

Illegally parked woman to face trial

BY BILL COUTANT

A Farmington Hills woman has found that parking in a handicapped space can be one big hassle.

Anita Larise Tucker, 35, was bound over to face felony charges in circuit court Feb. 28 stemming from an attempt to issue her a handicapped parking violation — a \$100 ticket.

Judge Fred Harris found enough evidence to bind Tucker over to circuit court after testimony by the Farmington Hills police officer who arrested her and the handicapped parking enforcement volunteer who tried to give her a parking ticket Jan. 26.

Tucker's attorney, Judith Gracey, said her client would have waived Monday's preliminary exam except that Oakland County assistant prosecutor Thad Morgan wanted to add two felonious assault charges in addition to existing charges of malicious destruction of police property and resisting arrest.

For the added charges of assault and attempted assault, Tucker could face four years and two years, respectively.

Bill Shortt, 72, and a retired volunteer in the handicapped parking enforcement program for the past three years, said he and his partner, Stanley Leeman, had spotted Tucker's blue Ford Festiva in a handicapped parking space at the First of America bank on Orchard Lake Road at about 3:30 p.m.

Offered to move car

Tucker came out of the bank and offered to move her car, he testified, telling him she hadn't been aware that she was illegally parked.

It is department policy to park the police car, marked as a police car for handicapped parking enforcement, behind the vehicle being ticketed in order not to take up another parking space, Shortt said. A sign with the handicapped parking logo

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was in front of the space and clearly visible, he said.

"We had already started writing the ticket when she came out," Shortt said.

When Gracey asked why the police car was parked behind Tucker's, Shortt denied it was to block her exit.

Tucker managed to move her car by "see-sawing it" and parked in a legal, nonhandicapped space two spaces over, Shortt said. Leeman then moved the police car behind her car after Tucker had again entered the bank.

Shortt, who was standing between the rear bumper of Tucker's car and the front side of the police car, continued writing the ticket.

"Why did you park behind her car if it was legally parked?" Gracey said.

Shortt, who had said there were plenty of legal spaces available when he began writing the ticket, said they parked behind Tucker's car because he and Leeman did not want to take up a parking space.

Backed into him

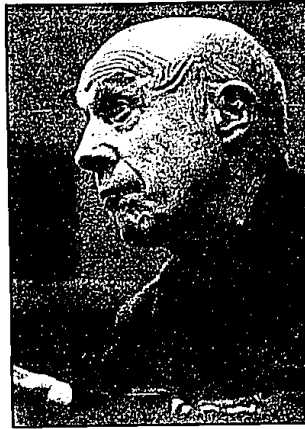
He said when Tucker came out of the bank "maybe a minute and a half later," she jumped into her car, started the engine and backed the car into him and the police car.

"She backed up abruptly and hit my left leg," he said.

She then managed to drive the car away. At that point, Hills police officers tracked



Anita Tucker



William Shortt

down the car, using information provided by Shortt and Leeman, to the Botsford Terrace Apartments, where Tucker lives.

When police officers John Regorah and Mike Ciaramitaro arrived along with a wrecker to impound the car for evidence at about 5:40 p.m., Tucker came out of her apartment, got in the car, started the engine and screamed "you aren't taking my car," Ciaramitaro testified.

Ciaramitaro, a five-year veteran of the force, said it was at that point Tucker locked her car doors and tried to drive it away, despite it being surrounded by a parked car, a police car and the wrecker.

"When I saw her drive on the (snow-covered) lawn, I believed she didn't have any common sense," he said.

'I was scared'

Ciaramitaro said he tried to open the door while Regorah went to get a Slim-Jim to help open the locked doors, when Tucker came toward him off of the lawn. He again grabbed the driver's side door handle, but the car continued, forcing him to back pedal, he said, adding that he was holding onto the car for balance.

"I was scared," he said. "I thought if I let go that I would be run over."

He then drew his gun and ordered Tucker to "freeze," he said.

"Had you come to arrest her?" Gracey asked.

"No," he said.

"Did you ever tell her she was under arrest?"

"When I pulled out the gun and ordered her to stop she was under arrest," he said.

Gracey also questioned the actual arrest, which took place on Grand River a few minutes after Tucker had driven away and the officers had followed in separate cars. They had then broken a window and used pepper gas to subdue Tucker before unlocking the car door and "dragging her out" of the car, Ciaramitaro testified.

"Did you slam her down on the ground?" Gracey said.

"No. We put her down on the ground," he said.

"Didn't you say you dragged her out of her car?"

"We used force."

Ciaramitaro said although police used only the force required to subdue Tucker, because she was resisting, "it couldn't be done gingerly."

Tucker, who shook her head often during the officer's testimony, remains free on bond.



Edsall Ellison

Man gets boot camp in office break-ins

Returning to the scene of the crime proved the undoing for a 21-year-old Southfield man.

Oakland Circuit Court Judge Denise Langford-Morris sentenced Edsall Franklin Ellison to prison boot camp in lieu of part of a 2-10 year prison sentence for breaking into and entering an office building on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills — twice.

Ellison, who had been in the Oakland County jail, is still awaiting sentencing in Wayne County for violating his probation on a conviction for a break-in there.

Hills police arrested Ellison at about 8 a.m. Dec. 29 near the office building and recovered office equipment that had replaced more than \$600 worth of office equipment he had stolen Dec. 19.

The boot camp lasts 90 days, after which the remainder of his sentence will be determined.

Tax estimate for homeowners

(for full year of tax changes)

Proposal A has more than 900 words and affects six sections of the Michigan Constitution, but the words "higher sales tax" are what many voters are keying on as the March 15 election rolls around. The statutory plan outlines a long list of tax financing rules and regulations but a higher income tax is the major element of the plan. The bottom line is that homeowners want to know how the plans affect them. Grab a calculator and pencil along with your SEV (state equalized valuation) and personal income information. Then follow the chart below step by step to find out how you fare in the tax wars. Most tax changes, under both the statutory and ballot plans, take effect May 1. Exception: the real estate transfer tax would take effect next Jan. 1, 1995. Your principal residence will be taxed at 5 mills and assessments will be capped if Proposal A passes March 15, and at 12 mills if it doesn't. All nonhomestead property will be taxed at 24 mills. If you live in a condo you get the lower rate, too. The Treasury form says: "If you own and live in a unit in a multiple unit dwelling or in a multi-purpose building, give the percentage of the entire building that your unit (your principal residence) occupies." Both Proposal A (ballot plan) and the backup statutory plan, will raise \$10.2 billion for public schools. Both will set a short-term goal of providing \$5,000 per pupil in every district.

STATUTORY PLAN (BACKUP)

• Homestead SEV x 0.012 \$
(vacation, 2nd homes)
• Nonhomestead SEV x 0.024 \$

• SEV of all property x HI mills () * \$

• [1994 joint taxable income minus \$300 per personal exemption] x 0.014 \$

• Packs of cigarettes purchased monthly x 12 x 0.15 \$

• Monthly out of state long distance charges x 12 x 0.04 \$

Only for people selling their homes
• Real estate sale price x 0.01 (only if selling property during year) \$

• TOTAL TAX CHANGE (i.e. sum all prior lines) \$

• 1993 school operating millage (insert local millage here) x 1993 SEV ** \$

• NET TAX CHANGE (subtract 1993 school tax from total change) \$

** School Operating Millage

• Clawsonville - 0.04133 • Plymouth-Canton - 0.0333107
• Farmington - 0.031513 • Redford Union - 0.027018
• Garden City - 0.0417738 • Southfield - 0.0263676
• Livonia - 0.03105 • Wayne/Westland - 0.037143

• Farm, Statutory = insert 0.0085
• Liv, Ballot = insert 0.00108

• Farm, Statutory = insert 0.00842
• Farm, Ballot = insert 0.01624

Source: Michigan House of Representatives/Livonia Public Schools

The net tax change does not reflect the impact on your federal income tax nor does it reflect the impact of your Michigan Homestead Credit



BALLOT PLAN (PROPOSAL A)

• Homestead SEV x 0.006 \$
(vacation, 2nd homes)
• Nonhomestead SEV x 0.024 \$

• Homestead SEV x HI mills () * \$

• 1994 joint taxable income x 0.002 \$

• Packs of cigarettes purchased monthly x 12 x 0.50 \$

• Monthly out of state long distance charges x 12 x 0.06 \$

Only for people selling their homes
• Real estate sale price x 0.02 (only if selling property during year) \$

• Joint taxable income x corresponding percentage from table at immediate left x 0.02 \$

• TOTAL TAX CHANGE (sum) \$

• 1993 school operating millage (insert local millage here) x 1993 SEV ** \$

• NET TAX CHANGE (subtract 1993 school tax from total change) \$

• Farm, Statutory = insert 0.0085
• Liv, Ballot = insert 0.00108

• Farm, Statutory = insert 0.00842
• Farm, Ballot = insert 0.01624

Source: Michigan House of Representatives/Livonia Public Schools

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Clarification: A chart in the Feb. 7 edition of the Farmington Observer should have said the Farmington Public Schools hold-harmless rate for homestead property is 0.01624 under the March 15 ballot plan, and 0.00842 under the statutory plan. The chart above reflects those figures.