

Afternoon crash kills area woman

A Bloomfield Hills woman died from injuries after she lost control of her car while trying to avoid rear-ending another vehicle at the intersection of southbound Middlebelt at Millbrook at 3:24 p.m. Oct. 23.

Witnesses, including an off-duty Franklin police officer, told Hills police that the woman, Violet Jean Altschuler, 59, put on the brakes of her 1986 Renault Alliance to avoid running into a

van in front of her. The car swerved around, going into northbound traffic and striking a 1987 GMC van.

The passenger of the van, Dewey L. Flaughter of West Bloomfield, was not injured.

The off-duty officer applied CPR to the woman, who was taken to Botsford General Hospital where she was pronounced dead. No tickets were issued.

One picket arrested at newspaper center

By Bill Coutant
Staff Writer

Although there was a lot of strike activity at the Detroit Newspapers distribution center on Crestview in Farmington Hills late Saturday night, there was only one arrest.

Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer, who was on the scene, said about 125 officers from 22 departments, including about 25 Hills officers, were at the site off Grand River near 10 Mile when about 300 strikers successfully blocked traffic into the distribution center.

A Romulus man, 40, was arrested for trespassing, disorderly conduct and wearing a mask in public at 11 p.m. Dwyer said most strikers have not been engaged in criminal activity, but about 25 people "on the periphery" have caused most of the problems.

The man arrested was one of those said Dwyer, and was intoxicated at the time.

"Most of the strikers there on a day-to-day basis have acted responsibly," he said. "But there is a group, and I don't know if they are even union members, who have been at several sites, throwing rocks, shouting obscenities to police, that have caused most of the trouble."

Two car windshields had been damaged and "star nails" had been put on the pavement and had been found in police car tires. There were no other arrests and no injuries reported.

Dwyer said police had to cover three areas of possible conflict: the Grand River and Crestview intersection, the entrance to the center on Crestview, and a nearby location where union strikers were trying to prevent trucks from going in and out by the back.

"We were in full riot gear and prepared to enforce the city and state ordinances allowing egress and ingress (to the center)," Dwyer said. "But the newspapers had

Calls from page 4A

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A Detroit woman, 26, told Farmington Hills police that her former boyfriend, 25, and her argued at his Section 36 apartment in Farmington Hills Oct. 23 over a check she had returned to claim. He grabbed her, forced her down, and urinated on her head, she said.

FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 1 responded to a reported kitchen fire at a residence on Centerfarm in Northville at 7:04 p.m. Oct. 17. The fire, which started when grease being heated to make french fries, overheated while unattended. The homeowner put out the fire with an extinguisher. It had spread to the overhead range and cabinets causing \$1,000 in damage to the property and \$500 in damage to contents.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 3 put out a fire in a 1988 Plymouth Reliant parked in a driveway on Colingham in Farmington Hills at 10:35 a.m. Oct. 18. The fire totaled (\$2,500) the car.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 4 put out a fire in a 1986 Dodge Ram pickup on Haggerty north of 12 Mile in Farmington Hills at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18. The driver said he had driven the truck for the first time since the spring and had just exited I-596 when the truck backfired and smoke came from under the hood. Flames completely involved the engine compartment. Damage to the pickup was \$1,500 and damage to contents was \$500.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 3 put out an electrical fire at a residence on Cadillac in Farmington Hills at 6:35 p.m. Oct. 18. A short circuit caused the fire where an electric blanket was plugged into an outlet. Damage to the house was \$3,500 and damage to contents was \$500.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 3 put out a car fire at a residence on Colgate in Farmington Hills at 8:45 p.m. Oct. 23. The fire started in the engine compartment of a 1983 Chrysler New Yorker after its owner tried to start the car. The car was totaled (\$1,500) and there was \$50 in damage to its contents.

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