



Come to rest: A recycling truck, above, crashed into a vacant gas station at the southeast corner of Grand River and Purdue after being hit by a tow truck. At left, Farmington Hills firefighters Bruce Belsky (left), Pete Poertner (second from right) and Inspector Larry Henderson work to remove the injured driver from the tow truck.

1 man killed, another hurt as trucks collide

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Redford Township man was killed after the recycling truck he was driving across Grand River onto Purdue in Farmington Hills was hit by a tow truck heading east on Grand River Friday morning.

The driver of the Waste Management Inc. truck, Jerry Chap, 25, of Redford, was pronounced dead Friday morning at Botsford General Hospital.

Police, fire and EMS crews worked for about 45 minutes to free Nicholas Hall, 24, of Southfield from the Hadley's tow truck that hit Chap's truck and then crashed into a power pole.

Hall was listed in critical but stable condition Friday afternoon and was undergoing surgery at Botsford for a broken left thigh bone and other injuries.

"Speed was a factor," said Hills traffic supervisor Sgt. Ray Cranston. "We have conflicting reports on whether he (Chap) stopped at the stop sign or rolled through."

Chap, who was picking up recyclable materials in the neighborhood, had driven his truck west on Grand River and was turning south on the cut-through to Purdue Street when the tow truck driven by Hall struck at about 10 a.m., sending the recycling truck

crashing into the bay of a former gas station where it came to rest against a car and a van that were being stored there.

Chap fell from the truck, which is not designed with a seat for the driver. Police believe Chap was struck in the head by a power pole, causing the fatal head injury, Cranston said.

Sean Strickland of Detroit witnessed the accident from the Car Gallery dealership across Grand River.

"He (Chap) didn't stop," Strickland said. "I thought he was going to make it across." Firefighters from Stations 1, 2 and 3 had to use newly pur-

chased mechanical jaws to free Hall, who was alert and conscious when they arrived at the scene. The roof of the tow truck had to be removed and the dash board "rolled up" to free Hall's legs.

The two right lanes on the south side of Grand River had to be closed off for most of the day as police reconstructed the accident and crews worked to add support to the former gas station to get the truck, car and van out of it.

Cranston said police would present evidence to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, which will determine charges will be brought against Hall.



Cable cut: District chief Bob Rebtoy (left) watches Farmington Hills firefighters cut a support cable near the smashed tow truck.

Mayor from 1A

Paul Blizman, chairman of the planning commission, said speaking only for himself, he would oppose the change, adding that he questioned the timing and not discussing the idea with residents.

Richard Frankel, a member of the city's charter commission when it drew up the weak mayor/strong city manager system for the city, said that now as 20 years ago there is no demand for a change.

"I'm certain there's no groundswell for it," he said. Masie Kurzeja, a longtime resident and community activist,

called the idea an "ego trip" for council members. Former council member Paul Sowerby called the idea "ill advised."

After several others talked against the idea and council members discussed it, they agreed to schedule a public hearing at the June 13 regular meeting.

In other action, the council: Discussed possible ballot proposals to pay for a multipurpose ice arena. Council watcher Masie Silver called a plan by councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio and councilman Terry Sover that calls for renewing the parks and

recreation millage early "deceitful." The council discussed a ballot proposal that would just cover the cost of the arena (up to \$6 million) with bond attorney John Everhardus. The council will take up the issue again at tonight's regular meeting.

Heard a presentation on the police department's annual report.

Adopted a resolution requesting the state maintain "traditional formulas" for state revenue sharing.

Renamed the Mercy Center to the Farmington Hills Activities Center.

Seminar's entrance ramp to info superhighway

The Farmington Hills branch of the Community Library will host a breakfast seminar on the so-called "information superhighway" at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 17.

Library staff will explain the

advantages of using Internet and other information sources in providing needed business data.

The seminar is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corp. Alliance,

composed of the EDC, the library, Oakland Community College and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Register for breakfast by calling 553-0300.

ON THE AGENDA

Below are highlights from the agendas of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Hall,
474-6115
7:30 p.m. Monday, May 16

Council chambers

Agenda items include:

■ Consideration of a cost hearing for road rehabilitation and drainage improvements for Woodcreek Farms subdivision.

■ Consideration of approval of ice arena project language for a ballot question, bonding proposition and related issues.

■ Consideration of appointments to boards and commissions.

■ Consideration of approval of 1994-95 water supply system rates.

■ Consideration of approval to restructure 1994-95 sewage disposal system rates.

■ Consideration of approval of award of bid for Woodcreek Farms subdivision road rehabilitation and drainage improvements to Cadillac Asphalt Paving Co. in the amount of \$990,032.33.

■ Consideration of approval of hiring architect and construction manager for preliminary design drawings for ice arena project.

Farmington City Hall
474-5500
8 p.m. Monday, May 16

Agenda items include:

■ Request for a proclamation for 40th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington May 21.

■ Purchase of a computer.

■ Consider bids for firefighting equipment.

■ Consider bids for brush clipper.

■ Sale of clear plastic bags.

■ Engineering payment sewer improvement project.

■ Request for authorization to acquire financing for equipment purchases.

■ Application for 1995 Municipal Credit Program.

Public Hearing

Farmington Public Schools
1994-95 proposed budget
Lewis Schulman
Administration Building
473-3300
6:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 17

Agenda items include:

■ Receiving public comment and testimony regarding the 1994-95 budget.

Public Hearing Truth in Taxation
Lewis Schulman
Administration Building
473-3300
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 17

■ Receiving public comment and testimony regarding the proposed millage rate.

Farmington Board of Education
Lewis Schulman
Administration Building
489-3300
8 p.m. Tuesday, May 17

Agenda items include:

■ Presentation by Wood Creek elementary School.

■ Election information on Oakland Schools Board of Education.

■ Study session on conflict resolution and student code of conduct.

■ Textbook/curriculum recommendation for middle school language arts program.

■ Textbook/curriculum recommendation for science.

■ Update on elementary school report card.

IAX FALL 1994 COLLECTION SHOW

Meet Designer Ron Leal
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Collection Sportswear
Wednesday, May 18

Livonia

Friday, May 20
Birmingham

Join us for this special
showing of new designs
from Ron Leal for Jax.
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with the fit and style you'll need
for an inspired fall wardrobe.

SIZES 4-16

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