



Cleaning up

Excavator D.H. Richman Co. of Union Lake will properly dispose of two underground storage tanks, leaking fuel and contaminated soil after removing them from the site of an old gasoline station in Farmington. Removal began last week. Excavators earlier found about 10 gallons of gasoline that had leaked into the soil. The surrounding sand and clay kept the leakage at the excavated hole, near the west parking lot of Zimm's Vacuum Cleaner Co., 32604 Grand River. There was no seepage into the groundwater

and no danger to the health, safety or welfare of the neighborhood, said Joe Schornack, Farmington fire marshal. The two 1,000-gallon tanks contained just small quantities of gasoline and kerosene, said the property owner, who's removing tanks in preparation for sale of the building. Michigan Environmental Services of Union Lake has monitored the project. The state fire marshal was notified, as required, Schornack said.

Water main shutdown spurs havoc

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"We've been serving spring water to drink."

Farah bought dry ice to keep food from spoiling in the walk-in freezer and cooler.

At Mike's Cleaners & Tailors, Orchard Lake Road and 13 Mile, Mike Nikolovski used his van to bring bottled water from his West Bloomfield home. He didn't have enough water at his shop to run the automatic machinery.

"We started at 6 a.m.," an angry Nikolovski said at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, trying hard to catch up on laundry promised for Saturday.

A LEAKING joint in the 54-inch water main, caused by a broken gasket, was discovered late last year. Repair work started early last week, following repairs to a 96-inch water main in Bruce Township, near Romeo.

But when a steel clamp and gaskets failed to plug the leak Wednesday, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department officials decided to weld a steel ring around the joint.

Workers cut back water pressure at 11:30 p.m. Friday. They expected the welding to take no more than six hours.

But what was supposed to be an overnight inconvenience for water users turned into a test of nerves when workers ran into a major snag when a shutoff valve failed near Farmington Road.

More than a million gallons of water had to be pumped out before the weld could be finished at the base of the main. "We couldn't be negligent. Once we started the repair, we couldn't just walk away until after the holiday," said James Heath, Detroit Water & Sewerage Department

maintenance and repair superintendent.

THE WELDING contractor, Ricman Construction of Sterling Heights, finished its work by 4 p.m. Saturday. It was the first patch ever to the 23-year-old line, served by the pump station at 14 Mile and Inkster, West Bloomfield.

After the repair, air was removed so the main didn't rupture and connector lines didn't explode when valves were opened and water pressure was increased.

Water users were urged to boil cooking and drinking water for 15 minutes for the first 24 hours after service resumed as a guard against bacterial contamination even though none was anticipated, Heath said.

Report: lingering water pressure problems to Oakland County: 624-8366.

Farmington Hills police fielded 3,000 calls Saturday from residents

concerned about low water pressure or no water.

"Some demanded to know when a water truck would show up in the neighborhood. Others wanted the city manager's home phone number," Sgt. Paul Caran said. "I told them we were at the mercy of the Detroit water officials."

FARMINGTON HILLS firefighters arranged for tanker support from other departments but had no fire runs Saturday.

Firefighters did have two calls about overheated water heaters in an apartment building, one call about a water surge in an industrial building and one call about a sprinkler system malfunction in a subdivision — all attributed to water pressure changes, Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said.

Total cost of the repair work in Bruce Township and Farmington Hills was \$200,000, Heath said.

Rapes of male students prompt warning letter

By Amy Rosa
staff writer

Police and school officials are warning Troy area residents — particularly students — to be on guard in the wake of recent sexual assaults on two teenage boys.

The masked man responsible for abducting, handcuffing and raping two high school-age boys May 8 and May 21, is already being compared to Oakland County rapist Steve Serman.

Szman, who like the Troy rapist wore a ski mask, used a knife and took personal possessions from the victims, was convicted three months ago in a series of sexual assaults against Oakland County women. Those rapes instilled wide-spread fear throughout the county and touched off a two-year campaign aimed at teaching women how not to become victims.

The latest alarm has already been sounded to Troy students, whose parents received letters last week urging their children to be careful after dark.

"People are concerned — it happened to two of our students. We're just asking parents and children to use good judgment and be very very careful," said Cynthia Banach, spokeswoman for Troy Schools.

"I'm sure this is inspiring panic," said Troy police Lt. William Tullock. "But does two make him a serial rapist? I don't think so... but these were not isolated incidents."

Police are hoping that anyone else who may have been assaulted by this man comes forward. But the odds of that are slim because these have been male rapes, said Tullock, who added that men in such situations are usually reluctant to tell.

"It's the old macho image," he said. "But you have to remember, these two teenagers did nothing to bring this assault upon themselves. When faced with a gun and a knife they had no choice."

TULLOCK SAID police aren't sure if the rapist stalked his two victims or not. The first teen was abducted as he was getting into his car in the Wendy's parking lot on Rochester Road about 11:40 p.m. Last Tuesday the couple was abducted about 10

p.m. while sitting in a car parked in the rear lot of the ITT Technical Institute building on Big Beaver. Both incidents occurred on a Tuesday.

"We don't know if he's choosing his victim, or choosing his environment and waiting for someone to walk into it," said Tullock.

Police also have no idea if the rapist lives in Troy, although they think he knows the area well, Tullock added.

Police caution teenagers to be alert to potentially dangerous situations, and not to go out alone at night.

"If you see someone lurking about in the dark, avoid the confrontation and call authorities," said Tullock. "Lock your doors. Look all around you before you get into a car — the same things we tell women."

"It's just like when the Oakland County rapist was caught, we told women 'Don't let your guard down. There will always be someone waiting in the wings to take his place.'"

Public outrage greater when males are raped

By Amy Rosa
staff writer

They're boys.

That's why a Troy psychologist predicts that the recent rapes of two teenagers will attract more attention than the assaults by the Oakland County rapist did two years ago.

"The media and public are probably more outraged this time around," said psychologist Rachel Newman, of the Consortium for Human Development in Troy.

The center is a non-profit mental health agency with offices in Novi and Clawson.

"They'll be more disgusted with this. Unfortunately, it's not always taken seriously when women are raped."

Newman, who has counseled female rape victims at the center, said homosexual rape outside of jail is uncommon. But no matter who is the target of rape, the motive is always the same, she added.

"Rape is not an act of sex. It's an act of violence," Newman explained. "These rapes had nothing to do with sexuality, only anger and violence. The difference is he's directing his anger toward men."

She also said the rapist, even though he chose teenage boys as victims, is not necessarily a homosexual.

"Rape is a common thing, but our society is in denial of homosexual rape. People are more accepting of women getting raped," she said.

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Farmington Observer
(USPS 187-840)
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Second-class postage paid at Birmingham, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham MI 48009-0910, Telephone 844-1100.

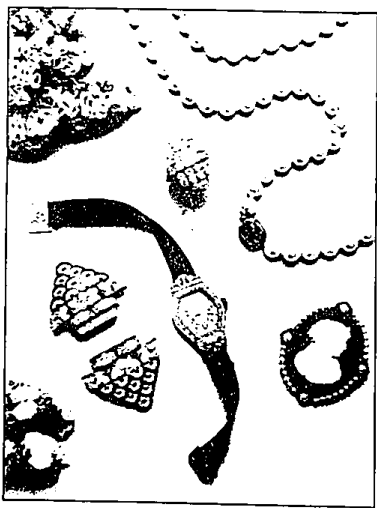
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