

Adults plead not guilty to hosting underage party

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The adults who are accused of hosting an Oct. 25 house party in the Chatham Hills Subdivision where beer was allegedly consumed by Farmington High

School students pleaded not guilty to a state law misdemeanor Friday in 47th District Court.

Kevin Alexander and Michelle Griffith were charged before Judge Marla Parker with violating the law that prohibits allow-

ing minors to consume drugs or alcohol on the premises. Southfield-based defense attorney John Mitchell pleaded not guilty on behalf of both clients.

Parker set a pre-trial hearing date for 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15. Personal bond was established at \$5,000 for each defendant and included several stipulations.

The couple was ordered to not have alcohol in their home until the case is settled. They also cannot be "in the company" of minors (under age 21) other than their children, those who are in a neighborhood car pool and those connected to their employment.

Alexander and Griffith are the parents of a FHS student.

The maximum penalty for each is 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. City ordinance charges, which carry a lesser penalty, that were issued the night of the party by the Farmington Public Safety Department had been dismissed earlier, said Officer Christine Schutz.

Both Mitchell and Schutz, outside the courtroom following the

arraignment, said they were confident their side would eventually prevail.

"We're absolutely sure that this couple is going to be found absolutely innocent of these charges," Mitchell said. He added that he based his comment on "our investigation at this point in time."

But Schutz, who serves as police liaison at FHS, said "I think it's going to be very difficult for them to be found innocent in this case. There's quite a bit of evidence against them," including statements collected from students at the party.

According to police reports, officers were notified by an anonymous tip the evening of Saturday, Oct. 25, that there was a party involving teens and alcohol on Saxony.

They arrived and found two FHS students, apparently drunk, walking near the home, according to police reports. Both teens, ticketed for underage drinking, said they just left the

Car blaze

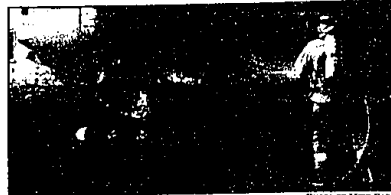


PHOTO BY MIKE GLASS

Fire dash: Farmington Hills firefighters put out a car fire on Orchard Lake Road Nov. 19. The driver pulled over after he saw smoke coming from the dash area.

Police nab 3 Detroit teens after botched armed robbery

Police arrested three teenage males after an armed robbery went awry at a 7-Eleven in Farmington Hills early Sunday morning.

At 2:49 a.m., a man came into the store on Farmington Road, south of Nine Mile, and went to the cooler and brought three bottles of pop to the counter. Shortly afterward, a man wearing a mask came in, pointed a blue steel handgun at the female clerk and demanded money.

The clerk became argumentative and responded, "What money?" and leaned down and hit the holdup alarm behind the counter, prompting the masked man to flee empty-handed. The male at the counter asked the clerk if anything like that ever happened before and then followed the first man out the door. The pair fled on foot towards Bostick Street.

Livonia police stopped a red Ford Explorer on Eight Mile east

of Inkster with three men inside, two of whom matched the description of those involved in the botched holdup.

The sergeant, on patrol, heard news of the holdup try on his personal scanner and asked dispatch to call Farmington Hills police for more information, according to his report. He took up a watch of traffic at Eight Mile and Grand River.

When the Livonia police sergeant stopped the Explorer, the backseat passenger got out and switched places with the driver, both ignoring the sergeant's orders to stop moving around.

Police found a face mask in the pouch area of the vehicle. Police arrested the males ages 19, 18 and 16, all Detroit residents. Police found a .22 caliber RG-23 handgun and a rock of crack cocaine in the coat of one of the arrested men.

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