

## POLICE CALLS

### Drunken driving

Police were dispatched to Orchard Place condos for a possible drunk driver around 9:14 p.m. Monday. The driver, a 49-year-old Farmington Hills man, was found with his vehicle, which was stuck on grass. He had a .20 blood/alcohol level.

Police pulled over a vehicle

along Haggerty and 12 Mile around 12:39 a.m. Tuesday for speeding. The driver, a 37-year-old Westland woman, had a .16 blood alcohol level.

Police pulled over a driver along Farmington and Eight Mile Road. The driver, a 32-year-old, Montrose woman, had a .16 blood alcohol level.

Police responded to an acci-

dent at Albion and Liberty around 6:30 p.m. Dec. 22. The driver, a 48-year-old Detroit woman, hit another vehicle several times while backing out of a driveway. She had a .16 blood alcohol level.

### Window broken

Kramer Traid Corp on 10

Mile, a double pane window was broken between Dec. 21-23, causing \$300 in damage. No entry was apparently made.

### Drug possession

Police pulled over a vehicle along Northwestern Highway and 14 Mile around 8:05 p.m. Thursday for a seatbelt viola-

tion. The driver, a 22-year-old Detroit man, had marijuana in his possession.

### Shed stolen

In the 22100 block of Inkster, a shed in its shipping box outside a house was stolen on Tuesday. Loss was \$400.

### Shoplifting

At the Loehmann's department store on Orchard Lake, a 24-year-old Farmington Hills woman was apprehended for taking a bottle of cologne and two shirts without paying around 12:45 p.m. Dec. 21. Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file at the Farmington Hills Police Department.

## BUSY

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But there's even more on the table for 2003. Mitchell is particularly excited about the implementation of an Oakland County Main Street grant. For three years, the Downtown Development Authority will receive technical assistance from planning experts to evaluate and improve the business climate along Grand River.

"I think that's going to be a big job for the DDA," Mitchell said. "We're going to need the assistance of individuals in the community to make it work."

Main Street consultants have already held community meetings. They've established four committees, each of which should have at least 15 to 20 citizens participating.

"In light of some of the things we've learned recently, it's very important for us to deal with the downtown issues," Mitchell said, referring to the fate of Maroon, a cornerstone of the business district that will close its doors for good after a New Year's Eve party Dec. 31.

"Maybe we can find a new place for them," Mitchell said. Councilwoman Mary Bush also sees a brighter future in light of the Main Street grant.

"I think we've got some exciting redevelopment opportunities," she said.

Construction of the new Marketplace Pavilion will begin after the 2003 Founders Festival in June, providing a focal point for activities like the Farmer's Market and for summer concerts and events.

"I think that's going to be a linchpin of this year," Mitchell said. "It marks the completion of a project that started a year ago."

Looking ahead to summer, Mitchell also notes construction on Farmington Road north of Grand River to Shiloh — a one-block stretch — will get under way.

He said council members will be looking at that project over their next few meetings.

City officials share another major concern in state revenue sharing cuts. Bush called it a "huge issue," but added, "luckily, the city of Farmington is in good financial shape."

Mitchell expressed frustration that the cuts, which will amount to more than \$40,000, always come in the middle of the city's fiscal year, when funds have already been promised and allocated.

"The thing that really bothers me is the way the state can

cut things after the fact," he said. "Farmington has always been conservative, so if they cut it back even more than we planned, we'll be OK. Even though it hurts us, I think we're going to be able to deal with it."

Mitchell said local units of government are responsible for police, fire, sewer and water services, which are the most visible part of government for residents.

"That's why it's so important that local control remain a strong issue for municipalities," he said.

"Farmington has always been conservative, so if they cut it back even more than we planned, we'll be OK."

Jim Mitchell  
Farmington mayor

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