



Taken from strikers: Confiscated items taken from strikers — including ball bats, CB radios and nails — are displayed at the Farmington Hills police headquarters.

7 arrested near newspaper distribution center in Hills

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills police arrested seven men near the Crestview Court Detroit Newspaper distribution center after they discovered baseball bats, nails and masks in three cars.

"The key here is that we stopped anything serious before it started," said Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Hills police noticed a gray 1987 Dodge Aries driving past the distribution center several times. Of-

ficer Mike Farley pulled over the car to warn the driver for speeding (50 mph in a 45 mph zone) on Grand River.

The officer noticed a baseball bat and asked the three men in the car, including one who was wearing a "Teamsters" T-shirt, to get out.

Farley then heard a voice on the car's CB radio ask if the occupants needed assistance. He said yes and a 1994 Chevy and a black Ford pickup came to the area,

each with two passengers. Sgt. Pat Monti, Officer Jim Jarret and Farley arrested all seven men.

Hills police discovered Motorola CB radios in each vehicle, and another bat, "atar" nails, roofing nails pushed through pieces of a cereal box and masks.

The seven were to be charged with conspiracy to cause malicious destruction of property over \$100, a five-year felony, and conspiracy to litter, a one-year misdemeanor.

Birmingham accident ties up traffic

An accident on Hunter near Maple during Friday morning rush hour backed up traffic for more than an hour and created enough smoke to be seen a mile away.

A Florida man driving north on Hunter cut off a landscape service vehicle, a pick-up truck pulling a

trailer at about 8 a.m. The truck tried to stop but hit the car, a Cadillac.

"There were lawn mowers in the trailer and they shifted and caught fire," said Police Commander Donald Studi. "It was quite a fire."

Studi said the smoke could be seen from Lincoln.

The truck driver suffered burns on his leg when he got out of his cab and ran to the trailer. No one else was injured.

The Florida man was ticketed for making an unsafe lane change.

City resident arraigned in marijuana plant case

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A Farmington man was arraigned Thursday on charges related to the seizure of 320 marijuana plants from his Alta Loma Street home.

Larry Alan Willer, 41, stood mute as he was charged with delivery and manufacturing 45 kilograms of marijuana. A plea of not guilty was entered for him before 47th District Court Judge Maria Parker.

Willer was released on \$50,000 personal bond. Preliminary exam is set for 2:30 p.m. Aug. 30.

Willer's attorney Barry Resnick declined to comment after the arraignment.

"I think a little privacy is needed here," the attorney said Friday. If convicted, the penalty carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail and a \$10,000.

Oakland Narcotics Enforcement Team officers had contact with Willer through his attorney after the raid July 21. He has reportedly been in a treatment center until he surrendered to police.

Oakland NET officials said it was one of the larger marijuana growth operations they have seen. The plants had an estimated street value of \$320,000.

In the basement at 33735 Alta Loma, police said they found the plants in various stages of development. The set up included an oxygenated water system and other horticultural items such as fertilizer, sun lamps and timers.

Police searched the home after receiving an anonymous tip, which resulted in a three-week investigation.

Farmington police assisted on the raid and are also looking into possible forfeiture procedures involving the house, Deputy Director Michael Wiggins said.

Property, such as a house or a car, used as a container in a drug transaction can be forfeited under the law. Proceeds from drug forfeiture go to police agencies for crime prevention purposes.

City records show Willer as an owner of the home, which has a state equalized valuation of \$67,440 — which is approximately half the market value.



In court: Larry Willer (left) and his attorney Barry Resnick appear for Willer's arraignment in Farmington District Court.

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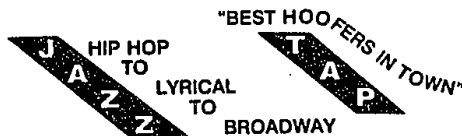
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