



A helicopter is used to install a 100-foot utility pole south of I-696, east of Halsted Road.

Installation of pole by chopper a first

A 100-foot Detroit Edison utility pole was lifted above the treetops by helicopter Thursday afternoon, shortly before being installed in Farmington Hills on the south side of I-696, just east of Halsted Road.

The entire process — from the helicopter picking up the pole to setting it in a nine-foot hole — took 17 minutes.

Detroit Edison's first-ever use of a helicopter for pole installation occurred because of the utility's effort to minimize damage to vegetation and prevent traffic disruption on I-696, Edison officials said.

The pole is a part of a new transmission line designed to increase system capacity and reliability and improve customer service in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

The \$2 million project, which eventually will connect to Southfield, was necessitated by increasing electricity demand in the area during the past few years, an Edison spokesman said.

Detroit Edison moved its original route from 12 Mile Road to the freeway in response to community concerns the line would take away from the aesthetics of a planned boulevard along 12 Mile Road.

The entire process — from the helicopter picking up the pole to setting it in a nine-foot hole — took 17 minutes.

Hills liquor sting nabs only 1

By Joanne Mallazewski
staff writer

The best ever. That's the way Farmington Hills police are describing the results of Wednesday's undercover liquor law enforcement operation at the city's 35 package liquor dealers and stores licensed to sell beer and wine.

Only one store, Ruchie's Fruit Market, 33304 12 Mile, was cited for selling alcohol to the department's 18-year-old undercover police cadet, according to Lt. Richard Murphy.

The sting was part of the department's continuing efforts to curtail teen drinking and the sale of alcohol to minors.

"Surely it's a credit to those establishments (that weren't ticketed) that they are educating their employees," William Dwyer, Farmington Hills police chief, said.

But that doesn't mean liquor licenses should rest on their laurels. Dwyer says there could be another undercover sting yet this summer. "I want to put them on notice, but I won't be sending out more letters," he said.

Package liquor dealers and stores licensed to sell beer and wine received two letters in late May warning of the ninth police crackdown. One letter was from Dwyer. The other was a certified letter from the city council. That letter put licenses on notice that action will be taken against any violators nabbed in the sting.

UNDER CITY ordinance, the city

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— William Dwyer
Hills police chief

council has the authority to recommend to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission that a license should be revoked or not renewed because of a licensee's record of selling to minors.

"I just feel with the notice they (licensees) were given, now they may feel they can get lax; that there won't be another enforcement effort until next year. I want to work with them. But I want them to pay attention," Dwyer said.

The crackdown Wednesday again involved the use of an undercover cadet under 21 years of age who tried to buy alcohol. The legal drinking age in Michigan is 21.

As in the past, photographs were taken of the cadet before leaving the police station to show the cadet's clothing and appearance during the sting.

A female employee of the fruit market apparently sold beer to the cadet. The employee was ticketed

They weren't ticketed

The following off-premise liquor and beer and wine sellers were not ticketed in the Farmington Hills Police Department's ninth undercover liquor law crackdown Wednesday:

• A&J Pharmacy, 39281 Grand River; Andy's Country Market, 22595 Middlebelt; Arbor Drugs, 29321 Orchard Lake Road; Arbor Drugs, 37700 12 Mile; BJ's Party Store, 28728 Grand River; Bosco's Party Store, 27618 Orchard Lake Road; Country Ridge Market, 31102 Haggerty.

• Elfron Mulwood Drugs, 35584 Grand River; Farmington Hills Market, 24233 Orchard Lake; Farmington Party Store, 29450 10 Mile; G&J Party Store, 30444 Eight Mile; Grand Square Liquor Shoppe, 38441 Grand River; Grape Vine Party Store, 29970 12 Mile; Jonna's White Shop, 24225 Halsted.

• Kmart, 30800 Orchard Lake; Kroger, 25780 Middlebelt; Kroger, 37550 12 Mile; Last Stop Party Store, 29154 Grand River; Meadow Party Store, 21009 Farmington Road; Mid-Nine Market, 22300 Middlebelt; Mike & Sons Party Store, 31511 13 Mile.

• Pace Membership Warehouse, 24800 Haggerty; Perry Drug Store, 31221 14 Mile; Perry Drug Store, 25970 Middlebelt; Perry Drug Store, 33330 12 Mile; 7-Eleven Store, 22069 Farmington Road; 7-Eleven Store, 22323 Middlebelt; 7-Eleven Store, 29318 Orchard Lake; 7-Eleven Store, 29375 10 Mile. • Tom's Party Store, 20925 Inkster Road; Vineyard's Wine Cellar, 32418 Northwestern Highway; Wal-Mart Party Store, 29010 Eight Mile; Warren Prescriptions, 32910 Middlebelt; Wine Tasters, 30340 Nine Mile.

under city ordinance that prohibits the sale of liquor to minors. City ordinance violation is a simple misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine upon conviction in the 47th District Court of Farmington.

The licensee, Hikmat Amine, will be reported to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. The liquor con-

trol commission has the authority to levy stiff penalties as well as suspend or revoke liquor licenses.

In the last crackdown in December 1990, seven of the city's 41 bars and restaurants licensed to sell alcohol were ticketed. That's until Wednesday's sting, represented the best record since the department began the undercover sweeps.

police/fire calls

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

• CARS DAMAGED

Two cars parked on Edythe Street were damaged with what is believed to be some type of corrosive liquid, June 3-4, according to Farmington Hills police reports.

A 1988 Chevrolet sustained an estimated \$1,500 damage to the hood, roof and trunk. Another car, a 1985 Cadillac, received the same amount of damage.

• CON JOB

An unidentified man walked away from an Amoco gas station, 29435 Orchard Lake Road, \$400 realtor's early Wednesday morning after duped an employee into believing the station owed him money, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The unidentified man told the station's night attendant that he picks up old tires and that the station owed him \$60 for past pickups. The em-

ployee gave the man the money and wrote out a receipt.

The man later went to a Shell gas station, 27831 Orchard Lake Road, and tried to get \$68.40 through the same routine and failed.

• SUMPES DAMAGED

An estimated \$4,000 damage resulted after someone removed a manhole cover at the AT&T office, 32600 Northwestern Highway, and threw chunks of concrete onto the sump pumps below, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

The damage occurred sometime between October 1990 and June 5.

• THEFTS REPORTED

A rear tailgate valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a car on Oxford, June 4. A 20-year-old Wyandotte man was charged with the larceny.

A car phone valued at \$400 was reported stolen from 1989 Honda on Castleridge, June 4-5.

A telephone valued at \$575 was reported stolen from Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 13 Mile, June 5.

Two wire wheel covers valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a car parked at T.J. Maxx, 30955 Orchard Lake Road, June 5.

Eighty-four dollars in cash was reported stolen from the wallet of an employee in the lunchroom at Greenery Care Center, 34225 Grand River, June 4.

A mountain bike valued at \$240 was reported stolen from a garage on King William, June 3-4.

A car phone valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a 1980 Cadillac parked at the Red Roof Inn, 24300

Sincola, June 3-4.

Hubcaps valued at \$400 were reported stolen from a 1989 Cadillac parked at Old Orchard Theater, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, June 1. A lawn mower valued at \$500 was reported stolen from a house on Arden Park, June 2-4.

• DAMAGE REPORTED

A window of a 1989 Pontiac on River Bend was reported broken with a Seargams whiskey bottle resulting in \$300 damage, June 3-4.

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