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Matt Brauer, 14, of Farmington Hills shows the bubble-gum blowing technique that earned him the Illinois State Fair's Bubble Gum Blowing Championship last week. Brauer was in Decatur visiting



relatives. The Catholic Central sophomore blew the biggest bubble during the competition, a whopping 11½ inches. For the story and another photo, turn to Page 6A

Going . . . going . . . gone

City sings the blues on sewers

Public hearings will be scheduled this fall to let residents living in a 100-acre area southwest of Farmington Road and Grand River respond to engineering plans to separate storm water from sewer water at an estimated cost of \$14.4 million.

An estimated 245 residences are in the problem district which is serviced by a combined storm/sanitary sewer system built in 1928. The district also takes in 5,000 feet of commercial frontage, according to City Manager Robert Deadman.

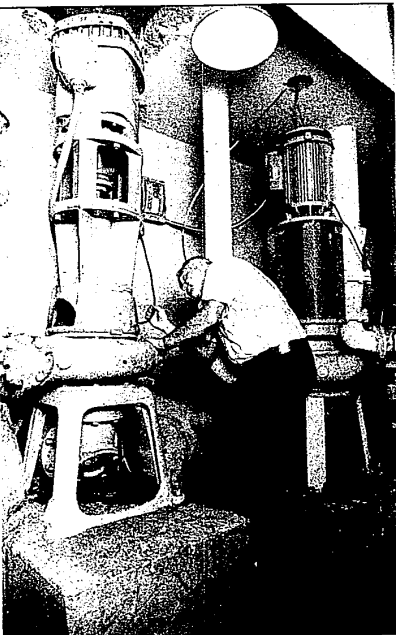
While no action by City Council has been taken yet, preliminary discussion indicates that city officials plan to fund the work through a special assessment levied only against the residents and business persons in the district, not the city-at-large.

The plan is to convert the existing sewer lines to pipes which would carry only sanitary sewage from homes.

Storm water runoff presently overtaxes the old, combined system any time more than 2 of an inch of rain falls in Farmington, according to Earl Billing, director of public services for the city.

Engineering plans call for the installation of sewer lines starting at a circumference of 24 inches leading to a main outlet of 42 inches which would run down Slocum Street to the Grand River and Nine Mile pumping station which hauls the waste up 30 feet to flow by gravity to Detroit for treatment.

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Pumps at the Nine Mile and Grand River pumping station are examined by Earl Billing, director of public service for the city of Farmington.

Youth faces adult trial in beating with wrench

By Craig Pichura
staff writer

Testimony continues tomorrow in 47th District Court before Judge Margaret Schaeffer in the preliminary examination of David Merrick, 15, of Farmington Hills.

A night of what was called "truanting" by six runaways from a county juvenile correctional facility led to the arrest of Merrick of the on charges of assault with intent to commit murder.

Merrick is subject to being tried as an adult for attempted murder following the waiver of juvenile proceedings by Probate Judge Barry M. Grant.

The victim of the attack is Shay Foreman of Farmington Hills, who is 75 but was 74 on Jan. 7, the day he was beaten.

Police say Foreman suffered two broken bones in his face, and 70 stitches were required to close wounds inflicted by a ratchet wrench in a \$3,000 robbery at the home where he was living as a boarder.

Court testimony by a youth — who admits involvement in a scheme by the six runaways to beat and rob Foreman but says he and four others backed out at the last moment — indicates Merrick had met the victim previously.

Salwan Yousif, 17, of Southfield, a former resident of Children's Village county juvenile detention facility, says Merrick told the group he'd slept at the home at 24455 Farmington Road where Foreman lives as a guest of Mark Lindbergh, son of the home's owner.

"AS SOON AS we got to the house, him (Merrick) and Ray (Baldwin) were

supposed to go in, take the money out of the man's pants and come out," Yousif said in court testimony Friday morning.

When asked by Craig Weier, prosecuting attorney, how Merrick knew where Foreman, a small businessman, kept his money, Yousif replied:

"He said he's slept over there at that house before, and he knows where everything is."

When a kitchen window was found to be locked on the evening of Jan. 6, Yousif said, the six runaways took refuge during the cold night in a wooden shed located behind the house where the victim lived.

"We just all laid down, covered ourselves with blankets and we were talking, discussing what we were going to do tomorrow morning," Yousif testified.

Various methods of stealing the man's money was discussed in the shed that night, Yousif said. In the morning, he said, it was decided that one of the group, Ray Baldwin, would hit Foreman with a ratchet wrench while Merrick took cash from the man's pocket.

Yousif says four of the six runaways, including Baldwin, got cold and grew impatient and nervous after enduring a long wait for Foreman to emerge from the house to be robbed.

"I WASN'T AFRAID," Yousif said about his decision to leave. "I just didn't want to suffer the consequences." Yousif admitted that being 17 made him afraid he might be charged as an adult if caught.

Merrick and Mark Lintz stayed at the house and waited for Foreman to

emerge, according to court testimony.

According to Farmington Police, the four youths who left the scene just prior to the 9:20 a.m. attack were questioned shortly after the attack when they showed up at Farmington High School.

Officer James St. Louis says one of the group told police Merrick had mentioned he wanted to go to a warm climate.

St. Louis said he convinced his inspector to allow him and another investigator to go to Metropolitan Airport to look for the two suspects in the crime.

A Delta Airlines official looked at the pictures he produced and said two young men fitting the description were on a plane bound for Florida cleared for takeoff, St. Louis said.

"They (Lintz and Merrick) were both wearing all-new clothing, even down to their underwear, and were listening to those Walkman radios when we walked down the aisle of the plane," St. Louis said outside court.

Close to \$2,000 was confiscated in a search of the two suspects in the armed robbery, police say. A blood-covered winter jacket was found in a stream behind the home, police said.

Expected to be called to testify today is Lintz, 16, of Troy, who police say was with Merrick when Foreman was beaten.

Lintz says he faces an upcoming hearing in juvenile court on an armed robbery charge stemming from the Jan. 7 incident.

The boy's father, Douglas Lintz, said outside the courtroom his son "was there but he didn't participate in the beating."

Death-threat calls send police to Headlee home

By Roger Hart
staff writer

Just one day after Richard Headlee won the Republican gubernatorial primary police received a series of phone calls in which Headlee's life was threatened.

The Farmington Hills Police Department took the calls shortly after 1 a.m.

Thursday. The calls continued for about 15 minutes, according to Farmington Hills Police Chief John Nichols.

"The caller indicated that Headlee was going to die and he had 'X' minutes to live," Nichols said. "The caller said he or she had a 9mm pistol and that he or she intended to shoot Headlee. The voice sounded either juvenile or female

and the caller apparently was the same one each time."

"On the last call, he or she indicated he or she had just shot Headlee, and by this time we had already dispatched a patrol car to the Headlee residence to make sure nothing had, in fact, happened," Nichols added.

Nichols said the patrolmen stayed at

the Headlee residence the rest of the night.

"We certainly don't discount threats of this nature but it is not uncommon for people seeking political office to receive various threats."

"MR. HEADLEE did not ask for further police protection, as I am sure he realizes we do not have the manpower to do this, but we have started making

periodic checks of the residence," Nichols said.

At Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company in Farmington Hills, where Headlee is president, security has been stepped up according to Vern Lunn, vice president for corporate services.

"We have just upped our normal security precautions around here," Lunn said.

"We have around-the-clock security people here and we are just being doubly careful who we let enter the building," Lunn added.

At the Headlee for Governor campaign headquarters at Northland

Towers in Southfield, no new security has been added to that already present in the building, according to Bob Bao, communications assistant for the campaign.

"We have not made any security precautions at the campaign office. We have the normal building security here at the Northland Towers and we have not added any of our own," Bao said.

"To our knowledge, there have been no other threats made against Mr. Headlee other than those received by the Farmington Hills Police on Thursday morning," Bao added.

As of Monday afternoon, Headlee had not been available for comment.

Residents around golf course worried weed killer is in wells

By Alice Collins
staff writer

Concern was mounting this week in Franklin as residents and village officials wait for the results of state tests made on chemical waste found buried on the grounds of the nearby Franklin Hills Country Club.

The primary concern of homeowners — especially those in the southwest corner of the village near the exclusive country club — is that the chemicals may have leaked into the wells that supply their water.

One of the substances has been identified as an underbrush weed killer no longer produced with the brand name Scorch, according to Tom Laird, an investigator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Other substances may be fungicides and pesticides.

ALL THE SUBSTANCES are believed to be chemicals used on the golf course, "not brought in by some industry from the outside," said Laird.

"It's kind of frightening," said resident Dee Lyne, who lives near the dump site. "Nobody wants to think their water's been poisoned. I'm not hysterical, but I certainly would feel more comfortable if I knew what it was."

The Village office is receiving calls from many residents requesting that their wells be tested, said Clerk Sharon Riley Tuesday.

Others are writing letters to the state urging quick action in analyzing the chemicals.

Laird said in Lansing earlier this

week that it may be several weeks before samples taken Aug. 11 from the decaying barrels and surrounding ground are fully analyzed.

COUNTRY CLUB officials hired a construction firm to open the pit and remove suspect barrels at the direction and under the supervision of the DNR.

The DNR was informed of the possible chemical dump by striking Franklin Hills greenskeepers. The DNR had failed to locate the suspect burial site on its own.

The DNR took test samples from the barrels and water in the pit. After the tests were taken, the drums, other debris found in the hole and 25 yards of earth — all that would have been contaminated — were removed by an industrial waste hauler to a licensed dis-

posal site. The country club also paid for the disposal, according to Laird.

The country club is on the northeast corner of Inkster and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills across the intersection from Franklin Village. The burial pit is southeast of the maintenance building near 13 Mile on the golf course.

Attempts to reach a spokesman for the country club to discuss the burial pit and the chemicals were unsuccessful yesterday.

GIFFELS-WEBSTER Engineering, the firm retained by Franklin Village to do its engineering work, has completed a study which indicates that a brown clay barrier protects village well water from surface water, according to engineer Estol Swem.

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Watch
for
our

**FALL
FASHION**

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