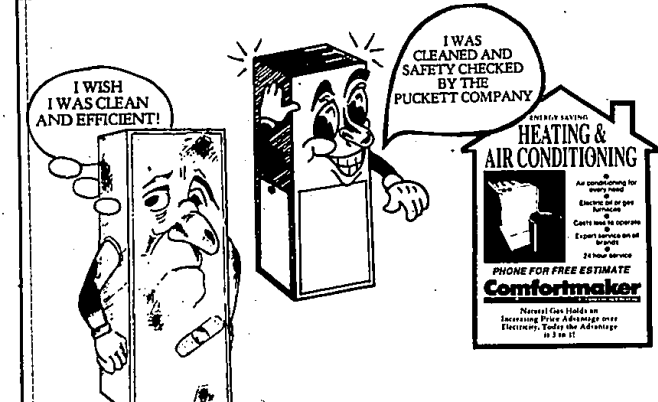
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5. CHECK THE LIMIT CONTROL
6. CHECK THE FILTERS
7. CHECK THE THERMOSTAT
8. REMOVE & CLEAN THE BURNERS
9. CHECK THE GAS VALVE CONTROL
10. CHECK THE FLUE PIPE
11. CHECK THE DRAFT DIVERTER
12. CHECK A COMPLETE CYCLE OF THE FURNACE
13. LUBRICATE THE MOTOR & ALL MOVING PARTS
14. MAKE ANY NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS
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