

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

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

THEFT

In Farmington Hills:

A woman's purse was stolen from Botsford General Hospital on Grand River April 28 and found with the \$241 in cash that had been in it.

A \$200 cellular phone was stolen from a white Lincoln Continental parked on Bunker Hills April 30.

Speakers and a stereo (\$950) were stolen from a garage on River Bend April 29.

A \$300 set of wedding bands were stolen from a residence at the Windemere Apartments on Independence April 30.

A \$200 cellular phone was stolen from a white 1990 Ford

parked at Ameritech Cellular on Northwestern April 30.

A Bosch \$952 electric concrete hammer was stolen from Dynex Tool on Industrial Park between April 30 and May 1.

BROKEN-WINDOW

In Farmington Hills:

A convertible top, a \$319 AM/FM cassette stereo and a \$100 spare tire cover were stolen from a white 1990 Jeep Wrangler at the Botsford Terrace Apartments on Independence April 30.

The driver's window was broken (\$200) and a \$400 stereo system was stolen from a black 1991 Mazda Protege at the Fairmont Park Apartments on Fairmont April 29-30.

The passenger window was smashed (\$200) on a tan 1997 Ford Taurus parked on May-

wood April 29-30 and a \$100 cellular phone was stolen.

The driver's window was smashed (\$200) on a green 1987 Nissan Maxima on Fairmont April 29-30 and a \$100 cellular phone was stolen.

The passenger window was smashed (\$200) on a maroon 1997 Nissan Altima on Maywood April 29-30 and a \$100 cellular phone was stolen.

DRUGS

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested a Farmington man, 36, and a Detroit woman, 24, at 3 p.m. April 29 at a residence on Nine Mile for possession of drug paraphernalia and outstanding warrants.

Police arrested a Jonesville man, 41, for possession of heroin and drug paraphernalia in a 1984 Ford headed south on

Orchard Lake at Bond at 12 a.m. May 2.

DUI/DWI DRIVING

In Farmington Hills:

Police arrested a Union Lake man, 35, for driving a red and white 1986 Chevy Labaron convertible at 12 Mile and Haletted at 12:06 a.m. April 30 while drunk. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .14 percent.

Police arrested a Hills man, 47, for driving a red 1988 Ford Ranger west on Freedom near Orchard Lake at 7:20 p.m. April 30 while drunk. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .24 percent.

Police arrested a Farmington woman, 41, for driving a blue 1990 Pontiac Grand Prix east on 12 Mile at Middlebelt at 3:25 a.m. May 2 while drunk. The car was speeding. The driver refused to take a breath test.

In Farmington:

Farmington police arrested a Westland man, 39, for driving while intoxicated on eastbound Grand River at 2:21 May 1. Police noticed a vehicle pulling out of the Rustic Pub that continued to swerve as it proceeded down Grand River. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .24 percent at the scene but refused to take a breathalyzer at the station. He was taken to Botsford Hospital where he had to be held down by security guards in order for a blood test to be performed. The man has a previous drunken driving conviction March 27 in Westland. Police cut up his driver's license because of the second offense.

AUTO THEFT

In Farmington Hills:

A tan 1983 Buick Regal worth

\$2,000 was stolen from Botsford General Hospital on Grand River between April 30 and May 1.

DEATH INVESTIGATION

In Farmington Hills:

Police are investigating the death of a Hills man, 34, that took place in the early hours of May 2 at a residence on Nine Mile. The man was smoking marijuana and drinking beer and began having sex with a woman. He told her to "hold on a minute," and then vomited and stopped breathing. The woman said she thought he was "joking around." She then realized the man was not joking and called 9-1-1. Police and paramedics responded at 2:39 a.m. and tried to revive the man with CPR. He was pronounced dead at Botsford General Hospital at 3:22 a.m.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM M. SKILLMAN

William M. Skillman, 74, died April 28 at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

A resident of Farmington Hills for 35 years, Mr. Skillman served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was a member of the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club, the Detroit Athletic Club, the Zion Masonic Lodge and the Circumnavigator Club.

He is survived by former wife, Janet; two sons, William of Traverse City and Richard of Orlando, Fla.; brother, James of Eastport; and grandchildren, Lindsay, Thomas, Samantha and Christopher.

Funeral services were held May 2 at the William R. Hamilton Co. in Birmingham.

Memorial contributions can be made to Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, 3828 Livernois Ave., Detroit 48210-9978.

MICHAEL ALLEN LEGRAND

Michael Allen LeGrand, 23, died peacefully at home on April 26 following a prolonged illness.

He is survived by his mother, Elizabeth; sister, Dianne; brothers, William and David; and other extended family members in Michigan and Missouri.

A lakeside memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m., today, May 4, at Christ the King Church in Oxford, (810) 628-0038.

The Michael Allen LeGrand Memorial Scholarship and Neuroscience Research Foundation has been established in Michael's memory. Information on donations to this fund can be obtained from the fund administrator — Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Agent: Alan Turner, 20 S. Main Street, Suite 119, Mt. Clemens, 48043, (810) 468-6060.

WILLIAM DANIEL ECKLER, JR.

William Daniel Eckler, Jr., 75, died April 27 at Oakwood-Beyer

Hospital in Ypsilanti.

A resident of Farmington for 57 years, Mr. Eckler was a tool and die maker for the automotive industry and a salesman for Everett Farm Equipment in Farmington. He was a member of the Farmington Elks and a former member of Farmington Masonic Temple.

He is survived by former wife, Angelina; daughters, Dawn Wallace and Noreen Gargano; brothers, Ralph, Wallace and Dwight; aunt, Emma Gray; six grandchildren; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 1 at Heoney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Farmington Elks and Farmington Masonic Temple.

JOHN LAYTON EGHIGIAN

John Layton Eghigian, 73, died April 29 at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac.

A resident of Farmington

Hills, Mr. Eghigian was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. He was the co-owner of Paul's machinery and American Stone and Gravel. He graduated from Southwestern High School and worked in business with his father, Paul Eghigian, and enjoyed the simple pleasures in life.

He is survived by former wife, Mary; daughters, Sandra Secrest, Mary Ellen Thomas, and Janet Tertanian; sisters, Helen Sarafian, Elizabeth Deradourian and Janet Pereshelian; brother, Michael; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were held May 1 at Heoney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Donations can be sent to the American Heart Association.

FLORENCE K. EDGECOMB

Florence K. Edgcomb, 88, died May 1 at Lourdes Nursing Home in Waterford.

A native Detroit and employ-

ee for the Wayne County Government, Mrs. Edgcomb was very active in her community. She was especially active in the Torch Drive, Icon Dei Guild of Guest Home, Fr. Solanus Guild, Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament Guild and the Capuchin Community Center Soup Kitchen.

She is survived by niece, Jane Wolford Hughes; nephew, Frank R. Gerbig Jr.; 15 great nieces and nephews; and 22 great-great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 2-8 p.m. today, May 4, at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi. Funeral services will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 5, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lourdes Nursing Home, 2300 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford 48328; The Capuchins 1740 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit

48207-3496; or Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament, 29575 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills 48334.

STEVEN LYNN GILL, II

Steven Lynn Gill, II, 26, died April 29 in Abingdon, Md.

Born in Livonia, Mr. Gill attended Michigan State University and was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army and achieved the rank of Sergeant B5 and attended the University of Maryland, College Park.

He is survived by his wife, Karen; mother, Maureen Parent; sister Kara Gill; and grandparents.

A memorial service is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 6 at Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be sent to New York Metropolitan Committee for UNICEF, attn: Herb Kram, 633 3rd Ave., 23rd floor, New York, NY 10017.

Better L.A.T.E. than never for Walled Lake teens

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Nick Henderson's parents say he's not a bad kid. He certainly isn't a juvenile delinquent. But he lost control one day his freshman year at Walled Lake Central High School and wound up on the edge of being expelled.

Nick's options to expulsion apparently were limited, and so promising. Those options included Children's Village and Camp Oakland.

"The alternatives were devastating for Nick," said his mother, Beverly Washburn. "They'd put us in a hole as deep as we'd ever get out. Camp Oakland, that's a place for criminals. And Nick's not a criminal. He just lost his temper."

But the family did not count on a third option, a relatively new Walled Lake school district program, designed to lift the teen up from the boot straps and get him squarely on track. The L.A.T.E. program, which stands for "Levels to Assist Transitions in Education," is believed to be the only one of its kind in Michigan, said program supervisor Vicki Gibbons. The program's motto is: "All people can learn."

Nick certainly did. After nine weeks in the program at Walled Lake's Community High during 1995-96, he returned to Central. Now a 16-year-old sophomore, he has remained out of trouble since, and, although not an outstanding student, Nick is doing fairly well, his parents said.

"He needed the structure, the time to get his head together," said Nick's stepfather, John Washburn, who gave school offi-

cials a testimonial about the positive benefit of the L.A.T.E. program at a recent board of education meeting.

He credited the program's staff — Gibbons, teacher Bill Kussy and psychologist Glenn Whitelaw — for their own turnaround.

"It's structured well, it's implemented well," John Washburn said.

The family is so enamored with L.A.T.E., a program mostly designed by Gibbons and deputy superintendent Steven Gaynor, that they would like to see it picked up in other Michigan districts.

Gibbons recently supplied the school board with an assessment of the two-year program to date. In 1995-96, about 80 percent of students in the program were successfully returned to their home schools; about 85 percent have gone back this year. After they get back from the "last chance" program, they work harder to stay at school with their friends and to get something good out of it.

Students attend sessions from 2:45-6:45 p.m. during the week and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, and work on basic curriculum taken from their home school. Classes are taught at the alternative high school on Pontiac Trail.

One component of L.A.T.E., said Gibbons, is the de-emphasis of socialization. Unlike the schools they left, students just aren't given much opportunity to mingle with their friends.

Instead, they focus on the task at hand — learning. "What it means is students are 'hole to stay on task longer,'" Gibbons explained.

She said other behavioral changes also are taking place thanks to L.A.T.E. "They have no more expulsions, no more suspensions. We've never had a return."

About 13 students, from both middle school and high school, are in the current program.

Joe Miller, school board secretary, said Gibbons' report was encouraging. "It has a wonderful retention rate."

The six-step program targets students who are at-risk for needing some kind of intervention, Gibbons said. When a student faces expulsion by the school board, parents are given L.A.T.E. as an option.

The Washburns quickly jumped at the opportunity for their son, who battled emotional scars from the deaths of his father and aunt, as well as epilepsy. He was doing OK the first part of 1995-96, even winning the presidency of the freshman class "in a landslide," according to his stepfather.

But soon, Nick's emotional load became too much, his mother said. He got into an argument with his girlfriend at school and that escalated into a shoving match with teachers.

"All he wanted was to get out of the school," Beverly Washburn said.

He did get out of Central. But he wasn't cast aside. Instead, he landed in Gibbons' program, partly because he wanted to. The family is happy he did.

Things don't get to him any longer.

"Everything isn't traumatic to him anymore," Beverly Washburn said. "He's slowly winning himself into being back with his friends and the people he's supposed to be with."

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LIVONIA Tuesday, May 13th 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Livonia Civic Center Library 32277 The Mile Rd. (E. of Farmington Rd.)	FARMINGTON HILLS Wednesday, May 14th 1 p.m.-3 p.m. The Longacre House 24705 Farmington Rd. (Between 10 Mile & 11 Mile)	ALL SEMINARS FREE OF CHARGE - No Reservations Necessary	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL (313) 540-8710