

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

INDECENT EXPOSURE
In Farmington Hills:
A woman who works at the Green Hills Apartments swimming pool told police a 13-year-old boy dropped his bathing suit, exposing himself to her, on Aug. 28. The boy returned later and apologized.

SHOPLIFTING
In Farmington Hills:
Police took a 14-year-old girl into custody after a teen was using her backpack to conceal several items totaling more than \$100 — at Kmart on Orchard Lake Aug. 28. A store employee found five compact discs, including soundtracks to "Les Misérables" and "Godzilla," and three Disney videos.

THEFTS
In Farmington Hills:
A thief stole a \$2,000 set of golf clubs and 10 to 12 compact discs from a 1998 Ford Expedition parked at Spring Valley Apartments during Aug. 26-27.
Police arrested a 28-year-old Detroit man after recovering a stolen drill in the 1989 Ford Aerostar van he was a passenger in on Farmington Road Aug. 29.

The drill's owner phoned the police after the drill turned up missing from a worksite. The driver of the van was unaware his coworker had taken the drill when stopped by police. Officers also found hypodermic needles and a spoon with residue in the man's pants pocket.
Someone stole a wallet and an IBM Think Pad from a Ford Taurus parked on Osmus between Aug. 28-30.

Jewelry, including a gold ring and two gold necklaces, were stolen from a room at the Travlodge on Haggerty between Aug. 28-30. A pair of jeans and prescription pain killers were stolen from another room at the motel.

ARSON
In Farmington Hills:
Police are investigating a possible arson after a man found someone had started a fire using papers and a bag inside his 1984 GMC van at Affordable Tree Works on Eight Mile Aug. 29. The man said he'd finished work when a coworker tried to pick a fight with him earlier. He left to help a couple pick vegetables behind the C&J Party Store. When he returned, a small fire was started inside the van. He poured ice to douse the fire, which caused \$200 damage to

the carpeting.

TAGGED
In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a man and two women from Flint during a traffic stop on 14 Mile and Middlebelt Aug. 29. Police stopped the 1980 Pontiac Grand Prix for having a large crack in the windshield and found the driver, the 27-year-old man, had no driver's license. One passenger, a 24-year-old woman, gave the officer false identification while police found a marijuana cigarette in the other woman's shoe. Inside the car, police also found several items of brand new clothing from T.J. Maxx. No one had receipts for the merchandise, but police did find several T.J. Maxx price tags in one woman's purse during booking. The 24-year-old woman also had several price tags inside her bra, but couldn't explain why she had them. Both women have previous theft convictions, police reports said.

DRUNKEN DRIVING
In Farmington Hills:
Police arrested a 38-year-old Farmington Hills man for driving while drunk and on a suspended license during a traffic stop on Middlebelt near Grand River at 2:04 a.m. Aug. 30. Police stopped the 1985 Ford Econoline van for making an illegal right turn on red. The driver refused to take field sobriety tests, but a preliminary blood alcohol test revealed a level of 0.21 percent. It is illegal to drive with a level of 0.1 percent. The man has two prior drunken driving convictions, police reports said.

Police arrested a 33-year-old Hills woman for drunken driving after she was involved in a traffic accident on Grand River and Middlebelt at 1:20 a.m. Aug. 31. The woman told officers she had her last drink at 7 a.m. and then drove her son to school. She had a blood alcohol level of 0.18 per-

cent. The driver of the other vehicle that was struck by the 1988 Ford Mustang was taken to Providence Hospital where she was listed in stable condition. She is pregnant and two weeks overdue, police reports said.

BURGLARY
In Farmington Hills:
Several items of gold jewelry were reported stolen from a Gateway Apartments residence sometime between Aug. 20-31.

Burglars entered through a bedroom window and stole \$80 cash, checks and various jewelry from a Fairmont Point Apartment residence on Hampton Court between 8 a.m. and 8:20 p.m. Aug. 31. The apartment was ransacked.

PURSE SNATCHING
In Farmington Hills:
West Bloomfield police nabbed an 18-year-old Troy man after a 71-year-old woman's purse was snatched outside of Nine Salvaggio's Fruit Market on Middlebelt around 6:30 p.m. Aug. 31. West Bloomfield police saw the woman chasing the teen through the parking lot and ran after him. The teen dropped the purse but was caught by officers. En route to the Farmington Hills police, the teen stated, "I'm stupid... I'm so stupid." The victim told police when she exited her car, the teen said she dropped something and reached for her purse sitting on the passenger seat.

BREAK INS
In Farmington Hills:
A thief made off with a set of golf clubs, 20 CDs and \$50 cash after breaking out the passenger side window on a 1996 Chevy truck parked at Polo Club Apartments the night of Aug. 30-31.

Someone stole a turquoise French fishing tackle box and a Kenwood speaker after forcing open a window on a 1989 Chevy van parked at Americana House on Middlebelt Aug. 28.

Help from page A1

making those empty threats, but when I saw him scotter laterally on the railing towards traffic you could tell this guy wasn't fooling around."

"If he jumped," Goble told the man his mother, brother and sister would feel responsible. He reasoned with him, telling him how many 18-year-olds go through such setbacks and feel like taking rash measures.

At times, "I kind of stretched the truth a little bit... I had to keep his attention," Goble said.

Goble also assured him he wouldn't be harmed.

While talking, the Ypsilanti native thought about grabbing the man who was 6-foot-1 and 215 pounds. The momentum might carry them both over the railing, Goble said.

Meanwhile, other Farmington Hills officers arrived to divert traffic and gawkers on I-275.

"If he'd gotten a lot of attention, he might have jumped," Goble said.

The ordeal lasted 15-20 minutes, but for Goble the time seemed like an eternity. After he convinced the man to step away from the overpass, officers Kevin Cronin and Michael Fishart congratulated him.

"That put it into perspective for me. I have a tremendous amount of respect for those guys. They shook my hand and said that was a great job."

At Botsford Hospital, Goble continued to counsel the man, who had been taking medication for a previously diagnosed mental illness.

They struck up a conversation about the NBA and how they admired the talents of former Philadelphia 76ers star Darryl Dawkins.

"A lot of it is being able to communicate. Officer Goble is a person like that," Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "I think with all the training in the world you can have, you still have to be a person with a lot of compassion and patience."

"You have to have the ability to communicate well with people."

In the troubled man's case, Goble tried to connect. The officer remembered when he was the man's age how a relationship with a woman went sour and struggles he faced in getting a job.

"If you do this job long enough, if you can learn to be empathetic... If you can learn to talk to people, it can make the job a lot easier."

German company expands

Gov. John Engler congratulated Mahle Inc. on its decision to expand in Farmington Hills by opening a new technical center.

The new 30,000-square-foot center will employ 65-70 people. The company, a tier-1 supplier to the Big Three and the engine industry worldwide, operates three plants across North America. The plants are in Connecticut, Mexico and Morristown,

Tenn., which is where the company's North American headquarters are. The Mahle Group, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, has approximately 20,000 employees worldwide, 2,000 of whom are in America.
"I am pleased that Mahle has seen the advantages of locating in Michigan, and I welcome them as our newest corporate citizen," Engler said. "Mahle will be a great addition to the Farmington Hills area and will help Michigan retain its rank as the number one state for economic development and job creation."

Ban from page A1

Hardest hit were Kendallwood, Lincolnshire and part of Arden Park subdivisions.

Many residents who reported flooding live in the Middlebelt corridor. Jones sustained more than \$15,000 damage as the result of basement flooding from sewerage backup due to heavy rains Aug. 7.

"This thing is not a new problem. It has been around for a long time," Jones said. "It has to be fixed."


An attorney representing the homeowners said lawsuits against municipalities to pay for flood damages are increasing. Westland had to pay out a \$8 million settlement to residents there after severe flooding.

Residents typically seek money for loss of personal belongings and diminution of property values.

"The cities have forever blamed flooding cases as an act of God or claim governmental immunity," said attorney Peter Macuga. "Neither one is true."

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"If I had it to do over again..."

I'd spend more time with my family on Labor Day."
When people reflect on their lives they very seldom say, "If only I'd spent more time at my job." But they often say, "If only I had enjoyed my family more."
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