

Police say body brought here

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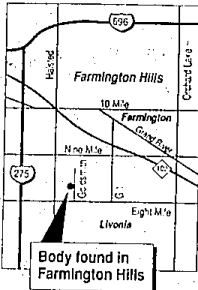
The owner of the vacant lot, Lindman said, has had problems in the past few months with dumping in the lot, which now bears a "No dumping" sign.

"It's unnerving when you find out someone can dump a body there," Lindman said.

Another resident, Al Hetke, who lives on Hetke street, one of four private roads jutting off the dead-end Goldsmith, complained about the condition of the road and the lack of lighting.

"IT FREAKED everybody out and frankly some of us are a little upset," said Hetke. "We're concerned that it (Goldsmith) is dark. It's kind of isolated and attracts strange traffic."

Hetke said the incident again proves the need for improvements in the area, including paving, which many residents have battled for over the years. The gravel road and some unkempt vacant lots attract "this



sort of stuff." The road will be paved this year. Engineering work has already been completed, city manager William Costick said.

Lindman agreed that the area is desolate and that residents have requested a street light on Goldsmith at Eight Mile. "It's pitch black at night and you can't even see the entrance," Hetke added.

Police took videos and photos of the muddy area where the woman was found, said Sgt. Charles Nebus of the police department's detective bureau.

Later in the afternoon Thursday, the muddy gravel road was graded by city crews. Hetke said he wasn't surprised.

"The road was pure mud and chuckholes," Hetke said. "They (city personnel) immediately sent someone down to grade it because the media would be out there seeing the area."

City manager Costick said the grading was a coincidence. "Whenever we have a thaw we try to grade the gravel roads. I didn't tell anybody to grade it. It surely was coincidence. We don't think that way."

Leaving kids alone requires preparation on part of parents

By Kim Kemske
special writer

The holidays are long over, the kids are back in school, parents are back to work. And many children are left to let themselves into or out of empty houses and supervise themselves for an hour or more everyday. They are called "latchkey kids" and are usually the children of a family in which both parents work, or live in a single-parent home.

An estimated 5 million to 12 million children between the ages of 7 and 13 in the United States are regularly left at home alone for part of the day.

Age is not the only consideration to determine whether a child should be left alone. A child who is left alone should be able to follow directions, should not be afraid to stay alone, should want to assume responsibility and should be able to solve problems independently.

A child under the age of 6 or 7 should never be left alone. And, of course, a parent or other trusted adult should always be immediately accessible in case of an emergency. A child should not be left alone for any longer than necessary, three hours maximum.

MAKE SURE your children know



exactly what is expected of them while they are home alone. An initial family conference may be scheduled to discuss the arrangements, such as a daily schedule, chores, preparation of a master phone list, and to choose a nearby relative or neighbor who can be contacted in case of emergency.

Some of the rules you may wish to post for children include:

- Keep doors locked at all times.
- Do not let anyone in unless it has been cleared in advance with your parents.
- If someone you have not been

told about comes to the door — a delivery person or even someone you know — DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. Speak through the door to the person and call to check with a parent to see if you can let the person in.

- Never mention that you are home alone on the phone or if someone comes to the door.
- Never give your address to a stranger. Tell the person you will have your parent get back with them if they need the information.

As a parent, be sure your children know how to use the telephone, make sure they know their address and telephone number, post emergency numbers near all telephones in your home.

Whatever type of emergency aid you may need — police, fire, medical — 911 is the number to dial. Be sure your children know to give dispatchers the exact type and location of the emergency and their name. Also instruct them not to hang up until told to do so by the dispatcher because dispatchers may need more information.

Kim Kemske is a crime prevention technician with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Post office sets seminar

The North Suburban Postal Customer Council will present a seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 14 at Roma's of Bloomfield, 2101 Telegraph Road.

The seminar is run by the U.S. Postal Service and will focus on

new postal rates and discounts, and will include sessions of postal information and displays of the latest mailing technology.

For more information, call the Royal Oak Post Office at 546-7109.

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