

Farmington Observer Eccentric

Volume 86 Number 83

Monday, August 4, 1975

Farmington, Michigan

26 Pages

Fifteen Cents

City of Farmington

Area crime rate takes dive

By FELICA KOBYLANSKI

While crime in Oakland County is on the rise, the figures for the first six months of this year show that major crime in the City of Farmington is down 10 per cent.

According to Capt. Daniel Burns of the Farmington Police Department, the biggest decrease is in bicycle thefts which are down 50 per cent.

"The largest percentage of bike thefts have occurred off of porches, garages and driveways of homes," Capt. Burns explained. "Maybe the drop in thefts can be attributed to people becoming more aware of that fact."

While robberies, larcenies and aggravated assaults all decreased, burglaries and auto thefts rose slightly. There weren't any rapes although there were two cases reported which proved to be unfounded.

"Most of the false rape charges are brought by young girls who claimed they were raped in order to cover up for coming home late," Capt. Burns said. "Or sometimes they may have been picked up by a stranger and con-

sented to intercourse and bring the charge if they think they might have gotten pregnant."

"But I would venture to say that nine out of 10 actual rapes are never reported," Capt. Burns continued. "That applies to Farmington as well as elsewhere."

One of the reasons Capt. Burns cited for a woman's failure to report a rape is embarrassment. "She may have been forced into having intercourse, but she might have gotten herself into that position so that she'd never tell," he said.

"Just last week there was a girl whose parents told her not to report an attempted rape because she didn't have a good description of the assailant."

Lesser offenses showed an eight per cent increase for the first half of the year. The biggest rise was in vandalism, up 60 per cent.

"We've had a rash of lawn streaking," Capt. Burns said. "Kids get a kick out of driving a car up onto lawns and tearing them apart."

Other common examples of malicious destruction of property include throwing rocks and bricks through car and house windows.

Most of these acts take place late at night in subdivision streets, and the youngsters who commit them are rarely caught. Often the vandalism goes unreported.

"We get a lot of late reports on malicious destruction because people find out they need the police reports to file for insurance," Capt. Burns explained. "Many probably never get reported, especially if the amount of money involved is less than the deductible."

"The same is true of larcenies."

Burns continued. "It's a property crime and that puts it on the bottom of the list."

Burns stressed that percentages can be deceptive, especially when dealing in small numbers, as is the case in Farmington.

"The most important figure is the drop in major crime from 220 last year to 205 this year," he said. "That's a 10 per cent decrease."

Burns' staff of 23 sworn police, including seven civilians, cover Farmington's 2.6 square miles. Translating that figure into people means looking after a population of 12,500.

Suburbs meet on water need

In the Detroit Metropolitan Water Department using water as a political weapon to pressure suburban members of its board to approve a capital improvements budget?

Mayor Edward McNamara of Livonia, the western Wayne County representative on the board, thinks there is a possibility of that happening and wants other suburban officials to discuss it.

He has called a meeting scheduled to be held today (Monday) to discuss the problem of low water pressure and other water department problems.

Invited were 30 cities and townships which get their water from Detroit. Area communities expected to send representatives are Westland, Garden City, Redford Township, Farmington Hills, City of Plymouth and the townships of Plymouth and Canton.

McNamara said that while Livonia hasn't had any water pressure problems recently, its neighboring cities and townships have.

Westland reported its pressure dropped to as low as five pounds per square inch—with a normal pressure being 40 to 60 pounds.

McNamara indicated that the water department administration may have intentionally reduced the water pressure to force the board, which has four Detroiters and three suburban members, to approve the capital improvements budget.

He said the approval has been delayed because the suburban board members feel that the budget is too high and that too much of the sub-

urban water revenues are being used to finance system improvements which would benefit only Detroit.

McNamara admitted that "I'm suspicious as hell about being brought on your knees."

Officials at today's meeting will discuss the continuing problem of failure to get an independent audit of the department's books and review the existing rate structure, which McNamara feels has the suburbs supporting Detroit.

He added that although the City of Detroit doesn't own its own sanitary sewer system—it was sold during the 1930s to the water department—the water budgets are based partially on covering Detroit's investment in the sewer system.

The mayor said that he will suggest today that a "war chest" or funds be donated by the 46 water department customers to retain a law firm to represent them.

McNamara said some issues the law firm would probably look into would be the ownership of the water and sewer departments, the auditing of books and the "equity in disbursements in spending dollars."

He added that the department's expansion program, which has new water mains installed in outlying and undeveloped areas, results in the existing water customers "financing our own demise."

McNamara said that new mains lead to new developments and help existing residents move farther out.

The suburbs now paying into the system are financing the bond issues that pay for those water main expansions, he said.

Jaycettes award 4 scholarships

The Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary, which has been awarding scholarships to high school graduates wishing to pursue vocational studies since 1968, awarded four this year.

The winners are Robin Howard, Peggy Williams and Mary Almyra, graduates of Farmington High School; and John Truitt, a graduate of Harrison.

An auxiliary committee, headed by April Pastor, took on the club's scholarship project to rate the contenders on grades and assists from school counselors.

Miss Howard, of 2605 Ivy Wood

Drive, expects to enter a fine arts college of fashion in Miami, Fla. Miss Williams, of 22710 Violet, hopes to study nursing in Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing.

Miss Almyra, of 26455 Doherty Drive, expects to attend Schoolcraft College in pursuit of a career in child care.

Truitt, of 26258 Geraldine Court, will pursue a career in law enforcement at Mercy College.

The scholarship offered by the Jaycee Auxiliary is one of seven open to high school graduates every year by local service groups and other memorial foundations.



A state championship was at stake last week when the North Farmington-West Bloomfield team competed against South of Farmington. To find out the results, turn to the sport's page

Homeowner group fights plan

By ALICE COLLINS

Franklin Village, a Farmington Hills homeowners association, and one of its members—all fighting the proposed extension of Northwestern Highway through several Oakland County communities—are seeking to intervene in a court action brought by the Oakland County Road Commission, which wants to get construction of the long-debated, controversial project under way.

The road commission, hoping to force the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation to begin the construction under an 18-year-old contract between the two governmental units, went to the Michigan Court of Appeals in Lansing on June 30 seeking a writ of mandamus, a legal directive from the court.

In answer to the road commission complaint before the court, the state highway department acknowledged that it has contracted to program and build the highway extension from its present terminus near Telegraph Road in Southfield to go north westerly through Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Commerce to link with the 1275 freeway.

However, it maintains there is no timetable for the project.

Controversy has surrounded the proposed project for some time and the original environmental impact statement has been declared insufficient.

As it stands now, the highway department has announced it will appoint a new consultant to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement and its completion is not expected for another year.

"Our hand has been forced by the Oakland County Road Commission,"

said Mary Jane Sternik, spokeswoman for the Franklin Knolls Improvement Association, the Farmington Hills subdivision group which is a party in the intervention petition. "We knew the road commission intended to take some legal action, but we didn't expect it this soon," said Mrs. Sternik. "Our group has been on record as opposing the extension since the fall of 1973."

"We've been staying on top of the situation and our group had discussed what action we might take if the commission went to court," she continued. Mrs. Sternik said the first notification her organization had of the road commission's filing in court came through newspaper accounts. "We were ready to act right away."

ALSO PARTIES in the intervention petition are Franklin Village, where the council has taken a stand against the freeway extension; and William Yochim, a resident of the involved Farmington Hills subdivision whose home is adjacent to the path of the highway.

Plans call for the freeway to come within several hundred feet of the Rosemond Court Subdivision in the southwest corner of Franklin.

Detroit Attorney Ralph Stafko, representing the opposition groups, filed a petition before the Court of Appeals on July 29 asking for admittance into the case between the road commission and the highway department.

"We asked that arguments in the case be delayed until the court rules on whether or not we can join in. We also requested reasonable time to prepare our briefs."

Stafko said his petition also asked that additional parties, not now included, be permitted to join in this or in a separate intervention within a reasonable time frame.

"I'm sure there are others who will want to join us, but we had to act immediately," Stafko continued.

THE COURT has promised to rule Tuesday, Aug. 5, on the intervention petition, according to Stafko.

The argument now between the road commission and the highway department seems to be a matter of when the construction should begin, he added. "We don't think it should be built at all," said Stafko.

The Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield, headed by Sheila Ostley, is another group actively opposing the extension.

"Our board hasn't had a chance yet to discuss the possibility of entering into the suit," said Mrs. Ostley. "But I know we'll do all we can to back the groups that have filed. We've always worked together."

Mrs. Ostley said a meeting was being planned within the next few days to bring representatives of eight groups together in discuss the situation and what action might be taken.

These groups are the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC), the Citizens Council on Land Use, Research and Education (CLURE), the West Bloomfield and Franklin Concerned Citizens organizations, the Farmington Hills Homeowners Associations, the West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters, and the Rouge Basin Coalition, an area-wide environmental group based in Southfield.

IN MAY the road commission announced that it would sue the state highway department in Oakland County Circuit Court in an effort to force the construction.

However, when it acted, it went into the Court of Appeals for the mandamus writ instead.

The mandamus proceeding is a means of seeking a court directive to compel an official or public body to do what has been determined to be a legal duty.

The cost of completing the highway has tripled from its original estimate of \$37 million to more than \$100 million, and the expanded environmental impact study set a new timetable in which only 1979 is the first possible date construction bids could go out.

The contract between the road commission and the state highway department runs until 1982.

After hearing of the highway department's answer to its arguments, county road commissioners Fred L. Harris, William Richards and John R. Gnau Jr. released a statement saying they were "gratified that the highway department concedes its obligation to extend Northwestern and that it intends to do so expeditiously."

"But expeditiously apparently means something different to them than it does to us and most other people," said the road commission.

The state sold \$25 million in dedicated tax bonds in April 1967 to partially fund the total extension project. The county road commission has paid \$60,000 annually since that time as its share of the services on the bonds. Opponents of Northwestern argue that it's an unsupportable drain on the resources and would destroy what tranquility remains in western Oakland County.

Proponents say the extension is the key to solving traffic problems in western Oakland and the lakes area.

Man killed in accident

A 44-year-old Farmington Hills resident was killed Friday night in a four-vehicle collision on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile.

A preliminary investigation by Farmington Hills police found a vehicle driving in the wrong lanes of Farmington Road struck two other vehicles nearly head on. Besides the dead man, three other persons were injured.

The dead man was Albert Brough, 46222 Edmore, Farmington Hills. A spokesman for the family said he was returning from picking up his daughter for his daughter's wedding, which was scheduled for Saturday.

Farmington Hills police said the accident occurred about 7:30 p.m. Friday on Farmington Road near Stocker. A vehicle heading north in the south-bound lanes of Farmington Road struck two vehicles heading south. One of the south-bound vehicles careened into a fourth vehicle.

Police withheld the names of all involved in the accident, except for Brough. The family spokesman said Brough's 19-year-old daughter, Susan, was to have been married Saturday in First Baptist Church of Novi. The wedding was postponed.

Brough, a model maker for Ford, is survived by his wife, Vera, and three other daughters beside Susan. Services are scheduled for the First Baptist Church of Novi at 11 a.m. Tuesday.



Johnny Randall, a Farmington Hills resident, does his radio show at WXYZ. For more photographs and a story, turn to page 3. (Photo by Craig Newman)

inside

News	Section A
Editorials	6
Columns	8
Community Calendar	11
Obituaries	4
Bridge	12
Farmington Life	Section B
Classified ads	3

A Farmington Hills octogenarian leads a life so active she shames most television-watching residents. For more about her, turn to Farmington Life, Page 1B.

Two Farmington area baseball teams clashed in a Pony League regional contest. The winner? You'll find the answer on page 12A.