

Woman hit, killed attempting to cross Orchard Lake Road

By BILL COULTANT
STAFF WRITER

A 51-year-old Wixom woman was trying to walk across Orchard Lake near the I-696 interchange was struck by two cars and killed at about 10 p.m. Jan. 19.

Farmington Hills police Sgt. Ray Cranston said Janice Kattoual had been on her way home from Detroit on I-696 when her car began to have problems. She pulled off on the westbound ramp at Orchard Lake and made it to the top before the car quit in the frigid cold.

She then walked to a Mobil gas station on the east side of Orchard Lake Road, north of the interchange, to warm up. An attendant at the Mobil station said Kattoual asked where she could get a wrecker and was told the Shell or Maraton stations also at the intersection of 12 Mile and Orchard Lake had tow trucks. She then crossed all of the northbound lanes of Orchard Lake about 120 feet south of the stop light at 12 Mile and stood on the concrete median, Cranston said.

Witnesses told police she then stepped on to what appeared to be a snow-covered portion of the median that turned out to be just

snow that had been plowed into a pile.

She slipped and lost her balance and was struck by a Ford Escort heading south in the left lane, according to witnesses. She went over the roof of the Escort and was struck by a second car, a Dodge Intrepid, that was following close behind. Cranston said both drivers stopped near the accident and were wearing seat belts. Although one of the drivers had consumed some alcohol, that did not appear to have a bearing on the accident, he said. The accident is still under investigation.

Cranston said some minor charges could come out of the investigation, but added that no serious charges — such as negligent homicide — are likely to result. There were 21 accidents in Farmington Hills during Wednesday's record low temperatures, said Cranston. In all, 60 people were involved, and 56 of them were wearing seat belts. Of those, only one motorist suffered injuries, which were minor.

Three of the four people who weren't wearing seat belts were injured. "I think that's a pretty good indication of how important seat belts are," he said.

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

FIRES

An electrical problem in a heater that was being used to warm the engine of a 1982 VW Rabbit diesel car caused a fire in the car at 8:05 p.m. Jan. 17 on Albion in Farmington Hills. The fire caused \$600 in damage to the car.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 2 put out an engine fire in a 1983 Buick at 7:26 a.m. Jan. 17 on Westcott Crescent in Farmington Hills. The fire caused \$500 in damage.

A dryer at the Woodview Apartments on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills caught fire at 8:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Hills firefighters from Station 3 arrived to find an occupant trying to put it out with pails of water. He was treated for smoke inhalation and the fire was put out. Damage to contents was estimated at \$500.

THEFT

Kenwood stereo equipment worth \$1,350 was stolen from a gray 1990 Honda Accord from a Sunshine Acura on Grand River in Farmington Hills Jan. 14-15. A 22-inch gray and black Sears

Inwmow (\$350) and three snow shovels (\$50) were stolen from a shed at the Marion Oakland West apartments on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills between Dec. 21 and Jan. 18.

A resident on Green Hill in Farmington Hills told police 23 personal checks stolen on Dec. 20 have been cashed at various locations in Ohio.

A 400 Alpine AM/FM cassette stereo and 12 cassettes to tapes (\$150) were stolen from a red 1988 Ford Ranger pickup parked on Trenton Court in Farmington Hills Jan. 19.

A black 1978 Arctic Cat snowmobile worth \$500 was stolen from Tilton Top Soil on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills between Dec. 1 and Jan. 17.

Jewelry worth \$1,680 was stolen from a Birchwood residence in Farmington Jan. 17. Among the items taken from a jewelry box that was broken into were a 14 karat gold bone necklace (\$300), a pearl necklace (\$200), a quarter ounce gold panda coin (\$150), a 14-karat gold rope necklace (\$300) and a gold bracelet (\$200). The theft is believed to have taken place during a real estate open house.

A manager at Domino's Pizza on Grand River in Farmington re-

ported \$160 in cash missing from store receipts Jan. 15.

BREAK-INS

The back door of a residence on Belfast in Farmington Hills was kicked in, causing \$150 in damage, and a 19-inch Magnavox color TV worth \$275, a \$180 Samsung VCR, \$250 Nikon 35mm camera, \$1,200 L.C. Penney camera and \$200 Remington shot gun were stolen Jan. 19. A crow bar was found at the scene.

A man's wallet (\$50) with ID and \$19 was stolen during the break-in of a Pontiac Transport at the Max Express Grill on Northwestern Highway Jan. 19. The driver's side window was shattered, causing \$150 in damage.

FRAUD

Three Technophon portable phones with in-car chargers worth \$1,500 were rented with a \$150 cash deposit Dec. 13 and never returned to Cellnet Cellular on Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. Two other Technophon portable phones with chargers worth

\$1,100 were rented Aug. 24, 1993, with a \$100 cash deposit and never returned to Cellnet.

MARIJUANA POSSESSION

A 17-year-old Farmington Hills boy was arrested for possession of marijuana after Farmington police pulled over the Ford Festiva he was driving on southbound Farmington Road Jan. 19. Officers stopped the vehicle near Colfax when it was noticed the windows and license plate were covered with snow and frost. A strong odor of marijuana was detected. A consent search turned up a paper bag with two plastic bags containing what was later field-tested as 121.8 grams of marijuana. A warrant is being obtained for possession of marijuana with intent to deliver. Police are also seeking forfeiture of the car and cash (\$40) found on the driver.

CAR FIRE

Farmington public safety officers extinguished an engine fire in a 1980 Olds Delta 88 parked near Mobil Gas on Grand River in Farmington Jan. 18. The fire was put out with an extinguisher.

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EXERCISE & AGING

If you are age 70 and beyond, what exercise is best for you? Fatigue in the afternoon, or after 2-3 hours shopping, is part of the aging process. You should not expect stamina sufficient to allow you to keep up with children in their 40-50's and grandchildren in their teens to thirties.

Examine traditions you have set up for family and friends. You may need to change responsibility for large meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, or for housing, feeding and entertaining the extended family to ensure reunions and renewal of kinship. You should consider slowing the tempo of travel and business.

As for personal exercise, biking is dangerous, and treadmill biking is excellent but incurs expense, requires transportation, can prove a hazard when you move over wet marble floors, and because of competing uses, offers only a limited schedule. In contrast, walking is sound medically and adapts to your circumstances readily.

If you walk 20 minutes a day at a pace vigorous for you but not pressing, you are acting appropriately to maintain the function of your heart, lungs, joints, bones and muscles. Go outdoors when weather permits, to malls when the hazards of winter prevail, or in the home if no other alternative is at hand.

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