

POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire reports made during the past week in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Vandalism

**In Farmington Hills:** A Pop Boys manager reported that a fired employee became angry and started punching and kicking a garage door. He then dented lockers and ripped a first aid locker from its mounts. He was gone when officers arrived.

Fraud

**In Farmington Hills:** A Farmington Hills man reported that a Detroit man who had been staying with him took

a blank check from his home. The check was later written for \$800 and made it as far as the bank, but wasn't processed.

Sick animal

**In Farmington Hills:** A resident on Quaker Valley Road reported a sick raccoon in the driveway. The officer who responded dispatched the animal with one shot from his service revolver.

Open container

**In Farmington Hills:** A 37-year-old Farmington Hills man was stopped Friday after driving his car through a red light. The officer observed an

opened can of beer in the vehicle. Although the driver admitted to taking a few sips, he passed sobriety tests. He was ticketed for running a red light and having an open container in his car. The beer was poured out at the scene.

Fraud

**In Farmington Hills:** A Farmington Hills man reported Friday that someone had applied for an American Express credit card in his name using a Detroit address. The case is being investigated by the American Express fraud department. An investigator asked him to report it to his local police

department.

Narcotics possession

**In Farmington Hills:** An officer stopped a vehicle on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road Friday evening, based on a report that it had swerved and nearly hit two vehicles on I-96. When he interviewed the driver, the officer reported his speech was slurred and he appeared confused. The driver said he was reaching for something, which caused the swerving on the freeway. A consensual search turned up a metal spoon with burn marks and a needle, as well as suspected heroin and marijuana. A

background check showed prior convictions for marijuana and LSD possession.

Domestic violence

**In Farmington Hills:** Officers responded Friday around 7:30 p.m. to a husband's complaint that his wife had been drinking and became abusive, and he feared for his children's safety. However, when officers arrived, they found the woman was not intoxicated and the children didn't appear to be upset. No charges were filed. The husband agreed to stay elsewhere that night.

Narcotics/false

information

**In Farmington Hills:** A man stopped for disobeying a red light at Middlebelt and Nine Mile roads Friday night couldn't produce a driver's license and was arrested. A search turned up a baggie of marijuana. Officers then asked for his name and he gave them several.

When he finally identified himself correctly, a background check showed him to be a parolee absconder with a warrant for parole violation from the Lansing Tether Unit, and a misdemeanor warrant from Livonia. He was charged with possession of marijuana, driving with a suspended license and obstructing a police officer. He was also ticketed for disobeying the red light and driving without a seat belt. Around 10 a.m. Saturday, officers arrested a 37-year-old Farmington Hills man at Haynes and Fink after a background check turned up a suspended license. While in custody, the man made some movements that led officers to believe he was concealing contraband. During a search prior to his being jailed, officers recovered a baggie of marijuana.

Domestic violence

**In Farmington Hills:** A Saturday night argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend at Strawberry Apartments escalated when he accused her of cheating. He became angry and began smashing things around the apartment, later admitting to having punched holes in the drywall. She left after giving him her apartment key. No charges were pressed, but the woman was given victims' rights information.

About an hour later, officers responded to a 911 "open line" call and while they were en route, a woman called to say she and her husband had been fighting and he threw her down some stairs. Officers interviewed the husband who said his wife had been throwing things around and pulled the phone out of the wall, then took off.

She arrived at the Hills station shortly after midnight on Monday, and told officers her husband had threatened to call police over some items she had broken, so she pulled the phone out of the wall and left after he threatened to use the car phone. She wanted the police department to know everything was all right and that he hadn't hurt her. Although he had thrown her down stairs in the past she was going to return home.

Job from page A1

Ohio, James Pierce from Davenport, Iowa, and Mark Vanderpoole of Skokie, Ill.

"I'm glad he's happy with his decision," said Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock Monday night.

Hartsock added that he congratulated Richards on his decision to stay, although he noted that the latter's selection as a finalist "speaks very highly for him."

Richards' decision to get out of the finalist pool followed serious thought and wasn't made lightly — although on the surface it appears he made a rapid about-face.

When he got the word in late January that he was selected a finalist, he described it as very gratifying. "I consider it to be a great victory to be the only finalist from Michigan."

But in the ensuing days, upon more-closely examining the pros and cons of the job switch, it was a career move that Richards said increasingly lost some of its luster.

"I may have had to sacrifice some of these things that I find very important to me," he said, listing consulting work he does for the Michigan Municipal League and his alma mater, Eastern Michigan University, as well as youth athletics and — last but not least — quality time at home.

There also is the possibility that Richards will work on an advisory board at EMU to bring the master's of public administration program to a satellite campus.

Another reason why Richards decided to stay in Farmington was the recent outpouring of interest from nearly 50 citizens, wishing him well in his Novi candidacy but not wanting to see him leave.

"I have such a good situation, I have such a good life, why would I risk that?"

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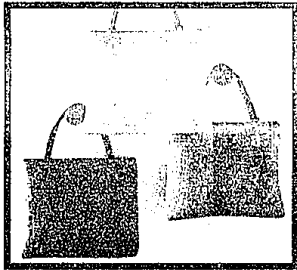
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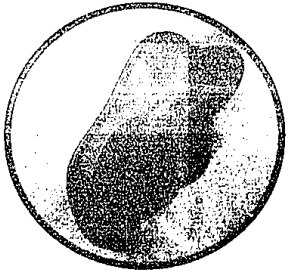
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