

police/fire calls

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

● fraud charged

A Farmington Hills man faces a federal bank fraud charge in connection with the defrauding of a Pontiac bank.

On March 14, Henry Leo Ewald, 47, waived indictment and a bank fraud charge was filed against him in U.S. District Court, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Reynolds of Detroit.

A plea will be taken at arraignment but no date has been set. Ewald faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted. Throughout the case, he has declined comment to the media.

From November 1988 to October 1989, the bank was defrauded of money "through false and fraudulent pretenses and representations," U.S. Attorney Stephen Markman said.

In January 1989, the bank approved a \$6.5 million loan as a first mortgage for Westland Towers, a building actually owned by others. Approval was based on several documents that turned out to be false or forged, Markman said.

The case was investigated by the FBI, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney.

● cyclist flees

A 21-year-old Farmington Hills man was ticketed for fleeing and eluding in connection with a traffic incident in which a motorcyclist disobeyed a police officer's command to stop in Farmington Hills on Tuesday.

According to the police report: At 3:35 p.m., officer Gary Bradley spotted a motorcyclist going left of center on northbound Inkster Road, north of Beacon Square. When the driver saw the patrol car, he made a sudden U-turn.

When Bradley activated the emergency lights of his fully marked car, the driver turned west on Beacon Square, drove across two yards, then stopped, dropped the cycle and ran

Student overdoses on LSD

A Farmington High student became combative after overdosing on LSD he bought from another student Thursday afternoon, police said.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

The 16-year-old took LSD with friends at 2:30 p.m. and became disoriented. At 4:45 p.m., he arrived home, where Farmington Hills firefighters arrived to render medical assistance. By then, his disorientation had turned to combativeness.

As Community EMS paramedics drove her to Botsford General Hos-

pital, she continued to be combative. Paramedics pulled to the side of the road until police officer Matt Koehn arrived to ride the rest of the way with them.

At the hospital, Koehn and officer Jon Crump assisted emergency room personnel as they prepared to treat her.

Farmington police detained a 16-year-old Farmington High student for delivery of LSD. "Formal charges are forthcoming pending further investigation," said Commander Chuck Lee of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

wood, Farmington Hills, March 28-29.

● car recovered

A \$12,000 car reported stolen from Southfield was recovered in the parking lot of the Old Orchard Theatre, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Thursday night.

According to a Farmington Hills police report:

While on patrol, officers Tim Swanson and Pam Rathgeb randomly checked license plates in the theater lot at 10 p.m. When they found an invalid plate on a 1987 Ford Mustang GT, they set up a surveillance with other officers.

At 11 p.m., two men exited the theater and entered the car. Further investigation led police to believe the car was stolen. The two Detroiters — ages 19-20, then were arrested.

● trespass charge

An Ontario man was ticketed for trespassing and disorderly intoxication in connection with an incident at Mr. Sports One of a Kind, 30060 Orchard Lake Road, at 1:55 a.m. Saturday.

Bouncers escorted the 31-year-old man from the bar, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

between two houses.

Police found the suspect hiding under a car in a driveway on Ellsworth.

The suspect also was ticketed for driving with a suspended license.

● trees taken

Twelve shrubby trees valued at \$1,800 were reported stolen from a house on Hemlock, Kendallwood Shopping Center, 33322 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, March 27-29.

● thefts reported

A color TV and a .38 caliber revolver valued at \$650 were reported stolen from a house on the 33500 block of Rhinewood, Farmington Hills, March 24-27.

A telephone and an answering machine valued at \$160 were reported stolen from a house on Hemlock, Farmington Hills, March 26-27.

Cash and jewelry valued at \$400 were reported stolen from a unit on Jefferson Court at Independence Green Apartments, Farmington Hills, March 27.

A VCR, a Nintendo entertainment system and games, a cordless telephone, a shotgun and a rifle valued at \$1,943 were reported stolen from a house on the 34600 block of Rhinewood, Farmington Hills, March 28-29.

Hills police alter their alarm response policy

To increase officer safety, improve emergency service and reduce city liability, Farmington Hills Police will no longer respond to non-specific "panic" alarms originating through an alarm company, effective May 1.

Usually, nondescriptive alarms signal general emergencies and do not include details of what is taking place. They do not receive a priority police response, despite what the alarm companies may tell customers.

The police will continue to respond to specific priority alarms, such as burglary, holdup and medical emergency — alarms that report a crime or other emergency in progress or that threaten a criminal with exposure or capture.

Alarms signaling actual criminal activity comprise less than 1 percent of the 6,000 alarms the police receive each year. Last year, 15 percent of the total alarms came through nondescriptive electronic signals.

"A panic alarm tells us absolutely nothing," Police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "It does not tell us if there's a

homicide, a hostage, a breaking and entering. It gives us no descriptive information whatsoever."

The city council introduced the policy change last week at the request of City Manager Bill Costick and Chief Dwyer. Enactment is expected April 9.

RECENTLY, ALARM companies began to market a service designed to summon the police but which does not identify the nature of the emergency. Some people use the "panic" alarm to avoid having to call the police directly, Dwyer said.

"These alarms possess enormous potential for improper or inappropriate response on the part of the police due to the lack of information provided," he said.

More than 93 percent of the alarm systems in Farmington Hills are monitored by central stations, the majority of which are out-of-state and receive alarm signals via telephone lines. They provide no information beyond that in their computer files.

Their vagueness makes it impossible to adopt a uniform police opera-

ting procedure, in turn heightening the risk for responding officers — for example, putting them in a position of breaking a door down and mistakenly being shot.

"Officers may be responding to anything from a crime in progress, such as homicide or auto theft, to a prowler or merely to suspicious noises," Dwyer said.

THE NEW policy will be announced by a letter sent to all 3,440 alarm users and 180 alarm companies that the Farmington Hills police have on record.

The city attorney and the city's risk manager and insurance company all support the change, Costick said.

Dwyer underscored that citizens have a "superior alternative" to any "panic" alarm: 9-1-1. Dialing 9-1-1 gives the police accurate, first-hand information without time lag. Officers can respond according to policy.

With 9-1-1, "citizens receive the proper priority for their calls and the necessary assistance (police, fire, medical) without going through a remote third party."

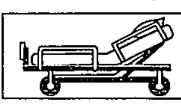
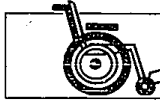
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Man guilty of not filing tax returns

A U.S. District Court jury in Detroit Wednesday found a Farmington Hills man guilty of failing to file income tax returns. His conviction came three months after his wife was convicted of the same charge.

Following a three-day trial before U.S. Magistrate Virginia Morgan, Michael C. Tarrant, 43, was convicted of five counts of willfully failing to file U.S. individual income tax returns for 1982-86.

The jury deliberated two hours, said assistant U.S. attorney M. Susan Murnane of Detroit.

After deliberating 30 minutes, a jury convicted his wife, Marlene L., 42, of the same charge Dec. 14.

Michael, Ford Motor Co. engineer, and Marlene, an insurance company employee, were indicted by a federal grand jury on April 4, 1989. Since then, they have maintained their innocence.

Both convictions will be appealed, said defense attorney Richard Lustig of Birmingham.

"We honestly believe we had a valid argument with the IRS and we were deprived of representing that valid argument to the jury," Lustig said Friday. "We believe the charges will come back for re-trial in both cases."

Morgan will sentence both on May 4. They face a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine. The couple also must pay interest and penalties on the taxes due.

They remain free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond.

The Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit, handled the case.

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Saturday April 7 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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