

## police/fire calls

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

### ASSAULT ON A WOMAN

An 18-year-old woman was slightly injured while breaking the grasp of a man who apparently wanted to abduct her early Saturday. She and a friend had hitched a ride with the man and she was exiting the car when attacked.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

The two Livonia teenagers, ages 18-19, were walking near Seven Mile and Beech in Livonia when approached by a man who offered them a ride to their destination at 1:45 a.m. They accepted.

In the lot of a party store at Eight Mile and Tuck in Farmington Hills after a brief conversation, the 18-year-old woman got out. As the 18-year-old woman was exiting, the man grabbed her by the coat and demanded that she come with him. She slipped out of the coat and broke free but scraped her hip and forearm when she fell to the pavement.

He drove away with her coat and purse still inside the car. The fur coat was later found on Merriman, south of Eight Mile, in Livonia.

The man was described as in his early 20s.

### MONEY RECOVERED

A 38-year-old Detroit man faces two felony charges in connection with the theft of two money bags from a delivery truck at Selastomer Detroit Inc. Division-Hillcrest Inc., 23800 Research Drive, Monday morning.

Police allege that the suspect was driving a stolen van at the time he broke into the delivery truck and took two money bags.

Arraigned Tuesday before Magistrate Dennis Pheny of Farmington, the man pleaded not guilty to one count of receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100 and one count of breaking and entering of an automobile over \$5.

Cash/surety bond was set at \$5,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court. The man faces up to five years in prison if convicted of either count.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

A man broke into a Goebel Automatic Foods of Detroit delivery truck at 8:15 a.m. Monday. As the driver was returning to his truck, he saw the thief run to a van and drive away. The driver threw a padlock at the van's windshield, breaking it.

A Farmington Hills officer spotted

the van eastbound on Grand River. He pursued it as far as I-96 and Evergreen in Detroit before pulling back.

Soon after, Detroit police spotted the van in an alley in the Patton-Joy area, where it had struck a fence. The suspect was arrested soon after, hiding in the attic of a nearby house. The stolen money was recovered.

The 1978 Chevrolet van was determined stolen from Detroit Jan. 31.

### PISTOL POINTED

A 55-year-old Farmington Hills woman was northbound on Drake, near 12 mile, at 5:30 p.m. Friday when a passenger in a southbound car leaned over the driver and pointed a BB or pellet gun at her.

She turned around to follow the car but lost sight of it north of Grand River, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### INDECENT EXPOSURE

A man standing at the front door exposed himself to a letter carrier as she was delivering mail to his house on Oxford. She had just driven up to the mailbox when the incident occurred at 1:30 p.m. Friday, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### TICKETS ISSUED

An 18-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing beer while walking on 11 Mile Feb. 3.

A 25-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for possessing narcotics paraphernalia when a metal pipe used for smoking crack cocaine was found on him at Tuck and Grand River Feb. 4.

A 24-year-old Farmington man was ticketed for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle during a traffic stop at 11 Mile and Middlebelt Feb. 5.

### THEFTS REPORTED

A VCR and a microwave oven valued at \$450 were reported stolen from a house on Rhinwood near Gill Feb. 3.

A stereo cassette tape player and power booster valued at \$220 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked on Lilac Feb. 4-5.

Computer equipment valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from Lipson & Lawry's insurance offices, 28104 Orchard Lake, Feb. 6-7.

### DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$500 when a brick was thrown through a window in a house on Ridgebrook Feb. 3.

Damage was estimated at \$674 when vandals attacked the lettering on a Heather Hills subdivision sign at Nine Mile and Castlemeadow between Jan. 25 and Feb. 4.

# DDA to enter rezoning fray

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The DDA is expected to take a position, present it to the Hills planning commission in writing, and have a representative at Thursday night's meeting.

Last year, the DDA went on record opposing development of a shopping center in nearby Livonia, in which they stated their concern about the impact on downtown. The proposed Farmington Hills development would be even closer.

Bestak is proposing to demolish and redo the existing 37,000-square-foot Muirwood retail center because

it is reportedly not doing well. The expansion would provide 84,000 square feet of retail space, including the supermarket anchor, which would take up about half of the new center.

The undeveloped land west of the shopping center is planned for multiple residential use, Bestak is trying to rezone it to commercial.

AS AREA shopping centers expand and markets change in areas surrounding Farmington, a big question for the downtown is: "How many ways can we continue to divide the pie?" Strip Sittsamer said.

They are trying to get assurances from Bestak that there will be "no negative impact on downtown. I don't think they can assure that," she added.

The proposed new supermarket is another issue, and not a secondary one, DDA members decided Tuesday. There is currently an A&P downtown, a Farmer Jack superstore at Nine Mile and Farmington Road, and an IGA store at 10 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. All are in the city of Farmington.

To add to the concern, Farmer Jack's parent company, Borman's, and the A&P have merged, and both

companies have each sold several stores to the Great Scott chain.

The A&P is an "important entity" for the downtown, because it is the only place seniors can walk for groceries, said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, who also sits on the DDA. "Can A&P withstand another superstore? Who knows? It's a concern."

"If this was all one community, we'd never have Farmington Hills considering it (the Bestak development), or Farmington opposing it," added DDA member Frank Clappison. "The only way to evaluate it is to look at this as one area."

## Resident battles Rouge pollution

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We take tons of it out," Jakeway said. "It's been going on for years and years. And it's getting worse."

The creek on Derek's property appears to be spring-fed. Occasionally, Derek will see blue ink in the creek, coming from a nearby retention pond where the water is often tested. Derek would like to see the creek, which leads eastward to the Rouge River, clean and full of the fish and lily pads.

"I've had crayfish, two varieties, creek chubs, minnows and lake suckers. You could hear the splashing from when they were spawning. If the creek is taken care of, technically, salmon could make their way up here," Derek said.

The dumping that people are

doing near Derek's house and along other waterways is illegal. The problem is catching someone in the act.

DEREK is not the type to let the dumping continue. He's been in touch with the city of Farmington Hills and the Friends of the Rouge, which sponsors the annual Rouge Rescue cleanup every spring.

"When people see others doing that, they should report it," said Barrett of the city's public services department.

In Farmington Hills, reports should be made to the police, who under city nuisance ordinances may ticket a person for dumping into the creek or a stream.

Jakeway said anyone who witnesses dumping in any waterway should report it to the environmental organ-

ization. "This is the stuff we're all about. We call the (state) Department of Natural Resources. To us, we get right on it. We report it and check it out," Jakeway said.

When an "it comes to penalties, Friends of the Rouge or the DNR will report the violator to the local police or municipality," he added.

Though most believe it's industry dumping into the Rouge that has caused the pollution, Jakeway said household waste is just as damaging.

Because the river has its own cleansing abilities, anything that restricts the flow restricts the cleansing ability, not to mention any pollutants found in household garbage that further pollutes the water.

"The river is not dead. We cannot ever allow it to become a dead river. The 476-square-mile watershed

basin is essential. It would be a disaster if anything happened to it. It has to be cleaned up," Jakeway said.

Too often, Jakeway said, the public considers the Rouge and its tributaries a dumping ground. By far, the annual Rouge Rescue is devoted to pulling out household garbage and logjams. This year's Rouge Rescue on Saturday, June 3, will again be devoted to pulling out tires, refrigerators, empty bottles and other household items.

"We are just barely scratching the surface in the overall plan (to clean and improve the Rouge)," Jakeway said. "In the past three years, we've picked up 10,000 cubic yards of debris and hundreds of logjams. This is an essential body of water. It is a vital resource."

## Retiree wins back honor with suit

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misall or loss of benefits as a way of coercing them to retire early, said Robert Bauders, EEOC-Cleveland office regional attorney.

"The company admitted and acknowledges it retired people against their will. They said it was economic hardship," Bauders said.

The case had been scheduled for trial in early January, but Chrysler agreed to the settlement Dec. 30. The automaker admits no wrongdoing or liability in the settlement. "The suit goes back 10 years when we were threatened with bankruptcy," Chrysler spokesman Lloyd North said.

FAMILY, PERSONAL and financial stress were the results of early retirement for Kuzmanovich. He tried to keep his involvement in the suit against Chrysler quiet, but others found out. And in many cases, knowledge led to harassment.

While Kuzmanovich was in his back yard near a Farmington Hills country club one day, a golfer walked onto his property, threatened him. "There was a lot of harassment. Emotionally, it all took its toll. When you take on something like Chrysler, you're not taking on a Boy Scout group," said the father of three.

The emotional strain was aggravated by the bureaucratic red tape. He was denied unemployment benefits and benefits under the federal Trade Readjustment Act. Finally, Kuzmanovich went to the EEOC and filed a complaint. There, he realized he wasn't alone.

By 1981, Kuzmanovich was asked to be a government witness against Chrysler. The EEOC got an injunction against the automaker. In 1982, Kuzmanovich was named a claimant in the suit against Chrysler. And the waiting began.

Unlike many of the suddenly retired, Kuzmanovich was able to find other work. But frustration and rejection continued.

"I'm not angry anymore. This is going to help someone else. I'm glad I did it. I would do it again," he said. "Justice doesn't come easily. You've got a Constitution and a Bill of Rights. But you've got to fight for it."

NONE OF the jobs were permanent though many of his managers lauded his skills and his dedication. His first temporary job was a significant drop in pay. For \$4.50 an hour, Kuzmanovich worked for a construction company showing new homes to

potential customers. He then moved on to General Motors in Pontiac, American Motors and Volkswagens.

Kuzmanovich never doubted his age played a great role in never again finding permanent work. And that bothers him. In fact, he received two letters of recommendation when at Volkswagen. "That shows an older guy can do a viable job."

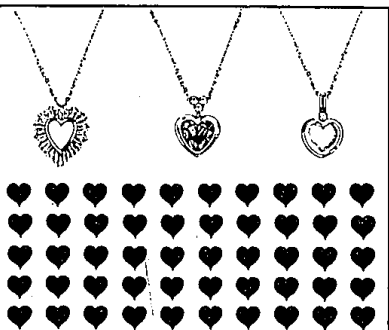
The EEOC will take about six months to determine how much each of the former employees or their estates will receive. "We're going to assess their claims. We want to remedy the violations and we want to give remedy to the people," EEOC's Bauders said.

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