

Clearing the way



JOE KLEIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tree debris: Construction workers remove trees that were in the path of the widening coming to Livernois Road north of Avon in Rochester Hills. When it's done, Livernois will be a four-lane boulevard. But drivers can look for stop-and-go traffic along the road until the entire project is completed in the spring of 1997.

'Lost' gunman robs Hills gas station

A man entered the Total Gas Station at Auburn Road and Livernois twice on Tuesday asking for directions.

The third time he robbed the place.

The suspect, a white male in his mid-20s with a muscular build, stole a small amount of cash from the Rochester Hills gas station before fleeing northbound on Livernois, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

The station clerk said the man came in twice around 3:40 a.m. asking for directions. On the third time, the clerk said the man walked behind the counter and demand-

POLICE BEAT

ed money.

Deputies believe the man held a gun under an orange piece of cloth wrapped around his hand, although the clerk did not actually see a weapon.

A customer pulling into the station around 3:50 a.m. saw a man drive away by himself in a two-door car that was possibly gray in color. The same customer called 9-1-1 after finding out the place had been robbed.

Anyone with information about the robbery should contact Sgt. Joe Duke at 656-4728.

Assault charges

A Rochester Hills man was arrested Monday after pointing a .44 Magnum revolver at his 21-year-old daughter.

Sheriff's deputies say the two were arguing when the father threatened to shoot the daughter. A short while later, he reportedly started waving a gun and pointing it at her. No one was injured.

The father told deputies the gun was unloaded and never aimed at anyone. Deputies confiscated four guns from the house and arrested the man for felonious assault with a gun. He's being held at the Oakland County Jail.

Missing bikes

Two bikes under repair were stolen Monday from the MGM Bike Shop, 2890 Rochester Road. The owner said the bikes were stolen from a storage area toward the rear of the building that's surrounded by a 6-foot fence.

Deputies are also searching for a 2003 missing black chrome bike that was last seen in front of Mr. Pizza Bootleg, 2965 Walton Boulevard. The owner, an 11-year-old Rochester Hills youth, said he left the bike unlocked and unattended for only a few minutes.

by Jay M. Grossman

Fire house fury burns despite sign of progress

BY JAY GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER

The neighbors don't like it, but final approval could take place tomorrow night to build the first fire station in Oakland Township.

The planning commission recommended approval Wednesday to build a 4,744-square-foot public safety building directly behind the township hall on Collins Road. The facility would house both police and fire.

Supervisor Joan Buser said the township board could give the station final approval following a public hearing Tuesday. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

Buser said she wants the fire station up and running by January 1996, but several homeowners living around the site are threatening to file a lawsuit against the township unless alternative sites are considered.

"I've never seen a fire station in a park," resident Bill Thomas said at Wednesday's planning commission meeting. "If that's the legacy we're leaving for our children, then we're setting a bad example."

"Even if I didn't live near this, I'd be here tonight. That's a pristine piece of property."

Thomas and other homeowners want the station built on either Adams or Rochester Road. Buser, however, believes the Goodison Area is the best place for the station because it's centrally located and there are no plans to build a second fire hall.

The township now contracts with Orion Township and the city of Rochester for fire protection services. Buser said there are plans to continue contracting with Rochester for the next several years until the township department is ready to respond on its own.

She said the township will be forced to sign another contract

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Jerry Kolinski

Southfield firefighter who lives next door to the site.

with Orion, possibly for three years, if it doesn't have its own department running in the next six months.

"If we can't get this fire station up by the end of the year, Orion Township will have us right where they want us," Buser said.

Because the township needs special land use approval for the station, a traffic impact study is necessary to determine whether building a fire hall increases traffic in the immediate area more than the current zoning. Buser said she doesn't know how long it will take to complete that study.

Several homeowners said they're worried about paid, on-call firefighters racing to the station, since a day care center and elementary school are in the area. Whether or not fire trucks can quickly and safely respond to calls from the Goodison Area is another concern.

Buser told residents that 10 out of 11 telephone calls coming into the township favor a fire hall on Collins. But on Wednesday, literally everyone who spoke up about the fire station opposed it.

"Most of us here really want fire protection," said Jerry Kolinski, a full-time Southfield firefighter who lives next door to the site. "The argument is how we're going to go about it."

Crittenton Hospital shakeup promotes CFO to president

BUSINESS SCENE

Former chief financial officer Ken Belke has replaced Gordon Ridley as president of Crittenton Hospital.

The change came about July 10. Both hospital officials and Ridley were tightlipped about it.

"I've left the employment of Crittenton," said Ridley, a Rochester Hills resident, who had served as president and chief executive officer of the Rochester hospital since 1992.

He said he couldn't comment further, except to add that he was "pursuing other options" for employment.

Asked about the reasons for the change, Crittenton spokeswoman Peggy Hayes said, "We really don't have a statement."

Belke will serve as interim president. He has worked in health care for 20 years, with the past nine years at Crittenton.

Anything's possible

If you're looking for "the possible you," Charles Frost might help you find it.

He'll perform psychic readings by appointment on Saturday, July 29, at the Eagle Nest Gift Shop, 1524 E. Auburn in Rochester Hills. Cost is \$10.

Frost, author of "The Possible You," operates under the philosophy: "Life works God loves us."

For a reservation, call 810-673-6539.

Mixing green

The Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Great Oaks Country Club will present "Mixer on the Green," its after-hours business mixer, from 8:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at Great Oaks in

Rochester Hills. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, putting contests and a raffle are offered. And, participants are invited to wear golf attire and bring their business cards for the door prize drawing. Cost is \$12 per member, \$15 per non-member. For a reservation, call 651-6700.

Auburn home for Home Care

First American Home Care, the largest privately owned home care agency in the United States, recently opened a new agency and relocated the Senior Regional office to Auburn Hills.

It's hosting an open house from 4-7 p.m. Friday, July 28, at 2701 University Drive, Suite 523, Auburn Hills. The company provides nurses, home health aides, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and social workers. Call 810-373-3200 or 800-468-9395 for details.

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Hair raising

Shelley Brady and Sue Michaels of Secrets Salon & Spa recently attended a hair cutting seminar under Master Hair Stylist Trevor Sorbie from Scotland.

His goal was to awaken hair stylists' artistry, without pushing for outrageousness for its own sake.

"Not only was he a spectacular teacher," Brady said, "but his biggest concern was for our clientele, and in turn, teaching us the latest and best in hair cutting techniques."

Do you have any interesting news about your business, such as a grand opening, fund-raising event or other special item? Drop us a line at 1814 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, 48307, or send us a fax at 631-9080.



Artist training: Shelley Brady shows the certificate she earned at a hair-cutting seminar by Scottish master hairstylist Trevor Sorbie.

Giggle GANG

FEE-FI-FO-FUN!

Henry K. Martin Productions presents:

Peanut Butter Jam-boree

Wednesday, July 19

Cinderella

Wednesday, July 26

Join the Giggle Gang! Kids ages 10 and under can sign up for Oakland Mall Kids Club after the show and receive an official membership button.

KIDS EAT FREE

On performance days, all kids accompanied by adults, eat FREE at these Oakland Mall restaurants:

Arby's • A&W • Burger King • Bruschetta • Pretzel Puddler • Sharro • Ruby Tuesday

(Two free kids meals per adult, please. Some restrictions apply.)

OAKLAND MALL

Rochester, 10000, hours and over 120 shops. Mon. - Sat. 10am - 8pm • Sun. 11am - 6pm • 175 and 54 Mills

WHAT SHOPPING SHOULD BE