

Arraign from page A1

stake out turned up nothing, and detectives turned information over to uniformed officers.

Officer Eric Buckberry spotted the Neon Wednesday morning, as it pulled into the parking lot of an adjacent business, Dwyer said. Two other patrol cars responded, and officers gave chase when the suspects left the scene.

As Magistrate Dudley read off a list of six charges against King, fleeing a police officer-third degree, a felony, was at the top of the list. The crime carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine.

King is also charged with possession of a firearm by a felon who has not yet met the requirements to carry one, also a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine.

In addition to the felony

'The concern was that our pretrial case worker and detectives reviewed the backgrounds and felt they were high risk and requested high bond.'

Bill Dwyer
—Police chief

counts, King faces related charges of possessing a firearm while in commission of those crimes. He is also charged with operating a motor vehicle while his license was suspended or revoked, a crime subject to enhanced penalties because of a previous conviction for the same offense in 1997.

According to a pre-trial report, however, the local charges are just part of King's problem.

While he claimed to have been born in Maryland, an investigation showed King to be a native

of the African nation of Liberia and in the U.S. as a registered alien. He is wanted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for falsely declaring U.S. citizenship.

The report recommended a high cash bond; Dudley set it at \$10,000 cash or surety.

Bail for Vassar was set at \$5,000 cash or surety, on three charges: possession of a firearm by a felon and carrying a concealed weapon, both felonies, and a related weapons charge. Both felonies carry a penalty of

five years in prison and/or fines.

Vassar also had other problems because he is currently on parole after a conviction of assault with intent to rob or steal.

In both cases, Dwyer and Hills detectives were a little disappointed by the magistrate's ruling.

"The concern was that our pre-trial case worker and detectives reviewed the backgrounds and felt they were high risk and requested high bond," he explained.

Dudley entered not guilty pleas in both cases and set the preliminary exams for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 25. As of Friday afternoon, both were still being held in the Oakland County Jail.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

On their way: Suspects Leonard Jerome Vassar and Cassius Rupert King are escorted into Magistrate Joan Dudley's courtroom Thursday afternoon by Farmington Hills police. A preliminary exam on the charges is set for Feb. 25.

Reserve your spot now for Mercy High School auction

The spectacular array of goods and services such as a walk-on part for the ABC Television Drama "The Practice," a 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier, a nine-day jubilee trip to Rome, and four tickets to opening day at Comerica Park will go to the highest bidder Saturday, Feb. 26 at the 21st annual Mercy High School Auction "An Evening in Paris, Chez Mercy."

Steve Garagola of WDIV will emcee the French festivities while Joseph DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Fine & Estate Jewellers will serve as auctioneer. There are hundreds of items

including golf weekends, fine jewelry, restaurant certificates, entertainment packages, furniture, toys, trips, and much more. George Duffoure is a three-year auction veteran and co-chair of acquisitions.

"There is something for everyone, items ranging from adorable Mercy teddy bears to a 1999 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Anyone who comes can find something to bid on," he said.

The auction is a parent sponsored fund-raising event led by the dedicated chairpersons Rick and Joanne David, Larry and Maureen Lentz, Ray and

Michele DelCorvo, Jalal and Nawal Shalal. The entire auction committee has diligently worked over the past six months to create an elegant night filled with fine French cuisine, decor, and entertainment. The spirited students and staff get involved with the auction by preparing delightful theme gift baskets, as well as helping to serve food and greet guests.

Co-chairs and Mercy parents Rick and Joanne David have volunteered for previous auctions. "One of the greatest things about the Mercy auction is working with all the other parents, staff,

and students," Jeanne said. Her husband Rick said, "The dedication of the parents and volunteers to their daughter's future and the success of the auction can only be stated as love. Love for our daughters, love for Mercy, and love for our friendships. These are all gifts of God."

Proceeds from the auction will be used to offset the additional cost per student of providing a quality Mercy education.

For auction reservations, donations, or other information, contact Julie Earle at 476-8020 ext. 253.

State of Cities sponsored by chamber

The Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Calsonic North America will host the 2000 State of the Cities Luncheon 7:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at Farmington Hills Manor, 29669 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

The annual event will feature Farmington City Manager Frank Lauboff, Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock and Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools Robert Masfield. Also participating in the program will be Farmington Mayor Bill Hart-

sock, Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Russo and School Board President Priscilla Drouillette.

A buffet breakfast will be served prior to the presentation from 7:30-8 a.m. Cost to attend the breakfast is \$20 and reservations must be received by Monday, Feb. 21.

In an effort to encourage attendance from the general public, the chamber will offer seating for guests who wish to attend the presentation only. Guests attending only the presentation will be seated at 8 a.m. Call the chamber office at 474-3440.

Mooney Street apartment fire considered suspicious

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@oe.homedecomm.net

An early morning fire Monday, Feb. 14, at the Mooney Street Apartments is continuing to be investigated, said Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

Goss Friday said it was appropriate to describe the circumstances surrounding the 12:45

The occupants, an unmarried couple, including a 45-year-old woman and 49-year-old man, were treated for minor smoke inhalation and then released.

which was completely destroyed, were sent to nearby Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The occupants, an unmarried couple, including a 45-year-old

woman and 49-year-old man, were treated for minor smoke inhalation and then released.

Public Safety Officer James Madigan, who responded to the scene, said it took only 10 min-

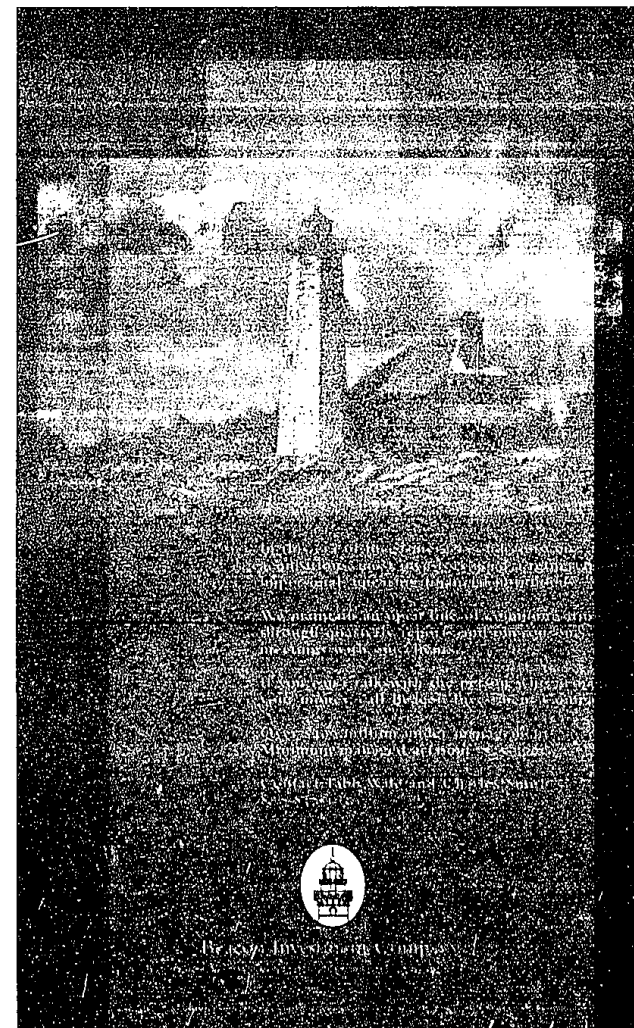
utes to knock down the flames.

Madigan added that all occupants of Mooney Street Apartments were evacuated while the fire was doused and the debris cleaned up.

a.m. fire as "suspicious" in nature. The case is being investigated for possible arson.

According to police reports, the

fire broke out in one apartment unit of the Mooney Street complex, 31875 Shiawassee. Two occupants of the apartment,



Time Is Money.

At Dearborn Federal Credit Union, you can handle your money on your time.

With HomeBranch, our automated telephone service and DFCU OnLine, you can access your accounts 24 hours a day.

- Check balances
- Transfer funds
- Apply for a loan
- Review account history
- Anytime, anywhere -- day or night!

Plus, you'll enjoy the convenience of over 400 surcharge-free ATM locations along with our easy to use MasterMoney™ debit card that works just like a check without the hassle. You can be sure that nobody is going to work harder to help you with all your financial needs than Dearborn Federal Credit Union.

Call 888-338-2700 to find out how to join.

DEARBORN
Federal Credit Union

Serving to make everything we are...everything you need.

www.dfcu.org

NCUA: This savings and loan is insured by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency. Dearborn Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Lender.