

Teen charged in death

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A teenage ward of the state was charged as an adult this week with the murder of an elderly River Rouge woman. The incident occurred while the boy was truant from the Boys Republic facility in Farmington Hills last summer.

Timothy Riddle, 15, of River Rouge, will be tried as an adult in the July slaying of 80-year-old Rena Heine at her downriver home last summer.

Riddle had been placed in state custody at the private Boys Republic facility on Nine Mile after committing several crimes as a juvenile, including an earlier burglary of the victim's house.

According to Boys Republic officials, Riddle and a friend were discovered missing from the facility July 29. They were apprehended in Osoda and returned to Boys Republic Aug. 5.

Since August, he has been held in the Wayne County Youth Home. On Friday, Nov. 4, Riddle waived his right to be tried as a juvenile.

AFTER BEING arraigned Sunday on charges of first-degree murder and breaking and entering, Riddle was placed in the custody of Wayne County sheriff's deputies. He remains in the Wayne County Jail, said detective William Cooper of the River Rouge Police Department. Riddle's preliminary examination is scheduled for Nov. 18 in the 26th District Court, River Rouge.

If convicted of the charges, he faces life in prison.

According to police, Heine was killed sometime in late July or early August at her house, where she had lived for 50 years. According to police accounts, she was a neighbor of Riddle's. The Wayne County medical examiner attributed death to a skull fracture from a single blow to the head by a blunt object, which, according to police, was a bottle.

Boys Republic officials in Farmington Hills said in August that Riddle was made a ward of the state because of charges of break-ins, not attending school and breaking probation.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Three new reserve public safety officers were sworn in, bringing the total Farmington reserve forces to 17. The new volunteers include Mark Karmar (left), Kenneth Chuchla and James Krok. They were sworn in Oct. 27 by city clerk

Josephine Bushey. The city is still seeking more reserves, hoping to bring the force, which aids in police and fire calls, to more than 20 members.

Farmington Public Safety swears in 3 reserve officers

Three new reserve officers for the Farmington Department of Public Safety were sworn in Oct. 27, as the department continues seeking ways to beef up the force even more.

The three, James Krok, 23, of Novi; Kenneth Chuchla, 26, of Novi; and Mark Kramer, 22, of Farmington, took their oaths after going through police and fire training since January.

• Married with a 14-month-old son, Krok is employed with the A&P store in downtown Farmington. He served in Military Police section of the U.S. Army for three years and aspires to be a police officer. He considers the reserve program extra training. "I want to keep up my education," he said.

• Chuchla is employed with Coin Operated Laundry Service Co. and attends the Oakland Community College Criminal Justice Program. He is a volunteer firefighter with Farmington Hills, and also aspires to a law enforcement career. "I've always had an interest in law enforcement. That's what I'd like to do someday," he said. Chuchla is married.

• Kramer is a graduate of Catho-

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lic Central High School and currently attends General Motors Institute. He wants to be a motor sports engineer for GM and enjoys white water rafting and parachuting in his spare time.

BEGINNING in January, the three attended 166 hours of basic firefighter training with Farmington Hills, graduating in June. They also took a Reserve Police Academy Course at Oakland Community College, graduating in October after 100 hours of instruction. They have also been through in-house training that detailed department policies on deadly force and non-lethal force as well as others.

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tional in-house training to familiarize them with equipment, laws of arrest, search and seizure and other related topics. They are required to ride with regular officers as part of this training.

Meanwhile, Commander Chuck Lee who heads the volunteer reserve program, said the force of 17 is good, but the department would like to have at least 20 people on the force. Interested persons should contact Lee at 477-7262.

Residents call for traffic panel

By Joanne Malazewski
staff writer

Farmington Old Village Association members want the city to create a traffic commission to recommend solutions for the city's growing traffic problems.

Old Village Association traffic chairman Kenneth Chiara made the recommendation Monday while expressing disappointment at what he calls the city council's lack of understanding about traffic and its effect on residents.

Chiara's comments followed the city council's adoption of a resolution casting aside the majority of the association's recommendations for changes in traffic control, signage, parking and other suggestions to discourage drivers from taking residential shortcuts through the historical neighborhood.

"We were hoping, due to the concerns of citizens we represented, there would be some compromise recommendations, further discussion or some other plan," said Chiara, representing more than 150 homeowners in the city's historic district just north of downtown.

OTHER THAN plans for a traffic signal at the Farmington Road-Shilawasee intersection, "we don't believe anything was really accomplished," Chiara continued.

The city council also has asked the Michigan Department of Transportation to conduct a speed limit survey on Grand River within the city limits to develop recommendations for any changes warranted by the study's results.

But Chiara was disappointed with the council's decision not to act on

the association's other recommendations, which included reducing speeds on Grand River, reducing parking during peak hours on Grand River, eliminating left turns onto Shilawasee, Cass, Grace and Oakland, and closing Warner Street north of Thomas.

To each of the association's recommendations that were not accepted, the resolution refers to Goodell-Grivas consultant Dr. Tapan Datta's findings and opposition to the suggestions.

Councilman William Hartsock urged association representatives to wait and see what happens once the new traffic signal is installed and whether Drake Road and Orchard Lake Road improvements will ease downtown traffic.

"This is not a single solution or one-time resolution to handling traffic problems in Farmington," Hartsock said, adding the council will again review problems in 12-18 months.

CHIARA AND association president Frank Reld continued to briefly lobby for a city traffic committee composed of council members, Downtown Development Authority representatives, public safety representatives and residents.

Councilman Ralph Yoder was the only one with any enthusiasm for the suggestion. "I wouldn't rule out his suggestion. I think we should give it further consideration."

But Hartsock opposed creation of a traffic committee. "Quite frankly, I don't see the need for a special committee for that," he said, noting that the city looks to professional traffic consultants for guidance in areas where it lacks expertise.

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