

Community Corner

This week's question:
How long did it take to complete your income tax forms this year?

This question was asked at the Downtown Farmington Center.



"It's too complicated now so my husband has it done. I used to be a bookkeeper, and it's still too complicated for me."
— Phyllis Miller
Farmington Hills



"We had someone do it for us. It's gotten too complicated lately."
— Karen Johnson
Farmington Hills



"I had it done. I moved here from Florida and because I sold a house last year, I didn't know how to do all that."
— Etta Willard
Farmington Hills



"It took my wife and me six hours and three fights. I'm a sub-contractor, and doing the self-employment forms is the absolute worst."
— Larry Jacobs
Royal Oak



"About 15 minutes. I was the first one in the library that day, and they (American Association of Retired Persons tax aides) took me right away. That's a wonderful service they offer."
— Lee Nielson
Farmington



"I haven't done it yet."
— Bill Neill
Farmington Hills

police/fire calls

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

oil taken

Nineteen cases of motor oil valued at \$400 were reported stolen from the Mobil station at 2730 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, April 6-7.

host liability

A 38-year-old woman was ticketed under Farmington Hills' host liability ordinance when minors were found drinking at her daughter's

house party on Stableview early Sunday, Farmington Hills police said.

Responding to a loud party complaint at 12:05 a.m., officers found 40 people, including many minors, drinking beer. The host liability ticket was then issued, police said.

When they found open and empty cans and bottles of beer in a car parked nearby, officers ticketed 4 of the occupants for possessing alcohol. An 18-year-old was arrested for possessing a dangerous weapon when a set of brass knuckles was found. All were from Livonia.

worker hurt

A Farmington Hills man sustained

a severe hand injury in an industrial accident early Tuesday, police said.

Farmington Hills firefighters and Community EMS paramedics treated Gary Dubanski, 31, at the scene before taking him to Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. He later was transferred to the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor. On Wednesday, he was listed in fair condition.

According to a Farmington Hills police report, the accident occurred at 2 a.m. Tuesday at Quality Steel Products, 23717 Research Drive. Dubanski was hurt when he reached into a all-steel forging press to remove

excess steel. The press unexpectedly came down, crushing his right hand and wrist.

Police Sgt. Patrick Browne called in the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration to try to determine what caused the accident. The machine won't be used at least until after that investigation, Browne said.

burglary suspect

Farmington Hills police arrested an 18-year-old man in connection with the burglary of a house on Rockyrest Tuesday.

On Wednesday, police planned to

seek a warrant charging the Birmingham, Ala., man — who is visiting a relative in the area — with breaking and entering an occupied dwelling with intent to commit larceny, a 14-year felony.

According to detective Chuck Hubbard, a teenager asleep on a living room couch awoke at 12:40 p.m. to the sound of footsteps. She saw a man carrying a cordless phone. She recognized him as a man she had been introduced to by a neighbor the day before.

When she asked him what he was

doing there, he dropped the phone and ran out the front door. Moments later, he came back inside and said somebody had broken into the house. He then showed her a guest room window that had been broken with a rock. He then left.

Soon after, police arrested the suspect, who matched the description of the burglar, at a nearby house.

thefts reported

Jewelry valued at \$10,200 was reported stolen from a house on Lujan, Farmington Hills, April 3-6.

School board approves major renovation projects

By Casey Hans
Staff writer

Although they approved \$1.58 million for several major projects last week, the Farmington school board delayed action on three — including major auditorium renovations at Harrison and North Farmington high schools — because only single bids were received.

The issue of using union versus non-union contractors was also raised once again, prompting discussion.

was absent.

Here's what happened:

• After a 3-3 deadlock vote on new gymnasium lighting for Dunckel and Warner middle schools, the board reconsidered the vote and awarded the \$32,300 low bid to McMurray Electric, a non-union shop. Electricians in the audience protested the use of non-union companies, saying they didn't pay prevailing wage rates.

• Consultants were directed to get more information about another non-union contractor that appears to have two companies with the same

principal owner. The companies in question are McNulty Electric of Lexington and McNulty Associates of Northville. The board's concern here was not with the union, but with slow progress during the recent Farmington High School renovations, on which one of the McNulty companies worked. McNulty, of Lexington, was low bidder on parking lot lighting upgrading for Dunckel, Beechview, Fairview, Flanders, Gill, Larkshire and Wooddale elementary schools.

• Auditorium and lobby renovation projects at North Farmington

and Harrison were postponed after school board members told the administration to seek more bids. The lone bidder quoted a \$505,000 price tag.

• Approved were \$1.58 million in bids for heating and ventilating systems in central office and other projects at Farmington High, Kenbrook Elementary, Highmeadow Common Campus, Longacre Elementary, Wooddale Elementary and William

Grace Elementary. Half a million dollars of this was for window replacement.

THE DISTRICT has approved in a large number of projects throughout the year, and is planning to do many over the summer months. Superintendent Michael Flanagan said many of the projects were those to be done with a multi-million dollar bond proposal defeated by voters in

the fall of 1988. He said the district was budgeting many of the necessary projects out of operating money.

The use of union versus non-union contractors has come up at the board level several other times, especially during discussions about the new Hillside Elementary School, now under construction, and improving the Farmington High media center.

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