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Decision on council is nearing

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

A replacement for Farmington Councilman Warren Buckler could be named as early as next Monday, according to Mayor William Hartsock.

Buckler resigned earlier this month to join the U.S. Army. Since before his resignation, Buckler's replacement has been debated by the four remaining council members. Each has submitted a list of names and individually contacted the candidates to see if they were interested.

Nancy Leonard, who has support from both Hartsock and Councilman Al Bennett, has emphatically refused to join the council.

"Nancy keeps declining. Last week, she made up her mind not to be considered," said Hartsock.

"She feels that in her position as a council watcher, she can contribute more," he said.

For a number of years, Mrs. Leonard has regularly attended council sessions. She often comments as a resident on city business.

She also is a member of the Historical Commission.

Other names under consideration are local attorney Jim Mitchell and Zoning Board of Appeals member Tom Carr. Although lists have been drawn up, the council has avoided meeting as a body to discuss the candidates. Instead, Hartsock admits, council members contact each other individually to discuss candidates.

Hartsock believes this is within the guidelines of the state Open Meetings Act.

"It's amazing how the discussion can be inhibited in open discussion," said Hartsock.

"Most of the names we are considering are very familiar to us," he said.

Although Hartsock believes a decision will be reached by next week, a consensus has yet to be reached, he said.

"We really haven't come to a final decision on the person we'd like to see appointed. Each of us has specific persons in mind.

"But there isn't a deadlock. It just hasn't been narrowed down to one person."



This gas station on Grand River and Middlebelt was fined in a statewide gas probe. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Fine is levied

Zephyr zapped in gas probe

The Zephyr gas station on the corner of Grand River and Middlebelt is among 21 service stations, distributors and a refinery the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has fined for selling unleaded gasoline with excessive lead.

Zephyr was on the list released by the EPA Jan. 19 after tests were performed Dec. 8 to determine the lead content of the gas.

The station was fined \$6,100.

Zephyr and its supplier, the Addison Petroleum Co., weren't available for comment.

The Consumer Protection division of the state Attorney General's office is

interested in aiding consumers with complaints against such service stations.

Punitive action will be left to the EPA. The fines are designed to prevent stations from continuing illegal practices, not to close down the stations.

The tests were performed by a process known as atomic absorption spectrometry, according to the EPA. The process determines the lead content in gas.

Zephyr unleaded gas was found to contain .13 grams of lead per gallon. Federal standards for unleaded gas are .05 grams per gallon and between one and two grams per gallon for leaded

gas. Two to four tanks of gas have to be used before damage occurs in the catalytic converter.

According to spokesman for area car dealerships, damage occurs when excessive lead collects in the catalytic element restricting the flow of exhaust. This leads to a build up of heat which eventually destroys the catalytic element and severely restricts the flow of exhaust through the system.

The end result is a loss of power and a dangerously hot catalytic converter. General Motors and American Motors Corp. make certain models of converters that can be repaired if dam-

aged. Repairable models have a drain plug on the bottom to remove the contaminated catalytic agent.

All other makes from other manufacturers must be replaced.

The average cost runs from \$181 to \$219, not including labor. Damage can be detected by:

- Very little exhaust from the tail pipe.
 - Loss of power.
 - Bulging appearance to the converter.
- Consumers should send complaints to the Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection division, 525 West Ottawa, Lansing, 48913.

Novi man charged in sexual assault

By MARY GNIEWEK

A preliminary conference is scheduled Wednesday in Farmington District Court for a Novi man charged with breaking into two occupied homes in the Ramblewood subdivision of Farmington Hills Jan. 17.

Joseph Donald Demaestri, 21, who police captured by following footprints in the snow, is being held on \$50,000 cash bond in the Oakland County jail.

He's charged with five counts related to the two break-ins and first degree criminal sexual conduct against a 12-year-old boy who lives in one of the burglarized homes.

Demastri pleaded innocent at his Jan. 19 arraignment before Judge Michael J. Hand.

The maximum sentence for a person convicted of first degree criminal sexual conduct is life imprisonment.

When the Farmington Hills break-ins occurred, Demaestri was free on \$10,000 bond from 48th District Court in West Bloomfield Township after being charged with breaking into an occupied home there on Dec. 12.

ONE OF THE conditions of bond set in West Bloomfield was that Demaestri not step foot outside of his mother's home on Renford street in Novi between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

All three break-ins occurred between those times.

Trial is set on the West Bloomfield case Feb. 17 in Oakland County Circuit Court. The Farmington Hills case awaits a pretrial exam in District Court to determine if there is cause to bind it over for trial.

After the Farmington Hills break-in was reported at 6:30 a.m., police from Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Farmington began a manhunt that end-

ed in a raid on a home near 13 Mile and Halsted.

Police tracked distinctive footprints made by a pair of leather boots with diamond designed soles from the burglarized home, through a wooded area and to the house where the arrest was made.

No shots were fired, but police forcibly entered the home when none of its five occupants would open the door. Five guns were confiscated from the house. Ownership has not been determined yet.

The four others arrested at the scene were released the same day pending further investigation.

Police believe the 12-year-old victim was assaulted at 2:30 a.m. after the suspect entered the house through an unlocked door. Police weren't called until several hours later.

THERE WERE 1,087 break-ins reported to police in Farmington Hills in 1980. Police admit to stepped-up enforcement in the Ramblewood subdivision over the past three months, but declined to give the number of break-ins which have occurred specifically in that subdivision.

Located off 14 Mile Road, the subdivision entrance has a guard house through which all vehicles must pass.

Police Chief John Nichols recently spoke to a neighborhood group there, addressing the problem of break-ins and home security measures.

Police strongly urge residents to replace standard builder's locks with bolt locks.

"Generally, residents don't want to take precautions until they're victimized," said officer Jerry McKenzie.

"But that's like locking the barn door after the horse is gone."

Magicians whip up bag of tricks

By MARY GNIEWEK

Mike Fraumenheim and Bill Knauer have an unusual way of breaking the ice with strangers.

The two Farmington High School seniors possess a little magic. They demonstrated it for an Italian girl they met while on a study program in Exeter, England, last summer.

Knauer asked her for a cigarette and then made it disappear. Fascinated, the girl asked for repeated demonstrations. They continued making coins, handkerchiefs and cigarettes disappear and reappear for impromptu audiences from Amsterdam to Rome.

"It's a great way to break the ice," Fraumenheim said.

Closer to home, the magicians have taken their traveling show to elementary schools, birthday parties, scout gatherings and other get-togethers.

"It's a very graphic show," Knauer said. "We make birds disappear. I do es-

capas from chains. Mike escapes from ropes."

They've even conjured up a floating routine.

Another highlight of the show comes when school chum Loreta Salzano is put inside a box and cut into three parts. Salzano was drafted for the assignment when the magicians told her they needed a victim for the new zig-zag box they bought in Colon, the Michigan city that's the magic capital of America.

"WE HAD A box and no one to cut," Fraumenheim explained.

Most of their routines are pulled from a bag 30 tried and true tricks.

"We have it down to a science now," Knauer said. "There's very little magic invented so we do things over and over, depending on the audience."

Stage presence is a major part of magical mysticism. Knauer claims

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A friendly dove is part of the act when Mike Fraumenheim gets into the art of magic. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Nude victim's clothing sought for clue in probe

Farmington police are looking for the clothing last worn by a 18-year-old Detroit woman whose nude body was discovered in a city parking lot on Christmas Eve.

The victim, Debra Ann Rentschler, was last seen in the area of Woodward and East Grand Boulevard in Detroit at 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 24.

Police are still unsure of the cause of death, but are treating the case as a homicide.

They believe the clothing she was wearing may have been discarded between the two locations and request assistance in locating the items.

They include a brown three-quarter length leather coat with a belt, a waist-

length tan jacket, an orange dickey, one well worn pair of blue jeans and a pair of Calvin Klein designer jeans, a gray knit hat and a pair of light brown suede boots.

She was carrying a small brown leather clutch purse and wore a pair of brown simulated leather gloves.

Her body was found at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of Tektronix Inc., 24155 Drake Road, by an employee arriving for work.

The victim had an arrest record for prostitution.

Any persons with information should contact the Farmington Police at 474-4700.



Playing cards are one of Bill Knauer's favorite props when he sets out to confound the audience. (Staff photo)

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