

Investigation

Police need help in search for hit-and-run driver

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Investigators are asking the public's help in trying to solve a hit-and-run case where a 44-year-old woman was killed in Farmington Hills April 3.

Nearly 11/2 months later, police are stymied. According to witnesses, a white pickup truck hit Kathleen McKee as she walked across Nine Mile Road just east of Tuck Road with her dashboard around 7:57 p.m. the day before Easter.

Through a serial number on a broken turn signal, and with help of an automotive engineer, police have determined the pickup truck is likely a Ford Four by Four built from 1987 to 1991.

"Somebody must know someone who has a truck like this that was damaged recently," said Lt. Dennis Green, Farmington Hills police Traffic Bureau. "What we're trying to do is devel-



Kathleen McKee

op some leads from the public." Authorities think someone from a collision or glass repair shop may have fixed the truck. Also, a neighbor might have seen the person repair damage himself.

A witness described the truck

as white. The same color paint was found on debris and on the victim's nylon running suit she wore.

Last year, Hills police tracked down a Farmington Hills man who is serving a jail sentence for leaving the scene of an accident. Debris containing a partial serial number turned out to be the key in solving that case.

In this incident, police are not certain the driver was at fault. A witness said the truck swerved to try avoid hitting the woman and was traveling below the posted 40 mile an hour speed limit.

"But you have to stop and render aid," Green said. "The pedestrian could be at fault."

"Without interviewing the person, we don't have the situation is."

Anyone with information is asked to phone Farmington Hills police at 473-9694.

Police: Serial bandit believed responsible

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Authorities believe a mummy robbery at a Farmington Hills Commerce Bank is the work of a serial bandit.

Around noon Thursday, the man showed up at the branch on Orchard Lake and 12 Mile and wrote a note on a deposit slip demanding money. He didn't produce a weapon or make any threatening gestures, police said.

The cashier handed over a small amount of money, believed to be less than \$200. He then left in an unknown direction.

A similar robbery took place at a bank on Telegraph and 16 Mile in Bloomfield Township Thursday afternoon. Authorities believe the same man is responsible for a string of nine holdups in Oakland and Macomb counties starting on April 22.

"It was him," said Jerry Craig, FBI special agent. "We can tell by the surveillance photos."

The hold-up man usually writes a note, stating it's a robbery, and passes it to the clerk. He doesn't reveal a weapon, authorities said.

In the Farmington Hills robbery, he asked if the clerk had any \$100 bills when she handed him the money. She told him, "no." He put the money in an envelope and told her to have a nice day before walking out.

The clerk wasn't sure if the implied there was a weapon in the note, which the robber took with him.

"The odds are against them," Assistant Chief Chuck Nebus said. "They usually end up getting apprehended after these robberies."

The robber is described as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s. He was wearing red-tinted sunglasses, beige slacks and a matching jacket with an emblem on the right breast pocket.

He also had on a fisherman's style cap that had "Pello-Pello" inscribed on the front.

Farmington students receive scholarships

Oakland Community College's Merit Scholarship Committee has announced the names of 55 scholarship recipients for the fall 1999 and winter 2000 semesters.

Merit scholarships of \$1,600 have been awarded to 45 area high school graduates and

10 adult/alternative education students planning to attend OCC on a full-time basis this fall and winter.

The high school awardees, listed by school, are:

Neghann Young, North Farmington; Nicholas Berard, Novi;

Sarah Marchioni, Novi; Katrina Owens, Novi; Samar Asmar, Southfield Lathrup; Farah Darwood, Southfield Lathrup; Jacinto De, Southfield Lathrup; Ibtisam Hurnam, Southfield Lathrup; Rebecca Geelhood, Walled Lake Central; Wendy Gibas, Walled Lake Central; Lonce Matero, Walled Lake Central; Angela Paolucci, Walled Lake Central; Amy Topolnicki, Walled Lake Central; Russell McDermott, Walled Lake Western.

The adult/alternative education awardees are:

Chantel Cooley, Farmington; Lavell Kirkpatrick, Farmington; Anna Ferguson, Walled Lake; and Dawna Johnson, Walled Lake.

Forestry grants available

Grant applications for community forestry activities now are available from the Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The grant program is funded through the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program.

Public agencies and nonprofit private entities (501(c)(3)) are eligible to apply. All projects must be performed on nonfederal public lands or land open to the public.

Community forestry activities considered for funding include local government and nonprofit organization programming, urban and community forestry education (including the purchase of forestry-related materials for public libraries), and community volunteer planting projects.

Projects must be completed by Sept. 15, 2000. Grant applications must be postmarked by July 27, 1999, in order to be given funding consideration for this grant cycle.

All grants require matching funds of at least 50 percent. The match may be made up of cash contributions or in-kind services, but may not include federal funds.

Depending on category, grant requests up to \$20,000 may be made. For more information, contact the DNR Forest Management Division, Urban and Community Forestry Program, Box 30462, Lansing, MI 48909-7662; 517-373-1275.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

THE VALUE OF A NICE SMILE

One of the first things people notice when they meet other people is their smile. Because a nice smile is such a welcome social gesture, it would be a shame not to produce one because of orthodontic problems. Unfortunately, many people are reluctant to reveal their smiles because they are embarrassed by their crooked, crowded, or related teeth. Others may still be their smiles due to such malocclusions ("bad bites") as crossbite or overjet. The good news, however, is that these problems can be corrected with orthodontic treatment at any age. As a result, patients may experience a significant boost in confidence.

THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP
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C'ville teacher's union hosts candidates

The Clarenceville Education Association, the teacher's union, will sponsor a public "Ask the Candidates Forum" from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 3, in the board room, located in the Clarenceville Middle School, 20210 Middlebelt.

CLARIFICATION

In an article in Thursday's Farmington Observer, the address for the new Panera Bread store in Farmington was inadvertently omitted. It is located at 34635 Grand River, between Gill and Drake roads, on the south side of Grand River. The Farmington Hills Panera is at 12 Mile-Halsted.

28th Annual Spring Festival at St. Agatha Church

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