



Accident aftermath: A Farmington Hills police officer snaps a photo of the 1994 Pontiac Grand Am that hit a 17-year-old Harrison High student Tuesday morning.

Teen hit by car, seriously hurt

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A popular Farmington Hills teen-ager was seriously injured Tuesday morning when she was struck by a car while trying to cross Middlebelt Road south of 11 Mile.

The young woman, Zena Hermiz, 16, was struck by a 1994 Pontiac Grand Am on Middlebelt at the corner of Gramercy at 7:05 a.m.

Police said the impact of the crash sent the girl through the car's windshield up to her waist before she then fell onto the pavement at the center line.

She was taken to Bedford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and stabilized before being

flown by helicopter to the Moti Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Doctors performed surgery for several hours.

The girl was in critical condition Wednesday morning.

"There is nothing to indicate the driver was speeding or that her lights weren't on," said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Hills police traffic supervisor.

It was dark and there was a light rain at the time of the accident, Cranston said. The car's driver, Teresa Gough, 28, of Farmington Hills, was on her way to work in Redford.

Gough suffered minor cuts from the shattered windshield glass on her face and right hand. She was treated at the scene.

Police believe the teen may have been walking to a girlfriend's house to get a ride to Harrison High School on 12 Mile Road. Because of the way the girl was hit and the nature of her injuries, police believe she was running across the street.

Although a school bus for Harrison leaves from East Middle School, which is just south of the accident scene on the east side of Middlebelt, police confirmed that the girl does not normally take that bus.

Harrison assistant principal Norman Dickson described Hermiz as active and popular. She is Harrison's representative on the Farmington/Farmington

Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council, which is active in issues of diversity.

The teen had severe head injuries as well as internal injuries and several broken bones, police said. She lost a great deal of blood as well.

The driver was wearing a seat belt.

Cranston said the area does not have a high accident rate. In fact, Hills police spent the week of Oct. 10-16 enforcing the speed and traffic regulations in the area of the school, as they normally do early in the school year.

"There weren't many violations," Cranston said.

COUNTY COMMISSION: 19TH DISTRICT

Wolf hasn't forgotten city government work

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes being a county commissioner has been akin to having a perpetual guest spot on "What's My Line?"

"That's one of the common questions I'd get, 'What does a county commissioner do?'" said Oakland County Commissioner Donn Wolf.

To hear Wolf talk, plenty. He'll undoubtedly convey those tasks and accomplishments to voters in the coming weeks as he seeks a fourth two-year term, running against Democratic challenger Kurt Lopez.

The election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Wolf represents the 19th District, which includes Farmington Hills south of 11 Mile and all of Farmington.

The past few years have been busy ones for the 27-member commission, Wolf said.

The county wiped out a \$24 million deficit and improved its bond ratings. Also, the commission has been able to address local concerns.

Farmington and Farmington Hills presented a few of their own.

Farmington hadn't received an increase for retaining Farmington Road for nearly 10 years. Wolf helped arrange a meeting with city officials and the Road Commission of Oakland County.

The city received a 3-percent increase this year for its upkeep of the county road.

"It's not as much as we wanted," Wolf said. "You never get as much as you want. I know when I talked to (City Manager) Frank Lauffhoff and a few council members, they said 'at least get us going in the right direction.'"

Wolf also worked with the road commission to alleviate a traffic hazard on 12 Mile Road near Harrison High. A hill was removed to improve visibility after a fatal accident involving a student occurred there three years.

Through Wolf's efforts, the road commission put in a light on Shawwassee and Nine Mile. Such progress signals a change in county attitudes toward the Farming-



Donn Wolf

ton area, Wolf said.

"For a long time we were the orphans out here and one reason was population," Wolf said. "Now we're becoming the center of the population."

While a county commissioner is seldom the center of attention, he has to have his pulse on many things.

Wolf is past president of Michigan Association of Counties. He's also on the energy committee for the National Association of Counties, which is trying to curb landfill use for garbage brought in from Canada.

Wolf served on Farmington Hills council for eight years and was mayor. He lives in Stone Creek subdivision with his wife, Shirley. The couple has five grown children and nine grandkids.

Wolf works as a regional and governmental executive for Detroit Edison, primarily in Washtenaw County.

"I've never forgotten the experience of city government," Wolf said. "That's why I enjoy getting hills taken down and lights put up."

He's going all out for his reelection bid. His re-election committee is a Oakland County GOP who's who list, including Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Richard Headlee and state Rep. Jan Dolan.

Wolf said he doesn't know much about his opponent, Kurt Lopez. He's tried to call him, but has been unsuccessful.

Assistant city manager to leave Farmington post

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

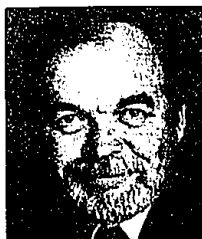
Robert Schultz never had to say much. His work often spoke louder than he had to as Farmington assistant city manager.

Schultz is retiring from the post he's held for 10 years. His last official day is Nov. 4. A reception is planned that day in Farmington City Council Chambers.

His position has been filled by Bill Richards, who is a former personnel director and assistant city manager for the city of Wayne.

Schultz, 60, is stepping down to care for his wife of 36 years, Mary, who is battling cancer. He attended his last city council meeting Monday.

"Bob, whenever we lose someone from here, it's like losing a member of our family," Mayor Arnold Campbell said. "I want to thank you for all you've done for



Bob Schultz

the community."

Said Schultz: "It indeed has been more like a family than I would've guessed 10 years ago."

During his 10 years, Schultz worked with city managers Robert Deadman and Frank Lauffhoff.

Schultz paid tribute to Deadman at the longtime city manager's retirement gala by reading a poem he had written for his boss.

His writing ability and mathematical skills helped the city capture between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in block grant money.

Schultz has been instrumental in the emergence of the Downtown Development Authority. He's also been a Shell-answer man on city ordinances, state funding and other tax issues.

Prior to joining Farmington, Schultz worked at the University of Michigan Extension Services. He has an extensive background in education and teaching.

The Farmington post was his first in city government.

"If you look at Bob, he's been a teacher all of his life," Lauffhoff said. "That's what Bob has been doing here... I couldn't ask for a better person to work with."

Step up to the mikes: Council, critics sound off on new system

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Farmington City Council had a sound debut Monday.

No, it wasn't a Broadway production, but the first gathering with the new sound system in place. According to critics, everything came across loud and clear.

"It works very well," said long-time council observer Nancy Leonard. "For the first time in a long time, I can hear everything you say. Not too loud, not too soft."

"Except what's his face there in the gray suit," added Leonard, referring to Councilman Dick Tupper. "You lean back too far."

The city installed the system for those who are hearing-impaired as mandated by the Rehabilitation

Act acts approved in recent years.

Each council member has a stationary microphone. Also, there is a mike on the floor for residents to speak into during public comments and a remote mike for department directors.

Two speakers help amplify voices throughout the council chambers. The system costs \$6,616.

Council proceedings have been conducted without a sound system.

At first, council members appeared a little shocked at the reverberation of their own voices. Some of them also looked like they were afraid the small black microphones were going to bite them.

After awhile, they were having a

little fun with their new toy.

City Manager Frank Lauffhoff gave Leonard a small amplifier with an ear plug. She wanted to hear more than a casual greeting to test it.

Councilwoman Joanne McShane pretended to whisper an aside to Mayor Arnold Campbell about "that woman in the back row." Leonard, who sits in the last row, said she heard it.

"It's very sensitive," Lauffhoff said.

Farmington Hills City Council knows about that. Last year, a brouhaha arose after Hills councilwoman Joanne Smith allegedly whispered an unflattering comment about a resident, which was picked up by the mike.

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