

Officer's cool helps collar suspect in armed robbery

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Some good police work by a Farmington Hills sergeant was key in helping police nab a robbery suspect.

Hills police Sgt. Tim Connor, 38, was leaving headquarters at 11 p.m. on May 19. He drove north on Orchard Lake and west on 12 mile in pursuit of a black 1986 Ford Mustang.

Connor saw such a car heading west on 12 mile, made a U-turn, and called in to dispatch while maintaining his distance until backup units could arrive.

He followed the car, identifying the license plate as the one identified by a witness to the robbery.

The Mustang turned onto I-96 heading east. Undercover officers

caught up with the Mustang and surrounded it on the southbound Lodge freeway in Southfield.

At that point, the car was pulled over and the driver and passenger surrendered without incident.

"I was very impressed with the way Sgt. Connor handled the situation," said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer. "He was cool and calm, he spotted the car, and then waited for backup. Some officers make

the mistake of not waiting. In an armed robbery it's policy to call in backup."

The driver of the car, John Robert Comstock, 27, of Ferndale was arrested and charged with armed robbery. Magistrate James Brady set bond at \$100,000. Comstock remains in the Oakland County Jail. He faces a May 20

charge. Comstock, on parole from Jackson Prison since January of 1994

for a robbery and assault, also faces armed robbery charges in Centerline and Troy.

Comstock's passenger has not been charged.

Clerks at the restaurant said the lone robber acted as if he had a gun hidden under his T-shirt and demanded they empty the two cash drawers. One drawer was

already empty. There was \$95 in the other, which officers recovered at the time of the arrest.

Police believe the crime is drug-related. A similar spree of robberies in January resulted in the arrest of a Hills man, 24, which was also drug-related.

"That is becoming a bigger problem," Dwyer said.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

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

FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 4 responded to a grill fire on a patio at the Country Ridge Apartments on Crest Forest in Farmington Hills at 5:14 p.m. May 21. Retired Detroit Battalion Fire Chief Al Abdullah had already extinguished the fire with dry chemical extinguishers when firefighters arrived. A defective propane hose to the grill appears to be the cause. Damage was estimated at \$500.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RUNS

Farmington Hills firefighters responded to 114 calls during the week of May 14-21. The heavy week of activity included 49 runs May 15-16 (43 percent of all runs), 67 medical emergencies (59 percent), 10 fires (9 percent), 13 rescue calls (11 percent) and seven service calls (6 percent).

VANDALISM

A red 1986 Chevy parked at Marmaduke's on Haggerty in Farmington Hills was keyed May 18-19 causing \$250 in damage.

A red 1993 Chevy Baretta parked in a lot on Eight Mile was scratched with sand paper (\$250) May 19. A piece of the sand paper was found next to the car.

A Farmington man, 42, was arrested after the driver's side window was broken on a Chevrolet Nova traveling on Gill Road May 21. The driver said he saw a man urinating by a tree and sounded the car's horn. The driver made a U-turn to see if the man was still there when the car was struck by a piece of wood. Farmington po-

lice tracked down the man through the registration of an abandoned truck nearby.

The windshield of a white 1989 Dodge van parked at Freedom Village on Freedom in Farmington Hills May 20 was broken (\$300).

The front windshield was broken (\$225) on a red 1988 Ford Escort parked on St. Francis in Farmington Hills May 20-21.

A double-pane window was broken (\$200) at a residence on Chelsea Crossing in Farmington Hills May 20-21.

The driver's side front panel and window of a black 1995 Jaguar parked on Bridal path in Farmington Hills were damaged (\$950) May 21 by an older white van that ran into the car in the owner's driveway. The van left the scene and Hills police later stopped a white 1980 Toyota and arrested two Hills men, 22 and 25.

A red 1990 Chevy Baretta parked at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills was scratched (\$250) May 20.

THEFTS

A 1993 Silver Marlin 21-speed mountain bike worth \$2,000 was stolen from Sanders on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills May 17.

A \$500 transline was stolen from a residence on Kendallwood in Farmington Hills May 20-21.

Golf clubs (\$700), baseball equipment (\$115) and a \$30 wallet were stolen from a white 1989 Toyota Camry parked on Woodfield in Farmington Hills May 22.

A seven-piece furniture set (\$5,000) and a check for \$1,200 were stolen from a residence on Southfarm in Farmington Hills March 13.

Four wheel covers (\$200) were stolen from a black 1993 Cadillac Deville parked at Northwestern Vacuum on Northwestern in Farmington Hills May 22.

A \$400 car phone and \$130 pair of sunglasses were stolen from a black 1994 Ford Explorer parked at 5500's on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills May 17-18.

A TV, VCR and other items (\$10,000 total) were stolen from a storage garage on Sinacolo in Farmington Hills May 1-22 after the lock was cut off.

A cellular phone, leather jacket, tennis racket and other items (\$2,090) were stolen from a black 1991 Mazda Navajo parked on Old Timber in Farmington Hills May 21-22.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Farmington police arrested a Detroit man, 45, for drunken driving on Nine Mile near Gill May 20. Police stopped the 1986 Renault Alliance after it was clocked traveling 86 mph on M-5. The driver's license was suspended. The man had a blood alcohol level of .15 percent. A level of .1 percent is above the legal limit to drive in Michigan.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 35, for drunken driving at 8:20 p.m. May 20 on eastbound 10 Mile at Grand River after the white 1992 Dodge Ram van he was driving pulled in front of a Hills police car, almost hitting it. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .23 percent.

HOUSE PARTY

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 18, for violating the city's ordinance against house parties where alcohol is served to minors. The arrest took place at 11:40 p.m. May 19 at a house on Brittany. Officers found about 20

teens drinking at the house. The parents of the man arrested were out of town.

ROBBERY

A woman described as in her 20s, white, with brown eyes, long brown hair, light skin and heavy makeup snatched a \$500 gold necklace from the neck of another woman in the parking lot of Player's on 10 Mile after the two argued in the lot at 12:35 a.m. May 21. The woman then drove off in a gray 1993 Dodge Shadow.

BREAK-INS

The rear window of a gray 1991 Ford Escort parked on Oxford in Farmington Hills was broken causing \$400 in damage and a \$500 Panasonic stereo, \$900 amp, \$400 CD changer and other items worth \$1,000 were stolen May 20-21.

The driver's side window of a 1993 Olds Cutlass parked at EDS on Commerce in Farmington Hills was broken out (\$100) and a \$220 radar detector and \$100 pair of sunglasses were stolen May 22.

EMBEZZLEMENT

A Detroit woman, 36, was arrested for embezzlement from the Target store on Grand River in Farmington Hills May 21. The woman, who worked as a check-out clerk, only rang up some of the items of a customer, but not others, including a microwave oven and clothing worth a total of \$552.18.

See POLICE, 9A

Open Memorial Day 10am - 5pm

4 Seasons

Fireplace & Barbecue

SAVE NOW THIS HOLIDAY

Sunday - Monday - Tuesday

ARKLA BROILMASTER, KINGSFORD PROCHEF STERLING



FREE BBQ DELIVERY & FREE BBQ ASSEMBLY w/ BBQ PURCHASE



Hickory or Mesquite chunks

EVERY DAY LOW \$3.99 5 lb. 360cu. in. \$2.49 great for smoking

BARBECUE LAVA ROCK

7 LB. BAG LIMIT 1

EVERY DAY LOW \$3.99 \$1.97 DISPOSABLE

LONG BUTANE LIGHTER

LIMIT 1

EVERY DAY LOW \$2.99 \$1.97 DISPOSABLE

Barbecue parts for most brands: cooking grids, coal grates, burners, & more

SAVE 25% on all mhp parts

Sale ends Tuesday

call 810 855-0303

30903 Orchard Lake Rd in Hunter Square between 13 & 14 Mile by TG Maxx & Michaels

Tues. - Thurs. 10AM-8PM FRIDAY, 10AM - 6 PM Closed Saturday SUN, 11AM - 6PM Monday 10AM - 5PM

Rollerblade.

The Only Good Fall In Blading

...Is the drop in price at Don Thomas Sports

Lowest Prices In Town... GUARANTEED!



4 DAYS ONLY

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Rollerblade® Bravoblade Jr. | \$79 |
| Rollerblade® Astroblade | \$99 |
| Rollerblade® Lightning | \$139 |
| Rollerblade® Bravoblade GL | \$169 |
| Rollerblade® Macroblade Maxum | \$259 |

All 1994 Models up to 75% OFF

Safety Gear 20% OFF

GIVE IT A SPIN! ONE DAY RENTAL FREE!

Don Thomas Sports

Bloomfield Plaza • Telegraph at Maple • Bloomfield Hills • 626-9500

T A R K A Y



RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION AND SALE

The largest collection of Tarkay works for sale ever to be seen in the United States: acrylics, watercolors, drawings, serigraphs and sculptures

For only one day Tarkay will be in attendance to dedicate artwork bought, sign posters and autograph his new retrospective book "WORKS ON PAPER".

The show will take place at Radisson Plaza Hotel Town Center, 1500 Town Center, Southfield, MI on Sunday, June 4th, Noon - 4 PM Champagne & Hors d'Oeuvres

BRING THIS AD FOR \$25.00 BONUS CERTIFICATE TOWARD A SINGLE PIECE OF ARTWORK OF \$100.00 OR MORE.

Tarkay is exclusively represented worldwide by PERRY ART GALLERY