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Fifteen Cents

Suspect arrested for girl's slaying



Farmington Hills firemen search the pond where the body of Kelly Curley was found Thursday afternoon. (Photo by Craig Newman)

By JUDY OWEN AND CRAIG NEWMAN

FARMINGTON HILLS—Police are seeking a first degree murder warrant against a Brooklyn, Mich. man for the sex slaying of an 11-year-old Detroit girl.

George F. Onifer, 30, was arrested late Friday following a joint investigation by the Farmington Hills, Detroit and state police departments.

Public Safety Director Ronald Holko said Saturday that police were waiting until Monday for the Oakland County Prosecutors Office to issue the warrant.

Onifer is being held in the Farmington Hills jail on probable cause in the killing of Kelly Curley, who was last seen alive Tuesday.

Onifer was paroled from Jackson prison after serving four and one-half years of a 50 year prison term for the rape of a 15-year-old Hamtramck girl in Warren.

He was taken to the Oakland County sheriff's office Saturday morning for a lineup and was returned to Farmington Hills.

Later Saturday afternoon he was taken to the Oakland County Prosecutors Office where he was held for

more than three hours behind closed doors.

Richard Thompson, assistant prosecutor, said that Onifer talked to the police for one hour.

Onifer has an alibi and made no admissions, Thompson said.

The girl's body was found at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 floating in a pond near Halstead Road between Thirteen and Fourteen Mile roads by three young men. The child has been reported missing Wednesday by her mother, Patricia Curley.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner listed asphyxiation as the cause of death. The child had been sexually molested.

The time of death had not been established, although police estimated that she had been dead for about 24 hours before the body was found.

Police said that with the exception of underclothing, she was clothed

MEANWHILE, police were alerted to watch for a green stake truck with a bent rear license plate.

Because the missing person report had been filed with the Detroit Police Department, Squad 7 homicide office

(See SUCCESSFUL, page 3)

Malpractice insurance will expire

Farmington free clinic must close April 1

Malpractice insurance and federal regulation killed the Farmington Area Free Clinic.

Officially, the clinic will cease operations at 10 p.m. April 1 when the facility's malpractice insurance policy expires. Repeated efforts by the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), parent organization which operates the clinic, to obtain new insurance have failed.

Thursday, March 20, the FAAC's final attempt to secure a new policy fell through. The clinic will have operated for just one year.

"The program has never been in

better shape," said FAAC director Betty Arnold. "It's unfortunate that this malpractice thing had to come along."

"NOW IT'S TOTALLY out of our hands. We're stocked with supplies but we can't function without insurance," she said.

This is not the first crisis at the clinic which provides free medical treatment, primarily to area young persons.

The clinic was one of two in Oakland County which had been operating under a federal grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). The grant had been administered

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through the county's department of substance abuse.

In late January, FAAC and Common Ground in Birmingham were notified that new criteria drawn up by NIDA would require that the clinics provide complete physicals for each patient who came in for treatment.

The free clinic had neither the funds nor the facilities to conduct the extensive blood work, X-rays and electrocardiograms that would have been required for such examinations.

That type of examination was important for drug-related cases, but was not always necessary for other treatments provided at the clinic.

THE NIDA GRANT had provided funds for a clinic director, a counselor and a half-time secretary. The secretary and the counselor were being used in other programs sponsored by FAAC.

The NIDA funds were due to run out in mid-April, so the clinic's closing was pretty much predetermined before the malpractice policy expired.

Mrs. Arnold said that she is pleased with the clinic's year of operation. "We have provided the services that we set out to provide and we continued to operate at capacity level throughout the year," she said.

CAROL SKEIN, the clinic director, will be spending the next couple of weeks tabulating the intake figures for the final report on the clinic's operation.

The clinic was unusual, she said, because it dealt largely with adolescent medicine.

The patients were coming in for many reasons, she said. "Some of them just didn't feel comfortable going to establishment places."

"I think we've accomplished a whole lot since the clinic began operating."

ALL OTHER clinics are jeopardized by the loss of insurance, she said. "I don't know anything that can replace them."

"No free clinic had ever been sued," she said. "It's not a matter of being a high risk."

Most commonly sought services were for pregnancy tests and treatment of venereal disease, mononucleosis, hepatitis, minor infections

and upper respiratory infections as well as the drug problems.

Recently, the clinic had been serving a number of elderly persons as well as some children.

"It will leave a big void," Ms. Skein said.

The clinic had been open for three hours once a week.

Operating out of a small frame house on Grand River, the clinic depended mainly on volunteers. The six physician-volunteers on the staff rotated their services.

Witnesses sought

Farmington Hills police are seeking two women who were witnesses to a Sept. 27 bank robbery at Bank of the Commonwealth, Ten Mile and Middle Belt roads.

The witnesses possibly followed the get-away car from the bank. The two women are requested to call the department at 474-2255.

Parents organize to support millage

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON — Students are receiving special attention from a volunteer committee of four parents who want to make sure the April 29 millage proposals pass.

The stream behind the "Kids Count" committee comes from Richard Wallace, Bud Pickett, Dick Crudele and Mrs. Mary Lazarton Pickett and Wallace are co-chairing the activities which are to unify and strengthen the individuals and groups in the community who want to see the millage pass.

Voters will have three choices to defeat the millage requests, to vote for a four mill request or a hold-the-line two mill proposal.

Wallace, who volunteered to head the coordinating committee, has two children in the schools. But, aside from this, he believes voters must understand the proposals and the needs of the district.

The vote by the board last week to eliminate a third millage proposal from the ballot makes his job a shade less complicated.

"IN NO WAY," he said, "do four and two ever make six."

He means that the two proposals will not be lumped together—the one which gets the most votes will go into effect and the other dropped.

The Kids Count committee is a plan of action begun last week with bumper stickers. These are available free from any of the committee members or through any of the schools.

An informational meeting for parents will be held at each school between March 25 and April 24. Notice of the dates will be sent home with the students.

The presentation at the meetings will be made by one of the committee members, members of a speaker's bureau which is now being formed, and the administrative staff.

Wallace is making certain that each administrative staff member who speaks on millage is a district resident. He doesn't want anyone yelling "red herring" because the speaker isn't a registered voter in the district.

ALONG WITH the presentations and question and answer programs, listeners will be provided with an information packet. This same type of information will be included in a general district mailing.

The emphasis in both the speeches and the written material will be on what the millage, or lack of it, will mean to school programs.

Once the school presentations are organized and more people volunteer to help, Wallace and his committee will start to canvass the area for financial support.

In a meeting last weekend, they decided to go to the people for help and will be asking for contributions from both private individuals and area businesses.

Wallace said he has been on the fringe of school activities for a long time, describing himself as a regular at board meetings.

This time, he's in the center of the action because "Somebody has to unify the many groups working independently for passage of the April 29 millage."



Taking a break

Tom Lepkowski of Harrison High School ties his shoe during track practice Thursday. Along with the rest of Harrison's team, Lepkowski will start the track season March 29 at the Huron

Relays. Farmington High will also kick-off the season with Harrison. North Farmington High will begin its season on April 11, at Waterford Mott in a non-league duel. (Photo by Craig Newman)

The Observer & Eccentric index

News	Section A
Columns	13
Sports	17
Suburban life	13
Classifieds	Section B