

Firefighters promoted



Belsky and Bersche: Veteran Farmington Hills firefighter Kevin Bersche (next to Farmington Hills fire truck) will assume the department's new full-time position of EMS coordinator. Bersche, 34, and married with two children, joined the department in 1982. "I've already done this part-time," he said. "This will be a natural progression for me." Bruce Belsky (holding mask), 36, and married with three children, will become a full-time firefighter. He has a different background. He worked for New York Carpet World for 18½ years and has been a paid-on-call firefighter for the past three years. "I got the bug," Belsky said of firefighting. "It's a great feeling to help people and I wanted to do it as a career."



MIKE GARR

Gill sidewalk off until spring

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

One resident calls Farmington Hills' decision not to build a sidewalk this year on Gill Road from Nine Mile to Colfax a good start, but only a start.

"We feel like we've won the first round," said Gill resident Jan Day. "We feel that they didn't put any thought into this at all."

The city had \$40,000 budgeted to build the sidewalk on the east side of Gill this fall. The city's master plan calls for building sidewalks along "major" roads.

To the surprise of some city officials, the plan has had no support and plenty of opposition.

For that reason, city engineers and director of public services Tom Blasell met with about 30 residents whose property would be affected by the sidewalk Sept. 7.

"Since cityhood, any time the city can put down a sidewalk on a major road, it's done," Blasell said.

Blasell said residents had so many concerns about the design, location and upkeep of the sidewalk, that the city decided to meet with residents again and not build it before next spring.

Day said the city and residents

did not see eye to eye on almost any aspect of the proposed sidewalk.

While the city says the sidewalk will improve safety and access to Gill Elementary School for young children, residents say the sidewalk will not be safe because pedestrians could be hit by drivers backing out of driveways. Residents also point out that the school is on the west side of Gill while the sidewalk is planned for the east side.

Residents say that Hi-lows, trucks and other equipment operating at Fendt Builder's Supply would pose a danger to pedestrians.

In addition, many residents are elderly and would have trouble maintaining their share of the sidewalk.

Blasell said that with only 30-45 days where snow stays on the ground in any significant amount, that shouldn't be a problem to maintain. He also said that although a resident must continue to keep a sidewalk cleared once he clears it once, if he does nothing it at all, he is not liable.

Day said residents paid for the paving of Gill Road, unlike other "major" roads where the city paid.

Historical panel seeks items on 1-room schools

Anyone with information about or photographs of one-room schools in the Farmington area — especially the old Noble School, the one that burned down in the 1920s — the Farmington Hills Historical Commission would like to hear from you.

The Historical Society of Michigan has initiated a new society, the Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association, and the local historical commission has joined.

The local group seeks recol-

lections, memorabilia and any pertinent material from anyone who attended one of the former Farmington-area one-room schools: Coleman (or Stone), Fairview, German, Green, Nichols, Noble, Thayer or West Farmington.

Anyone with information should call Kay Briggs (474-4608), or write the Farmington Hills Historical Commission, c/o City Clerk's Office, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills 48336.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

■ AUTO THEFT

A 1979 white GMC pickup worth \$2,500, a red steel and wood flatbed trailer worth \$3,500, an orange Ditch Witch trench tractor worth \$25,000, two wire detectors worth \$3,500, two drills worth \$1,600, and \$20,000 worth of hand tools belonging to Sonitec Co. of Southfield were stolen from Huntman Drive in Farmington Hills Sept. 13-14.

■ BREAK-IN

A \$500 car stereo was stolen from a 1988 maroon Mercury Tracer parked on Beaufort in Farmington Hills during a break-in Sept. 13-14 in which the driver's window was smashed, causing \$200 in damage.

A \$400 Fender electric guitar, a \$50 acoustic guitar and other items totalling \$190 were stolen during a break-in on Clairview in Farmington Hills Sept. 14. A screen in the bathroom window was broken out, causing \$10 in damage.

■ THEFT

A stereo outfit worth \$900 was stolen from a 1993 GMC pickup parked at Bob Sellers on Grand River in Farmington Hills Sept. 10-13.

A red and white Little Wonder gas-powered blower worth \$840, a red and green Power Trim gas edger worth \$300, a red Troy Built gas-powered blower and a black and green Craftsman 18-inch gas-powered chain saw worth \$240 were among items worth \$3,170 stolen from a garage on Parker in Farmington Hills Sept. 11-12.

Two personal checks were stolen from North American Life on 14 Mile in Farmington Hills between July 10 and Sept. 10 and written for \$450 and \$400 and cashed.

A gold necklace worth \$450 was stolen from the Mulwood Apartments on Woodridge East in Farmington Hills Sept. 16.

Wheel covers worth \$60 were stolen off a 1992 Plymouth Voyager parked near T.J. Maxx in Farmington Sept. 16.

A 37-year-old Detroit man was arrested for receiving and concealing stolen property under \$100 after trying to cash in \$72 worth of pop bottles at Perry Drugs in Farmington Sept. 14. The bottles were believed to have been taken from a Coca-Cola delivery truck parked at 7-Eleven. He was also cited for possession of drug paraphernalia after a search of the man's pickup truck turned up a three-inch glass pipe.

■ VANDALISM

A garage window was broken on

Saxony in Farmington, causing \$10 in damage Sept. 14.

One complete wheel cover and the centerpiece of another worth \$250 were stolen from a white 1990 Buick Regal parked at Kleiman, Carney and Greenbaum on Northwest in Farmington Hills Sept. 16.

A diamond ring worth \$475 was reported stolen from a black 1991 Eagle Talon left for service at Bob Saks on Grand River in Farmington Hills Aug. 31 or Sept. 1.

■ BAD CHECKS

Four checks written for a total of \$986.47 to Loehman's on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills for ladies clothing between Aug. 11-16 by a 27-year-old Oak Park woman were from a closed account.

■ ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

A frustrated bandit left empty-handed in an attempted robbery of a Tubby's Sub Shop on Grand River in Farmington Sept. 14. At 2:50 p.m., a man entered the store and ordered subs and handed the clerk a note asking for money. The clerk called the manager, who was told, "You better do this now; I don't want to have to do this." The man held his arm behind his back as if he had a weapon, according to police reports. The man went to bolt the door when the manager dialed police. The man left and fled in a white car, driving through an alley to Lilac Street.

■ ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY

A Livonia man, who was driving with a suspended license, escaped police custody while being transported to the Farmington Public Safety station Sept. 11. The man was pulled over for driving without headlights on Farmington Road around 3:50 a.m. A check revealed the driver had a suspended license. He was placed into the patrol car and driven to the station. Upon arrival, the officer went to open the door and the man ran around to the front of the city offices. He was not handcuffed. A search ensued but was later called off. Police are seeking a warrant.

Man charged in car break-in

A 28-year-old man has been arraigned on a charge of breaking and entering a vehicle Thursday.

Todd Zimmer, whose address is unknown, appeared before Magistrate James Brady at 47th District Court where a not guilty plea was entered on his behalf. Preliminary examination is 8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.

Bond was set at \$2,500. Maximum penalty for breaking and entering of an auto is five years in jail.

At 4:05 p.m., a man was seen leaning in through a window of an Ford Aerostar van parked in the Metro MLS parking lot on Drake.

A resident saw the man and asked him what he was doing. Police were called.

When confronted, he fled south on foot. A police chase ensued through a wooded area between Chatham Hills and Heritage Condominiums, but the man escaped. Zimmer was arrested after being identified through a photo line up.

Some 11 burglaries have been reported since Aug. 22 in the Chatham Hills area. The perpetrator has entered homes through an unlocked door or window and made off with purses or wallets containing cash and credit cards.

Is Your Vision On Target?

If you want your vision on target, consider radial keratotomy. This procedure can lessen or remove many instances, even chronic nearsightedness. The improvement is permanent — imagine not more wearing (or losing) glasses, no more hassle putting in or cleaning contact lenses.

At the Castleman Eye Center, we are offering a free seminar on RK and the new technique of treating myopia, the Excimer Laser*

FREE LASER AND RK SEMINAR
SEPTEMBER 22nd - 6:00 p.m.
New-Hilton (near 275)

For your convenience, Evening appointments available

Castleman
Eye Center
14050 Dix-Toledo
Southgate
283-0500

Watch for us on
WXON TV20
Sun. Sept. 26
8:30 a.m.

* The Excimer Laser is investigatory in the United States and Canada.