



Murder suspect arraigned

FARMINGTON—Alan Meharry, 36, of Detroit, was arraigned Tuesday afternoon before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer in connection with the July 28 killing of James Henry Johnson. Johnson's body was found in a grassy area near Fendt and Drake Roads in Farmington Hills.

Meharry is being held in the Oakland County Jail awaiting his pretrial hearing set for 10 a.m. Aug. 15. Meharry has been charged with "open" murder and could receive a

maximum life sentence. No bond was posted.

Meharry has asked for a court-appointed attorney who will be selected by a circuit judge in Pontiac.

According to Farmington Hills Safety Director Ronald Holko, "investigative leads came up with two suspects" Sunday night. Both were arrested Monday. The second suspect is being held as a material witness, say police officials.

"The victim was picked up hitchhiking in Detroit, according to witnesses," Holko said. His body was found at 7:35 a.m. July 28 by Jerome D. Becker, a construction worker.

The 32-year-old Johnson had been living alone at his 13222 Westbrooke, Detroit, home. Michigan State Police helped identify the body when it was found, as there was no identification on the victim.

Oakland County Medical Examiner's office said the cause of death was "multiple blunt injuries to the head."

"We've recovered evidence used in the killing," Holko said. "At this point there is no doubt that these two are involved in homicide."

The victim was found on Fendt and had been dead for several hours before being discovered, say Police.

"I'm very pleased and confident at our investigative personnel," Holko said. "Their performance has been excellent."

Capt. Russell Conway headed the investigation into Johnson's death.

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Pros and cons

City managers split on CETA

By SUSAN AVERILL

An increased federal grant to the city of Farmington Hills will enable the city to hire about 25 new employees to help offset rising unemployment figures.

At a participant in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), the city was given \$507,000 under two different programs.

The City of Farmington, also participating in the federal program, recently authorized a commitment which would continue to underwrite the employment of the present eight CETA employees, but which wouldn't enable the city to hire others.

"In analyzing the funds granted, we find that the city is in a position to continue the employment of those persons already on the city payroll through the fiscal year 1975-76," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman to the city council.

"THE AMOUNT is insufficient to add more employees to the city staff," Farmington has been granted \$11,900 to continue the CETA programs through the next year.

Although Farmington Hills City Manager George Majors is enthusiastic about the programs, Deadman thinks the money could be put to better use.

At Monday night's Farmington City Council meeting, he introduced a letter from the city of Novi, which requested support for a resolution to expand the CETA programs instead of "giveaway programs that don't benefit the public."

"We believe the City of Novi is right in its position that unqualified unemployment compensation programs add little to our country's productivity and certainly are a drain on our economy," he said in a memo to the council.

"We question, however, whether CETA programs are the answer to this problem. Rather, we believe that grants which provide for labor and materials to construct needed public facilities, such as roads, buildings, parks, and so on, would have more long-term benefit and would be more of a stimulus to the economy than putting people to work in governmental agencies without any funds to provide equipment and materials to make worthwhile use of their employment."

"CONSTRUCTION projects would employ more people in either a direct or supporting role to the project," he said.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Deadman said there were three reasons his suggestion would be better than present CETA programs.

It would maintain the employee's normal line of work. It would also give the community a lasting effect for the money spent.

Using federal funds to hire citizens to build public facilities would have a "spin-off" effect, says Deadman, creating a demand and stimulating a flow of construction materials. Deadman called it a "shot in the arm" for the construction business.

"Instead of paying them unemployment, it would stimulate the economy. It's not that the people who are presently on unemployment compensation are undeserving. I think most people would rather be gainfully employed. I just got to believe that in the long run, it's the best thing to do."

If such a program were put into effect, Deadman said the employees could be put to good use in Farmington.

"Farmington does not have a recreation facility. We could build a public golf course, a skating area and some place for people to swim without belonging to an expensive club."

They (the federal government) shouldn't spend more money, but I just think it would be better directed into this program."

FARMINGTON HAS eight full-time CETA employees working for the city. Six are employed in the Department of Public Works, one in the police department and one in administrative services.

Farmington Hills is now accepting applications at city hall for about 25 CETA-funded positions. Requirements demand that the applicant be a resident of Farmington Hills who depends on the job classification, must have been unemployed for either 15 or 30 days.

Majors said he expects to loan the library three new employees. Two accounting clerks and a research assistant are wanted in the finance department and he is looking for a junior planner.

The Farmington Hills public service department is seeking two custodians, a draftsman, two clerk-typists and a staff assistant in engineering.

Two radio dispatchers are needed in the police department, plus three additional typists and an administrative assistant.

Majors also said the city will loan six employees to the Farmington Area Recreation Commission, including a clerk and five program coordinators.

All jobs are full-time, but are funded only for the 1975-76 fiscal year. Applications will be accepted at the Farmington Hills city hall at Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake roads.



Crawford Rainey is a saw mill supervisor at the Jack Daniels Whiskey Company in Tennessee. This photograph was made by Junebug Clark, a Farmington Hills resident. For more photographs and a story, turn to page three.

Arraigned

Farmington Hills Police Det. Russell Conway (right) leads Alan Meharry to his arraignment. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Winery purchase is on the horizon

By STEVE BARNABY

One of Detroit's leading restaurateurs is making a bid to become the owner of the old LaSalle Winery in the City of Farmington.

The city council this week considered approval of a Class C liquor license for James Constand, 3119 Old Sage, Birmingham, who is negotiating a purchase agreement with the Chamberlain Company of America, owners of the property. Constand is the owner of Jim's Garage in Detroit.

ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING satisfaction with Constand's plan to convert the winery into a restaurant and theater facility, the council tabled the license request until the next meeting. The city had agreed to grant a license to another person, contingent on purchase of the property. It appears that purchase agreement has failed to materialize, according to Robert Deadman, Farmington city manager.

In a letter to the council, Constand said he plans to operate one or more full-service dining facilities, including banquet and catering services and possibly a complementary theater facility.

Deadman also expressed satisfaction with the offer.

"We believe the city has been offered a rare opportunity to allow for the redevelopment of one of its older buildings which has historical significance to the community," said Deadman.



The winery, standing empty since 1970, soon may be a dinner and theater facility in the City of Farmington. (Staff photo)

Constand, who spoke before the council, said he will design the facility to "maintain the character and uniqueness of the building." He was reluctant to talk of in-depth plans until approval of the liquor license. A commitment on the license is "essential" in order to arrange the necessary financing for the development of the property, according to Deadman.

Vacant since 1970, the winery has had a number of prospective buyers, but financial backing has been a problem. Before becoming a winery, the facility on Grand River was a terminal for the Detroit Urban Railroad, before it went out of business.

CONSTAND HOPES to begin remodeling as soon as license approval is granted. He foresees spring of next year as the opening date.

Last August, Southfield architect James Coquillard presented a set of plans for the 85,000-square-foot building. City officials liked the plans and orally agreed to issue a liquor license if, within a year, he came back for a building permit.

As of late June, Coquillard was optimistic about opening the facility.

"As for the council's commitment to Coquillard for the liquor license to develop the same property, that commitment is no longer valid as Mr. Coquillard has not been able to acquire the property in question," said Deadman.

Charge cards good for classified ads

A forward step in providing steadily increasing services to the public has been taken by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers with the announcement that credit card purchase of classified advertising space is now permitted.

Marketing Director Art Shafer said use by individuals of either of two widely accepted credit cards—Bank Americard or Master Charge—will be allowed so that customers may charge their so-called "want ads" to either of those accounts.

"The process of placing a classified ad by this method is simple," said Shafer. "All a person has to do after calling our classified department and placing an ad is give his Bank Americard or Master Charge account number and expiration date as shown on the card."

"The cost of the ad will then be billed directly to his monthly statement. This will be a convenience to our customers for it will save them having to mail the Observer & Eccentric a separate check for the ad."

Observer & Eccentric classified advertising blankets northwestern Wayne County and southwestern Oakland County through semi-weekly editions serving the Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Troy, Rochester, Southfield, Farmington, Livonia, Redford Township, Plymouth,

Westland, Garden City and Canton Township communities.

Further information on the new credit card advertising placement plan, and the Double Action Family Want Ad offer, will be found in the classified section.

OCC offers class for chairpersons

The Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College will offer a one-credit course in parliamentary procedure in the fall.

The class has been scheduled to coincide with the lunch hours of area businessmen and women and is held for one hour on Wednesdays, beginning at 1 p.m. The course may also be audited.

Students will practice conducting and participating in meetings as well as simulated committee work and sessions in drafting constitutions and bylaws. Other topics include form and precedence and methods of voting.

Registration will begin Sept. 2. Further information may be obtained from the Orchard Ridge speech department.

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SHORT BUT SWEET

After unsuccessfully using other newspapers, John Martin placed this six-word ad in The Observer & Eccentric Classified Section. He was overjoyed at the response and how easily he was able to sell his car.

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No matter how long (or short), we have room for your classified ad. Call us today.

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