

POLICE CALLS

LONG-DISTANCE BOMB THREAT

A bomb threat made at noon at Computware corporate offices in Atlanta, Ga., was taken seriously enough that the corporation posted e-mails to offices around the United States, including the Computware office at 31500 Northwestern Highway.

Farmington Hills police were called to the local office and conducted a bomb search with facility managers. All appeared normal, according to the incident report filed by police.

COCAINE SEIZED

Farmington Hills police seized 58 grams of powder cocaine and two grams of crack cocaine during a traffic stop at 5 p.m. Sept. 15 on west M-5 near Drake.

Police spotted a 1995 blue Chevy pickup weaving and out of its lane, and stopped the driver for erratic driving. According to the incident report, the driver was nervous and sweating heavily, and his passenger appeared to try to hide items. Both were 36, married, and from Howell.

Police searched the driver and

the car, and turned up the narcotics. They also confiscated three crack pipes. The two were arrested for possession with intent to deliver cocaine.

THEFT THWARTED

Police were called at 3:44 a.m. Sept. 16 to Funcolet, 30042 Grand River, on the report of a break-in, only to spot two teens running from the business with stolen Sony Play Stations and miscellaneous items.

According to the incident report filed by Farmington Hills police, the teens dropped the

items and ran when they spotted police. Police caught and charged two 16-year-old Southfield youths, who used hammers to break a large frame window and get inside the business, the report stated.

ASSAULT CHARGED

Police charged a Farmington Hills man, 43, with aggravated assault after he attacked a 40-year-old neighbor who he claimed tried to run over his dogs.

According to the incident report, police responded to

Appleblossom Lane on a report of two men fighting. The victim told police he was driving home when the neighbors dogs were in the street chasing his vehicle, as they are known to do. The man said he slowed down to avoid hitting the dogs.

Still, once in his driveway, the dogs' owner came running and struck him. The dog owner had a minor abrasion, police said, and the other man had a broken finger and a cut inside his mouth. Police charged the dog owner with aggravated assault.

BREAK-IN

The theft of \$350 from a cash box from Ingersol, 277200 Haggerty Road, was reported to police at 11 a.m. Sept. 16.

Farmington Hills police responding to the call found broken door glass and a baseball-sized rock on the floor inside the business.

Police were told an ex-employee with a drug problem is suspected.

Judge tells Tree House owners to make 'good faith' effort with plans

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@ohiohomecomm.net

On Friday, 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris gave Christine Meinke, owner of a Mooney Street business in Farmington, more time to revise her site plan which includes controversial "urban planters."

Harris scheduled another informal hearing in 47th District Court for 9:30 a.m. Oct. 18. The Meinkes, who own Tree House for Earth's Children, are expected to resubmit a site plan to the Farmington Planning Commission on Oct. 8.

"I want to see a good faith effort," Harris said.

The city has been legally wrangling with Christine Meinke and her parents, Susan and Herman, since earlier this year when they received a ticket for blight. They received additional tickets in July.

The city primarily cites safety concerns regarding the cinder block planters which the Meinkes stacked and assembled, but did not secure. In parallel rows from their door into the parking lot. They also installed six arbors in the planters which they hope to adorn with hanging roses and other herbs.

Besides Dave Trombley (the Meinkes' attorney) Steve Meuds, the city's attorney, Bill Richards, Farmington assistant city manager, building official Kevin Gushman, and John Konesol, building inspector, met behind closed doors prior to the hearing.

"This was the fair thing for him to do," Trombley said of Harris, outside the courtroom. "There's no good reason we cannot have this."

During the hearing, Trombley told Harris that he was considering an appeal to Oakland County Circuit Court, if necessary.

Meuds said outside the courtroom that the city had hoped the business would have submitted a plan the planning commission could have approved and thus put an end to the violations.

Christine Meinke was in court but didn't speak. "The planters are porous, so the plants and

roots can breathe," she said as she waited. "I've been gardening since I was six."

She explained it was important to be able to take the cinderblocks apart to study the condition of the plant roots.

"There is a genuine safety issue," Richards said after the hearing. "The safety of the planters is vitally important."

City officials fear someone might run into the planters at night, a child might climb onto the unsecured walls, and the planters will bear the effects of winter freeze-thaw cycles.

A planning issue

The Farmington Planning Commission found several problems with the Meinkes revised site plan at the Sept. 10 meeting. "We will withdraw this consideration and will reapply," Trombley said at the time. He admitted that the plan was premature and inadequately submitted.

Showing parking spaces, handicap accessibility, the temporary nature of the planters and the location of the Dumpster were some of the features the commission criticized.

Commissioner Alton Bennett said there is no description of the type of flowers and plants. "We need to know what is proposed, by name," Bennett said. Bennett asked Morency what could be done to help the Meinkes because their plans were insufficient.

It wasn't the job of the planning commission to help the proponent present a plan that will meet the criteria needed, she said.

Morency suggested the owner contact a landscape architect and hire the right professional to help her do her job and work with the city administration.

"Mr. Trombley if you come back with a site plan that has everything on it but you have concrete blocks that are unpainted and held together only with earth, I will not want to approve it," Morency said at that time.

"I won't approve it, because I don't think it is safe."

Volunteer for the Cornucopia Ball

If you would like to help the community, enjoy camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment, your efforts are needed to help with the seventh Cornucopia Ball, presented by the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation.

The ball is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Robert Bosch Corporation, 38000 Hills Tech Drive in Farmington Hills. The evening includes a silent and live auction, as well as dinner and dancing.

Volunteers are needed for a

variety of tasks, including set-up, soliciting auction items, obtaining advertisements for the ball's keepsake program guide, publicity and decorations.

The ball is the major fundraiser for the foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization and state-certified community foundation. Proceeds will allow the foundation to continue providing grants for community enrichment programs.

To help, contact Susan Michlin, foundation administrative assistant, at (248) 345-9090.

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