

Woman escapes assault at home

A West Bloomfield woman escaped a choking attempt as she walked into her back yard Saturday night in the 14 Mile/Drake area.

The woman, in her mid-40s and alone in the house, was assaulted about 10:30 p.m., according to Lt. Greg Roberts of the West Bloomfield Police Department.

A rope was thrown around around her neck from behind by a person who attempted to choke her, Roberts said. The woman kicked backward and struck her attacker in the groin. He took off running, taking the rope with him.

The victim suffered a rope burn around her neck but had no other injuries. She saw only the back of the suspect as he ran off. He was described as white, 6 feet tall, with a thin build.

Roberts said there was not enough information to link the attempted assault with the yearlong series of rapes in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham, which stopped abruptly last spring.

"Everybody's trying to connect it," Roberts said, "but there was no ski mask, no knife and he didn't talk to the victim."

Farmington Hills police, called in to aid in the search for the attacker, also said there was no indication it was the same person because the mode of operation and description were different.

"We just don't feel there's any connection," Lt. Gordon Ross said.



At left, Amy Menelliey bags roadside weeds in Farmington Hills. At right, Eric Cole, 19, of Farmington Hills, clears debris in the Michigan Youth Corps this summer.



At right, Eric Cole, 19, of Farmington Hills, clears debris in the Michigan Youth Corps this summer.

Hills patrol

Have broom, will travel in Youth Corps

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

North Farmington High School graduate Amy Menelliey joined the Michigan Youth Corps because she didn't want to spend the summer in a stuffy office slaving over a desk.

Instead, the West Bloomfield resident is spending her summer working in 90-degree temperatures on Farmington Hills' roadsides, medians and other areas that need

cleanup. "Yeah, it's been hot. But we made it through," said Menelliey, who will attend Indiana University in the fall.

Her colleague, Eric Cole, 19, of Farmington Hills, attributes their survival of the summer's hottest days to "plenty of water breaks."

Despite the heat, it was the chance to work outside that attracted the Michigan State University student to the youth corps.

Statewide, 15,000 adults, age 18-21, work at a variety of conservation, recreation and community projects.

Menelliey and Cole are among seven youth corps workers assigned to the Farmington Hills Department of Public Works. Statewide, 15,000 young adults, age 18-21, are gaining job experience and making a summer living tackling a variety of conservation, recreation and community projects.

"We do a lot of the aesthetics in the city," said youth corps supervisor Doug Pace of Farmington Hills, who was promoted after one sum-

mer with the corps. "We do things to make the city look nice."

Gov. James Blanchard proposed the youth corps in 1983. By the end of this summer, the youth corps' sixth season, the program will have provided 115,000 minimum wage jobs to unemployed youths.

In Farmington Hills, youth corps workers earn more than minimum wage because the city kicks in additional money, the three youth corps workers said.

Faxon heralds final bill expanding non-smoker rights in restaurants

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, the author of Michigan's Clean Indoor Air Act, said final passage of Senate Bill 793 "allows us to take another small step toward a smoke-free society."

Michigan restaurant law is outdated and does not reflect the reforms embodied in the Clean Indoor Air Act. This legislation will update the law and make it easier for non-smokers to get a seat in a restaurant.

"It's not unusual now for a non-smoker to enter a restaurant and have to wait for a non-smoking table to become available while tables reserved for smokers remain empty."

Michigan's Clean Indoor Air Act took effect Jan. 1, 1987. It restricts smoking in government-owned buildings, hospitals, schools, sports arenas

and other public places, except for specifically designated smoking areas.

Senate Bill 793 "will guarantee that non-smokers will be able to be seated if their area is filled but the smoking area is not," Faxon said.

Restaurants will be allowed to seat patrons requesting non-smoking or smoking areas at a table contiguous to that area if seating in the actual area is unavailable. The restaurant may not, however, use this provision to reduce the number of tables for non-smokers below the minimum number required.

The Faxon bill also requires food service establishments located in a shopping mall to provide seating for non-smokers. The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

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SALE

City delays action on 'pit bull' laws; backs state bills

By Casey Hans
staff writer

have involved attacks on people, Deadman said.

Farmington city officials will wait to see how state legislators handle the issue of dangerous animals — including pit bull terriers — before drafting any local ordinance.

THE STATE Legislature is considering several bills, including two in the state House, to address public concern about the dog attacks.

Several other communities have addressed the problem of dangerous animals, but Farmington city manager Robert Deadman believes "these ordinances may be pre-empted by the Legislature if any of the pending bills are passed."

House Bill 4970 is taken before a judge, who would determine whether the animal is dangerous or should be put to sleep. During the court proceeding, the animal would be confined. The proposed law would allow criminal charges to be brought against owners of an animal that causes death. That person could be tried on a felony charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Councilman Arnold Campbell had asked the city administration to study the need for a law regulating pit bull terriers, after the animals attacked several people in the Detroit area in the past year.

House Bill 5595 calls for felony provisions for fighting, baiting or shooting animals. In this bill, property owners who allow such activities would be subject to criminal prosecution. It would also control buying and selling or exchange of dogs being trained to fight with other animals.

Those who advocate such legislation believe it is needed to control a dangerous breed; those opposed to legislation believe the problem is with the dog owners and not with the animals.

The Farmington City Council voted Monday to lend its support to the state legislation and to wait to formulate any local ordinance.

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