

Car barrels into apartment

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A Sunday accident where a car struck two gas lines resulted in no more than a broken nose and minor injuries to the driver.

Annie Zelasko, 76, was treated and released from Botsford General Hospital after her car traveled about 100 yards, avoiding trees, before striking two gas lines near meters at the Carrington Place Apartments on Freedom in Farmington Hills at 1:36 p.m. Sunday.

Residents of the apartment complex and the neighboring Detroit Baptist Manor were evacuated, with some elderly residents complaining of the heat. But there were no serious injuries.

"The lady missed the driveway to the Baptist manor, put it in reverse and backed into

another car," said Hills Fire Chief Rich Marinucci. "We still don't know why it accelerated and drove for 100 yards."

Marinucci said a trail between several trees showed that the car could have easily hit a tree, causing more serious injuries. Instead, the car wound up hitting the gas lines.

Shirley Walsh, a friend of Zelasko, said she did not see the crash, but heard it.

"When I heard it, I got to her as soon as I could," she said. "Her nose and face was bleeding."

Walsh said she ordinarily would have waited for medical professionals to treat her friend, but smelled the gas.

"I told her that we had to get her out of there," Walsh said, and then helped her clear of the accident.

Zelasko was taken to Botsford where she

was treated and released.

Firefighters had to evacuate Carrington Place and a wing of Baptist Manor for about three hours.

"They (firefighters) did such a tremendous job," said Carrington resident Virginia Kurpiewski who was put out of her home for three hours because of the gas leak. "They treated the senior citizens with such dignity and respect. They treated us all to cold drinks. People here should know that their tax dollars are being well spent."

Sgt. Dennis Hill, Hills police traffic supervisor, said the Ford Taurus was not going fast enough to deploy the air bag on impact. The driver was ticketed for careless driving.

"As to why this happened, she just said that the car 'went crazy,'" he said. "She apparently lost control."



Quick thinking: Shirley Walsh, a friend of the driver, helped remove the woman from the vehicle after the crash which ruptured a natural gas line.

Police calls from page A6

In Farmington Hills:
A Hills man told police that a Detroit man, 21, threatened to shoot him and bumped him before leaving State Fabricators, Inc. on Eight Mile at 10 a.m. July 26. The Detroit man had been fired.

ARMED ROBBERY
In Farmington Hills:
A clerk at the Huntington Bank on 12 Mile told Hills police that a man rushed up to her window at 2:31 p.m. July 26, pointed a pistol at her and demanded all of the money in the "top drawer." The woman handed over an unknown amount of money. The man apologized for scaring the woman and then fled the bank before police could arrive. The robber is

described as white, 25, wearing dark blue sweat pants and a white sweat shirt, 6 feet 1, 210 pounds with short brown hair and a large build.

AUTO THEFT
In Farmington Hills:
A \$30,000, white 1994 BMW 525i was stolen from the Legends Condos on Legends Trail July 26.

An \$8,000 1993 gold Mercury Cougar was stolen from Sunshine Acura on Grand River July 20-23.

A \$600 1987 silver Cadillac Deville was stolen from the Best Western Hotel on 12 Mile July 30.

CONCEALED WEAPON

In Farmington Hills:
Hills police arrested a Sidney, Ohio man, 69, for carrying a .22-caliber pistol and ammunition in his 1984 Oldsmobile on west-bound I-696 at the I-275 ramp at 2:43 a.m. July 27. The car was weaving. The man did not have a permit. He was also tested for blood alcohol and had a level of .25 percent, considered too drunk to drive in Michigan.

FRAUD
In Farmington Hills:
An American Express credit card had been used to make \$3,682.58 in charges without the owner's permission. The card number was found on a bill from Discount Tire on 12 Mile with a bill charged to an Oak Park man, 19.

DRUNKEN DRIVING
In Farmington Hills:
Hills police arrested a Redford man, 40, for driving a tan 1988 Chevy van east on Grand River at Tuck at 11:47 p.m. July 27 while drunk. Another motorist had called police with a cellular phone. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .3 percent. A level of .1 percent is considered too drunk to drive in Michigan.

Hills police arrested a New Hudson man, 22, for driving a white Chevy Corvette east on Eight Mile at Benzley at 1 a.m. July 28 while drunk. The

car fishtailed while turning and the tires squealed. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .19 percent.

Hills police arrested a Walled Lake man, 22, for driving a red 1992 Chevy Camaro east on M-5 west of Orchard Lake at 6:10 p.m. July 28 while drunk. Police stopped the car for a L.D. plate. The driver had a blood alcohol

level of .16 percent.

In Farmington:
Farmington police made two arrests involving people driving under the influence July 28-27, including a 19-year-old Garden City man under the state's zero tolerance law, which targets underage drinking. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .05 percent.

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It seems so obvious that our first question would be, "Can he even see the print?" But kids are missed and misdiagnosed all the time.

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If your child has reading, spelling, or handwriting problems, has headaches, loses his or her place while reading, reverses letters, or is unable to sit still, call Dr. Jacobi for a screening of vision problems. He will offer it free of charge to parents who have concerns in this area. Call (313) 525-8170 for an appointment. Don't overlook the obvious.