

Embattled Livonia carpet dealer arrested

**BY ALICE ASHMORE
STAFF WRITER**

A Livonia carpet dealer accused of burning his customers by failing to deliver their orders was arrested last week by Detroit Police.

An arrest warrant, arising from a complaint in Detroit's 12th precinct, was issued for John R. McDonald, owner of Livonia Carpet and Tile.

McDonald surrendered himself to Detroit Police, according to Lt. Ben McDermott of the Livonia Police.

He was arraigned April 24, and is free on personal bond, according to Ruth Carter of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Karon Williams of Detroit, who had ordered carpet from Livonia Carpet and Tile, filed the criminal complaint after she had exhausted all other options.

She had ordered carpeting for her first home in November of 2000 from McDonald and it was never delivered. Williams eventually bought carpet from another company.

Williams said McDonald gave a myriad of excuses as to why the carpet never arrived, from "his wife being ill" to "all his installers are dead hunting."

"I just wanted him arrested," she said. "I am relieved he has turned himself in."

Williams said, "My heart goes out to the other people he hurt."

McDonald was arraigned on a single charge of larceny by conversion over \$1,000, a felony which carries a five year maximum sentence.

Livonia police said they will begin taking reports from citizens based the number of civil complaints against Absolute Carpet and Tile.

"We will take complaints on a case-by-case basis and forward them to the prosecutor's office," McDermott said.

Court records in Livonia show that 29 civil complaints against the business were filed by residents or companies from Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Redford, Westland, Livonia, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Birmingham.

Patry Ziomek of Livonia said she is owed \$700 by the company. She ordered a Mannington vinyl kitchen floor last October.

"I think he needs to serve some time for ripping off everyone, and that everyone should get their money back," she said.

"It makes me very happy that he was arrested," Ziomek said.

Diane Kilgore of Garden City is another customer that never received her carpet from McDonald.

She grew tired of his excuses and took him court. "One time he said he missed a court appearance because his girlfriend had a seizure in the parking lot," Kilgore said. "I don't know how he gets away with this - he is a complete jerk."

She said she had tried earlier to file a complaint with police, only to be told it was a civil matter.

"It's elderly people and single moms - people that work hard for their money that he is taking advantage of - it's a shame," Kilgore said. "I'm glad he was arrested."

Both women said they planned to file reports with the Livonia Police Department.

PIPELINE

NORTHWOOD DEAN'S
Kristina M. Korrgan from Farmington, and Edward Azar from Farmington Hills, have earned a spot on the dean's list for the winter term at Northwood University.

JOHNSON & WALES DEAN'S
Allison Barney of Farmington Hills has been named to the dean's list at Johnson & Wales University for the winter term. She is majoring in Fashion Merchandising.

East spring production closes Monday

Students at East Middle School will present the final performance of their spring production, "Once on This Island, Junior" 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 30.

According to director and theater arts teacher Catherine Cardie, the play tells the story of two groups of people - rich and poor - living on an island. A boy from the rich group falls in love with a girl from the poor group, and while they can't be together, they find a solution for future generations.

The Broadway play is part of the "Broadway Junior" collection.

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TWO ARTHRITIS CONDITIONS AT ONCE

If you have an arthritic condition, you cannot consider yourself both cursed and blessed. Having one type of arthritis, a course, does not provide you the necessary protection from another.

The possibility of having two kinds of arthritis is increased with age. The most common combination is to start with rheumatoid arthritis, and then to experience osteoarthritis in the same previously uninvolved joints. This association occurs because the inflammation accompanying rheumatoid arthritis causes early loss of cartilage, thereby leading to osteoarthritis. Another feature of arthritis, involvement of ankles and feet, places strain on the ankles and elbows, the extra effort by the upper extremities causes wear and brings on osteoarthritis, tendinitis, or shoulder rotator cuff.

When you have one arthritis and develop a new joint pain, your logical and usually correct assumption is that your present condition is worsening. However, your doctor, knowing that two or even more, arthritis conditions can exist in the same patient, has to be careful not to conclude that each arthritis has a different treatment. For instance, you develop osteoarthritis in rheumatoid joints, treating you with drugs for a rheumatoid flare would not help, and could not do harm.

If the cause of your pain is osteoarthritis or tendinitis then treatment calls for heat, sprouting, and injection therapy.

From the doctor's perspective, it is better to be safe with your health now than to be sorry for a decision later.

SPOTLIGHT ON
Orthodontics
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

WHO HAS BRACES?

During the 1960s, braces cost as much as a new car. Today, the cost of orthodontic treatment is considerably less. As a result of lower prices and increased prosperity, braces are within the financial reach of more people. Some 4.5 million children and adults are undergoing orthodontic treatment today in this country, a number that has quadrupled since the 1960s. Noteworthy, nearly one-quarter of all children between ages 12 and 17 have had orthodontic treatment. While girls were once much more likely to undergo treatment than boys, boys are now just as likely to have braces as girls. Much of the growth in recent years has been in braces for adults, who now represent a fifth of all orthodontic patients.

If you have hesitated to have orthodontic work done because of the expense, or because you feel that the opportunity passed you by when you were younger, talk to an orthodontist about today's options. You may find that treatment today is more affordable, and there are choices that are undetectable to others. For more information, call us at THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP at 442-8885. Located at 19850 Middlebelt, we have a computer imaging system that helps patients visualize what the end result of orthodontic treatment may look like. Payment plans and terms are available. Look for our next article in two weeks.

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Rats from page A1

the area to check it out. Twenty-five homes and businesses were contacted, Whinnery said. He also talked to a party store owner and the Jesus Center.

Resident Barbara Muelrath called the city to complain. She said a rat came into her home after chewing through the paneling underneath her house.

"My son killed the rat," she said.

Residents within 350 feet of the affected area were notified. "They won't tell us where this is coming from," Muelrath said.

Whinnery said the city found a burrow in an area adjacent to Muelrath's property. Her property is not considered a source, he stressed.

"There is not a rat problem," Whinnery said. "But we don't want it to spread."

Code enforcement is done on a daily basis, he added.

In the meantime, the city offers tips to prevent rats.

They are:

- Seal up access points.
- Use heavy-gauge construction materials.

Get bird feeders and garbage off the ground. Store trash in containers with tight lids.

If possible, feed pets inside the house. Don't keep pet food outside overnight.

Cut tall weeds and grasses. Look for nesting points.

Some people feel comfortable exterminating rats themselves. Others prefer to call a pest control company, Whinnery said. For information, call Hills zoning at (248) 473-9525 or the county at (248) 424-7191.

Hoax from page A1

bomb threat to the school on his cellular phone.

The department is investigating whether or not the men can be charged with any misdemeanors and are seeking restitution of costs. Dwyer said the estimated cost of responding to the 911 call was about \$3,000 and involved 12 police officers working over a roughly five-hour period.

The two men involved have reportedly threatened the woman for reporting the incident to police, according to Dwyer.

Hills detectives are continuing to investigate. They will pass along their reports to the city attorney, who will give a legal opinion on what charges the men could face.

"We're completing our paperwork and still conducting interviews," said Chuck Nebus, assistant police chief. Detectives are reviewing a tape of the 911 call the woman made and have re-interviewed her.

Possible charges the men could face might include annoying conduct and misuse of a telephone.

Sue Buck covers Farmington Schools and the City of Farmington. Call her with news tips at (248)-477-5450.

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